Baerg Voice Studio Policy & Course Outline
(2020-2021)

Note: This document refer to the following courses in the above studio:
3929, 4921, 9585a/9786b

This year will be different due to the precautions we must take to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. It will affect how and when we work together in the studio as well as scheduling and the potential need to shift entirely to online lessons and coaching when necessary. We will respond to the public health situation as it evolves through the year and try to work productively when we can meet face to face and when we must work partially or even completely online should that become necessary.

Western has made preparations such as the dramatic increase in air exchange in the studio. We will always be masked when we are in the studio together. We will wash our hands a lot. We will leave the studio empty for 15 minutes between each lesson to let the air exchange. The lesson will consist of 30 minutes with the pianist and myself as well as 15 minutes tech time. In order to make up the time lost for the air exchange we will schedule one extra lesson for non-performance undergrads as well as MMUS candidates. We will be flexible and kind to each other, especially as the year begins and we try to make this new normal work.

My cell telephone number here in London is: 519-859-0427. Please do not call my number after 9:30pm. I generally require at least 24 hours notice to reschedule a lesson. If you wake up in the morning and find that you are “under the weather” vocally, please text me to let me know and to reschedule the lesson. The studio phone number is 661-2111 ex 85388. The studio is located in MB 307 on the third floor of the new Music Building. My e-mail address is tbaerg@uwo.ca

We are most fortunate to have Simone Luti as our studio’s Collaborative Pianist. Maestro Luti’s cell number is 1-226-977-2423. His email is – sluti@uwo.ca You will want to prepare your repertoire and diction with them and work with him as extensively as your, and his, schedule allows. Please note that the practice at Western is that you are responsible for all financial arrangements and commitments with pianist throughout the year.

Please monitor the Studio Bulletin Board (the door of MB 307) for announcements. I will certainly email as well – please ensure I have your correct email address. This is a good forum for announcements and swapping lesson times and asking questions of your more experienced colleagues. Please feel free to make suggestions as to how we can use this tool most effectively.

There will be no live performances with audiences this year at the faculty. This means that we will not be able to have Class Recitals this year. We may try some kind of online project but it is best to wait and see as the year unfolds what our workload will be and what appetite we might
have for additional “online” activities this year. Juries will proceed normally with the two jurors at the back of the hall. Credit Recitals will proceed normal with two jurors at the back of the hall but no other live audience, HOWEVER, I encourage you to live stream your recital on a platform such as Facebook Live so that it is really is a performance and so that your family and friends can share your art with you in that wonderful moment.

We will continue to have our Studio Masterclass on Tuesdays in MB 254 from 6:30-7:30. All music sung in Master Class must be by memory. Half of the studio will sing each each week. For the first master class everyone should be prepared to sing at least one song or aria by memory.

For each piece of repertoire that you bring to a lesson with me, I expect you to have completed (before we work on the piece) a word-for-word translation and then a “poetic translation” underneath the original text. Here is a one-line example:

\textbf{Dove mai quest’amor, dove spinsemi il pianto suo?}
Where ever this-love where drove-me the weeping her?
To what has my love and her weeping driven me?

It is a valuable pedagogical tool to make a recording of each lesson. Please do a full debriefing of these recordings after each lesson. It may be very useful to make notes as you study these recordings.

I recommend that everyone keep a Singing Journal. Use the journal to keep track of the vocalises that you use as you practise. Use it to jot down any observations or questions that may arise as you practise or even as you observe other singers or listen to recordings.

Please ensure that you are dressed appropriately for our lessons. You should be in clothing that allows free movement for stretching and bending but which is not so baggy that I can not monitor your breathing and alignment effectively. I may often be staring at your abdomen to monitor your Breath Management; please wear a top that will allow you to sing comfortably under this focused attention. Your footwear should also be sensibly chosen to facilitate healthy alignment and grounding.

Examination material (Jury Repertoire) must be solidly me morised by the middle of February. The sooner this material is learned and memorised the sooner we can work at polishing it and the more comfortable you will be during the exam period. Try to get into a rhythm of learning a piece, coaching it and then performing it in our Performance Class.

Students are expected to be “off book” for all repertoire sessions with me and, ideally, for repertoire sessions with Maestro Luti. The music and words must be firmly in your mouth and in your mind to facilitate meaningful coaching at the university level. Repertoire that you perform for Masterclasses, Performance Classes and Class Recitals must, of course, be solidly memorised.
I will require **six** written reviews of an online performance or masterclass. These reviews can discuss vocal technique, artistry and repertoire and need not be more than 200 words.

**Grading:**

Please read very carefully the Voice Jury/Recital Requirements document, the Department of Performance Studies Handbook as well as the Recital Procedure Page. These documents outline what the Faculty of Music requires of you. These documents are found online:


and


and


Your Undergraduate Applied Music grade will be calculated in the following manner:

**Non-performance majors:**

- 65% - Studio Work (lessons and the requirements outlined in this document.)
- 25% - Jury (3rd and 4th year Performance is 20% Jury and 70% Studio)
- 10% - Performance Class and Online Music Reviews

**For 3rd and 4th year Performance Majors:**

- 70% - Studio Work
- 20% - December Jury (Recitals are a separate course and marked separately)
- 10% - Performance Class and Online Music Reviews

**Graduate Students:**

- 80% - Studio Work
- 20% - Performance Class and Online Music Reviews

**Repertoire expectations will be lighter this year given the uncertainty we face as we work through the COVID-19 Pandemic. Here is a rough guide to help you plan out your year:**

**First Year Undergrad:** 12 songs minimum, fully memorized and performed.
**Second - Fourth Year Undergrad:** 16 songs **minimum**, fully memorized and performed.
**Third Year Performance Major:** Short Recital, Dec. Oratorio Jury plus 5 other songs
Fourth Year Performance Major: Full Recital, Dec. Opera Jury plus 8 other songs

First year Graduate Students: Full Recital plus 12 songs and possibly involvement in Opera
Second Year Graduate Students: Full Recital, audition aria package and Opera involvement

Repertoire should be chosen from various periods and styles, and must include at least the four languages this faculty requires (English, German French and Italian). Spanish is certainly acceptable as well and if you have first hand knowledge of another language, other than those above, I would strongly encourage you to sing some of that repertoire.

It may occasionally be necessary for me to re-schedule our regular lesson times. I will contact you personally should this happen, and we will find a mutually acceptable time. Please ensure that I have your most up-to-date telephone number, e-mail and other contact information. Please check for e-mail from me and keep your UWO email inbox clear to receive email!

Please take careful and frequent note of the instructions and notices posted along with the schedule on the bulletin board beside our studio door (MB307). Please feel free to knock on the studio door to ask a question, to get some advice or just to chat; I know that you will be respectful of your colleagues’ lesson times. You may also send me a text or email if you prefer.

Since we will be doing some of our studio work online during the year I am attaching a Netiquette document. Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

**Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page ([https://www.uwo.ca/health/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/)) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

**Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and
an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.


**Notes Specifically to Address Covid-19-related Issues for 2020-21 Only.**

i) **Contingency Plan:** In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

**Recording of Online Activities:** All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

**NETIQUETTE**

1. **Be accurate with factual information**

   Misleading others is obviously a major breach of online etiquette. This is true even if it's unintentional. Check facts before providing information or giving advice. Provide sources.

2. **Extend your good nature online**

   The digital world is an increasingly important part of our lives. We should be our best selves there too. Do you think you're generally a good person? Are you pleasant, polite and well-mannered? Most people would answer "Yes" or "Most of the time". If someone says "Hello", you say "Hi" back. But what about online? Are you still that same considerate, nice person when you're in an online forum (including social media)?
3. Use internet resources ethically

Online study resources should be used to support learning, not replace it.

4. Promote healthy discussions

To get the most out of online forums, a useful netiquette guideline is to promote healthy discussion. You can help your online community by posing questions, sharing experiences, providing positive feedback, asking follow-up questions, and referring to information sources. Being a positive contributor is better than being a critic, troll or other negative force.

5. Ignore inflammatory comments by trolls

It's generally best to ignore trolls.

6. Respect others as equals

Show a little respect and humility online. Think – that person who wrote the opinion you completely disagree with is a human being. They have feelings and experiences. They may believe passionately in what they're saying. And they may actually be right.

7. You're here to learn, not dictate

While we all like to think that our opinion matters, you'll gain more from internet forums by approaching them as a learner. A more polite and effective path is to adopt a listening mode. Read posts carefully, ask questions, and write something only if it offers value to the discussion.

8. Remember, your words are permanent

Be careful with what you post online. Once it's out there, you may not be able to get it back. Anything is possible with information that reaches the internet. It can go viral. It will be stored somewhere and may be findable through search. What you post can easily affect your relationships and career, if not now then possibly in the future. So always be at least a little cautious in your online interactions.

9. Pause before you post

It's worth taking a moment to reflect before hitting the send button. When you're using a computer, you're normally clicking, and scrolling and typing all over the place. Most things are done quickly. Pause and reflect for a second. Are you truly comfortable with what you're sending?
10. Make your point in a nice way

Write in a way to get the kind of reaction you want. A little thoughtfulness, strategy and netiquette can go a long way in online discussions. Your first draft of an online post is unlikely to be your best. Are you disagreeing with someone in a flippant way? Have you misinterpreted what they really meant? Writing in a constructive way is a great habit to get into. Your online communications will turn out much better.

11. Use anonymity responsibly

While anonymity frees up online conversations, your ability to hide much of yourself shouldn't be misused. Good behaviour helps others, improves your online experience and ultimately will help you become a better communicator. Conversely, bad behaviour catches up with people eventually.

12. Write like you'd speak

Write naturally as if you were talking to someone right in front of you. While it's helpful to put thought into what you write, you generally don't want the product to appear laboured. So try to sum up your thoughts in a fluent, natural way.

13. Good writing is good manners

When posting text for others to see, try to write well. Good writing is, therefore, an essential part of netiquette.

14. Clarity is essential

Clear writing is essential to convey proper meaning online. Unfortunately, short texts have their limitations. You need to be accurate and very clear to avoid misunderstandings when writing online.