

Margie Damarys Bernal Rodríguez

Lecturer, Voice
Western University
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Music Building, Room 213
Phone: (519) 661-2111 ext. 85015
Email: mbernal5@uwo.ca
Office hours: By appointment only.

STUDIO VOICE SYLLABUS

September 7, 2021

Welcome to the studio of Margie Bernal. This year we will keep observing the evolution of 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. For the first week, and until rapid testing is fully implemented at the Faculty of Music, we will always be masked when we are in the studio together. Once we get the green light from our dean and the MPS department, singers may take off their masks to sing. We might need additional protocols to be in place depending on the MLHU recommendations on this evolving situation.

We will wash our hands a lot. We will leave the studio empty for 10 minutes between each lesson to let the air exchange. This will not affect the time or length of our lessons. Scheduling is going to be very challenging especially if we must move between online and live lessons and coachings AND we have to coordinate three complex schedules for these lessons. Please be mindful of arriving as early to your lesson as possible in order for it to begin on time.

I generally require at least 24 hours notice to re-schedule a lesson. With COVID-19, we will need to be VERY sensitive of our symptoms. If you wake up in the morning and find that you are “under the weather” **AT ALL**, please contact me by email or text, or call the studio at the bottom of the hour. It will be extremely important this year NOT to go out in public if you have symptoms of a cold or flu. We want to keep everyone safe and healthy!

Students are expected to check e-mail regularly and respond in a timely manner.

We will be patient, flexible and kind to each other and to ourselves, especially as the year begins and we try to make this new normal work!

Course Objectives

To develop a personalized regimen of vocal exercises for warm ups and technical mastery which, in turn, fosters a superior vocal technique; to cultivate independence, confidence, and personal initiative in vocal repertoire selection; to develop musicality and personal stylistic intuition; to raise an awareness of proper vocal hygiene; and to foster a genuine enjoyment of singing.

Course Content

Lessons:

Students registered in any of the following applied courses receive 24 lessons of 50 minutes each, normally 12 per term: 1920, 1925, 2920, 2921, 2925, 3920, 3921, 3925, 4920, 4921, and 4925. Students registered in 3924y or 4934y receive 12 hours of lessons, spread throughout the year.

Performance majors and Artist Diploma students registered in one of the following courses also receive 12 lessons of 50 minutes each, oriented toward recital requirements: 3926, 4923, and 4926. These lessons might be scheduled concurrently with the regular weekly lesson for a total of 75 minutes per week.

For those taking one hour lessons weekly, the first portion of the lesson is a technique lesson, which means it will be devoted to the development of a personalized regimen of vocal exercises for warm ups and technical mastery. Time will be focused on the establishment and reinforcement of positive and healthy singing reflexes through a series of short and intensive exercises. The remainder of the lesson will be devoted to repertoire. Technical and musical mastery will be achieved through singing of vocal repertoire suited to the level and voice type of each student.

Third and fourth year undergraduate performance majors will have half an hour of technique lesson every week, plus an hour of repertoire lesson.

Students taking half an hour lessons will have a technical lesson every four weeks or so. The remaining of your lessons will be repertoire lessons.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to record their assigned exercises and repertoire in a *notebook*, which they must bring to each lesson. In addition, it is strongly recommended that each lesson should be recorded. Students are required to practice daily. *“In preparing for juries or recitals, students should pace their practicing carefully, doing regular amounts every day. Practicing, like any other physical activity, requires fitness and a daily routine; students who cram in many hours of practice in panic preparation for a coming examination and who have not been practicing regularly throughout the year, run the risk of physical injury, and possible serious interruption of their Applied courses”* – MPS Handbook

Students are expected to be “off book” for all lessons and, ideally, for their coachings. The music and words must be firmly in your mouth and in your mind to facilitate meaningful coaching at the university level. Repertoire that students perform for Masterclasses, Performance Classes and Studio Recitals must, of course, be solidly memorised.

Students are responsible for obtaining any assigned music by the following lesson, as well as completing a translation and an IPA transcription. **Students must run their repertoire with their accompanist prior to their lesson.**

Accompanists

It is extremely important to make the best of the time with your collaborative pianist. Be as prepared as you possibly can for each of your coachings! This year, the accompanists for our studio are Olena Bratishko (elenabratishko83@gmail.com), Carol McFadden (mcfaddenc86@gmail.com), and Stéphanie Gouin (gouinstephanie@gmail.com). Please make arrangements with either of them ASAP. All of them are very talented and experienced coaches. You will want to prepare your repertoire and diction with them and work with them as extensively as is financially feasible. **Please note that the common practice here is that you are responsible for all financial arrangements and commitments with pianists throughout the year.**

Also, please note:

1. The student is responsible for retaining the services of an accompanist.
2. Accompanists should come to the agreed repertoire portion of the lesson.
3. Students are responsible for communicating master class performance dates and studio recital dates to their accompanist.

Lesson Times

After the lesson times have been arranged, the time will be changed/rescheduled only to mutually convenient times.

Cancellations

If a teacher cancels a lesson, the lesson must be made up. If a student cancels a lesson for any reason, the teacher is not obligated to make it up. With that in mind:

1. If the student is unable to attend a scheduled lesson time, the student must contact the professor via e-mail at least 24 hours prior to the lesson time.
2. If the student wakes ill or with a sore throat that affects her/his ability to perform, the professor will accept cancellations between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. by UWO email.
3. Under no circumstance will a note on the professor's door be accepted as proper cancellation procedure.
4. All lessons that have been cancelled according to one of the proper procedures may be made up at mutually convenient times. To ensure lessons are made-up, students should seek to trade lesson times with their studio peers in a given week where there is an absence.
5. Lessons cancelled by the professor will be made up at a mutually convenient time.

Tardiness

1. The student is expected to arrive on time for each lesson, as this directly impacts the productivity of a lesson. No tardiness will be made up at the end of the regular lesson time.
2. If the professor is not present at the beginning of the lesson time, the student is expected to wait for up to 15 minutes. If the professor is still not there after the 15-minute deadline, the student is expected to check voicemail, text, and/or e-mail for instructions.

Practicing

In preparing for juries or recitals, students should pace their practicing carefully, doing regular amounts every day. Practicing, like any other physical activity, requires fitness and a daily routine; students who cram in many hours of practice in panic preparation for a coming examination and who have not been practicing regularly throughout the year, run the risk of physical injury, and possible serious interruption of their Applied courses.

Repertoire expectations:

Non-Studio Repertoire

As a matter of courtesy and good pedagogy, all students should inform their studio teachers as early as possible of non-studio repertoire that they have been asked or assigned to do in addition to their studio course load.

First Year Undergraduates

- 14-16 songs fully prepared and memorized
 - One post 1960 Canadian composition

Undergraduate Non-Performance Majors

Second Year

- 18-20 songs fully prepared and memorized
 - One post 1960 Canadian composition

Third Year

- 18 songs +
- 3 arias (Opera/Oratorio)
 - One post 1960 Canadian composition

Fourth Year

- 20 songs +
- 3 arias (Opera/Oratorio)
 - One post 1960 Canadian composition

Undergraduate Performance Majors

Second Year

- 20-22 songs
 - One post 1960 Canadian composition

Third Year

- Short recital +
- 5 songs/arias including
 - One post 1960 Canadian composition
- Oratorio jury in December

Fourth Year

- Full recital +
- 5 opera arias/3 oratorio arias /One post 1960 Canadian composition/
- Opera/Art Song jury in December (note that in the 4th year jury requirement, an oratorio aria can replace an opera aria)

Masterclasses

All Music undergraduate students registered for individual instruction, excluding 1925, 2925, 3925, 3929, 4925, 3924y, 4924y and 4929, are required to participate in performance classes as part of their Applied Music course and final mark. A schedule will be provided at the beginning of each semester. **Performance Class will take place in MB 254 from 12:30-1:30 each Monday during the semester unless otherwise noted.** Unless discussed with the professor, students are required to sing on their assigned dates. **All repertoire to be performed for the class must be memorized. Your attendance is mandatory for the full duration of our studio Performance Class each week — even if you are not performing for the class that week.**

A Studio Recital will be given during each semester. Students are expected to participate. Be aware that all students' participation is mandatory. Dates and location TBD.

Recital Card

There will be no Recital Cards in the MPS this year.

Written reviews

Students are expected to review three (3) vocal online events per term: solo and chamber recitals as well as operas, oratorios and Masterclasses are acceptable. These reports must be one (1) page, single-spaced, and can discuss vocal technique, artistry and repertoire. Note that plagiarism is unacceptable and consists of a serious Scholastic Offence. The following dates are the deadline for handing in these reports:

Fall term:

October 8

November 12

December 10

Winter term:

January 28

March 4

April 1

Voice Fridays

Students should take advantage of the Voice Fridays series organized by the voice area. This will occur on Fridays at 1:30pm. Although not officially required, this series offers great insight into many different aspects of singing, and will greatly enhance the studio experience.

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 through the hyperlinks above.

The Studio Instruction mark 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

Course Number	Jury Mark	Performance Class	Studio Instructor
M1920, M2920, M2921, M3920, M3922, M4920	25%	10%	32.5% Term I 32.5% Term II
M3921, M4921, M4922, M4923	20%	10%	35% Term I 35% Term II
M1924, M2925, M3925, M4925, M3924y, M4924y	25%	N/A	37.5% Term I 37.5% Term II

Additional Information

i) **Course Prerequisites:** Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision

may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence:** Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade.

Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request

an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work:** In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

v) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) **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/>) 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.**

vii) **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

viii) **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.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) **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.

x) **Online Etiquette:** Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please observe the following general considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

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.