Welcome! I look forward to helping you to develop your vocal abilities, pedagogy, wellness and musicianship through the study of varied and challenging repertoire, here at Western. Our studio is one of collaboration and kindness, with a focus on performance and community involvement. Whether your goals lie in education, performance, a joint-degree or otherwise, I hope to assist in your vocal development while you hone an array of skills during your time here. Looking forward to working with you!

LESSON EXPECTATIONS

SCHEDULING: Lessons occur at your scheduled time on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays, September-April TBA. I spend the rest of the week performing and teaching in other cities, but am happy to receive emails or texts with any questions you might have. Lessons are typically 50 minutes/2 x 25 mins or 3 x 25 minutes* (for 3rd/4th performance*), providing me a gap between students to make notes. Please wait outside the studio for your lesson; if I haven’t opened the door, knock, only if I’m over your start-time. I typically teach at :35 to :25 of the hour.
**CANCELLATIONS:** If I cancel a lesson, it will be rescheduled. If you miss, are late for, or cancel a lesson, under most circumstances, this lesson is not made up. If your lesson time is in direct conflict with a University event or performance, I require at least a week’s notice, in order to attempt to reschedule your lesson. Please make every effort to take care of these conflicts by **switching lessons with a colleague. Inform your pianist of these switches.**

**ILLNESS:** If you are sick, please email me asap. This is a courtesy for my scheduling, and there is a possibility you may receive a partial makeup for this lesson IF you email and IF time permits.

**MATERIALS:** Please bring to each lesson: music, pencils, water, staff paper for technical exercises, your updated repertoire catalogue, a recording device (optional) etc. **All music** should be properly translated and IPA’d (if necessary) before singing. Notes and rhythms should be adequately prepared. **The better prepared a piece is, the more we’ll be able to accomplish.** I encourage you to seek out repertoire in the major (or minor) languages (at least Eng, Fr, It, Ger, bonus Spanish, Latin and Russian, etc.) from a variety of eras, appropriate to your vocal ability and Fach. We will also work together along with your pianist in choosing programmes and material for auditions, juries, recitals, etc.

**2021 - We assume that masks will still be required for most rehearsals, but barriers and distancing should be minimized. Bring a mask (or two) to every rehearsal.**

**POSTINGS:** I will keep you aware of upcoming auditions, juries, competitions, recitals and concerts as they pertain to Western and elsewhere. Please share with the studio if you are participating in a performance we may all attend. Be sure to join the voice page and Don Wright Faculty page on Facebook for the latest updates regarding events at the faculty.

All assignments and other notices will be posted on OWL. Please submit written assignments through OWL and email them to me.

**OUTPUT:** It is included in the DWFOM Handbook that suggested song **minimums** for undergraduate lessons are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance:</th>
<th>All other voice majors:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st year: 15 songs</td>
<td>1st year: 14 songs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd: 16 songs</td>
<td>2nd: 15 songs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3rd: 40 min recital + 5 songs/arias/Dec. jury  3rd: 15 songs of increased length
4th: 50 min recital + 5 songs/arias/Dec. jury  4th: 15 songs of increased difficulty
MMus1: 55 min recital + oratorio audition package (5) + opera arias (2)
MMus2: 55 min recital + opera audition package (5) and oratorio arias (2)

Therefore you should aim to have a new piece prepared nearly every lesson, ie) always be starting a new piece, cleaning up a nearly new piece, and polishing/maintaining older pieces. Use time between semesters, reading weeks, and summers to increase your repertoire by choosing and preparing new works.

**Practice Expectations**

- Vocal practice is about *quality* not quantity. Do not push your instrument beyond a healthy capacity. **Do** try to sing everyday. However, practicing your music can take many alternate forms besides phonation; listening, memorising, translating, research, silent score-study, attending a concert, etc.
- Singing will take a variety of forms here at Western. Use choir and other ensembles as tools to learn new skills, but be aware of how much you are using your instrument, and in what ways your production differs in these forums.

**Masterclass Expectations**

- MC occurs weekly on **WEDNESDAY, 5:30-7pm MB 227**. Schedule below.
- Attendance is mandatory, whether you’re singing or not. **BE PROMPT.**
- MC selections **MUST** be memorised. If you are not memorized, you will still sing, but using music affects your mark. Please prepare **1-2** selections/week.
- Dress professionally (ie, jury- or audition-wear) whenever possible (maybe once a month, every-other time you sing)
- Be prepared to give feedback to your colleagues. Your feedback frequency and efficacy is factored heavily into your MC grade.
- **If you are sick or away, arrange to switch** with a colleague singing another week so you don’t miss an opportunity to present pieces.
- Western has in general an open-door policy for MC, so you can typically go to other studios’, and you should take advantage of this opportunity!
Performance Opportunities

- Whether or not you are cast in UWOpera, there are other performing opportunities in which to play roles including London Musical Theatre, the GS Society of London, Theatre Western, etc.
- **2021 UWOPERA**: Alcina (November), Elixir D'Amore (January), EMS Gala (March)
  - Auditions by tape, DUE AUGUST 12
- Summer programmes and apprenticeships are necessary and incomparable learning venues in the months away from University. Banff, Nuova, Halifax Summer Opera, SOLT, Cowtown Opera Programme, VOSI, St. Andrews, Contemporary Opera Lab, Avalon, Orford, Tafelmusik, Haliburton, VSO, COAA are a few Canadian options. See me for more US and International options.
- Competitions are great ways to be heard by professionals and receive useful feedback, not to mention prize money and castings. NATS is an accessible, annual competition for all levels, and occurs this year ONLINE. Please apply (through me) - only $35/class!
- Studio Recitals will occur on **December 1 @ 6pm** and **February 9 @ 8pm in Studio 242**. We will try for a more formally organised “Cabaret” this year as part of our studio work, TBA April. Invite your family and friends to all three!
- Consider other performing opportunities here at school as well; choral solos, recordings, ensembles, small groups, vocal rep, masterclasses, vocal fridays, etc. Investigate ways to present a partial or full recital on or off campus with a colleague.

Collaborative Pianists

- Time with your collaborative pianist is paramount. Use it wisely and come as prepared as you possibly can to both coachings and lessons. The advice of your professional coach is integral to your vocal education. It is neither their job, nor mine, to teach you notes and rhythms. Songs should be fully translated, prepared and practiced before attending coachings or lessons.
- Our professional pianist is **CHARMAINE FOPOUSSI** charmaine.fopoussi@gmail.com
**Coursework**

- Most coursework can be emailed to me on or before the due date at 10pm, or brought physically to lesson or MC. I prefer to receive Rep Lists and Promo Packages in physical copies so we can review them - you need these printed for producers later in the year anyway - for all other reports, email is fine.

- **Repertoire Catalogue: Last MC in September**
  You and I (and potential producers) need a complete repertoire list. Create a list of repertoire learned, on 3 sheets: Opera, Oratorio and Art Song (x 4+ languages). If you have not learned an opera or oratorio arias yet, just make an art song list. Some of you will benefit from creating a CCM/MT list as well.
  You can create a table or grouping as you like, but ideally we want to see on each page, pieces listed under French, German, Italian and English. These are songs that are a) fully learned and b) presentable (in your current fach, etc.) c) of appropriate difficulty, etc. This is a 'living doc’ to be amended to each year; a cumulative list of your work. Freshmen please include all repertoire learnt in the previous year and/or repertoire at an RCM Level 8+ - You should also prepare a “wish-list” of rep for this year.

- **Promotional Package: Last MC in October**
  As you audition for programmes or professional organizations, you need at minimum: an organised voice CV, biography, repertoire list and headshot. Some of you will also need monologues, so this could be a time to find one and begin working on it. Please bring me a sample package to review together.

- **Concert Review: Last MC in November**
  Review any vocal concert you attend at the faculty - 2 pg min.
  In 2020, please review an online concert, opera or MC (cleared with me)

- **Book Report: Last MC in January**
  Review a book of interest regarding vocal pedagogy, acting, movement, health, biography, education, etc. Minimum 850 words. If you’re stumped - I have books!

- **Jury Notes or Program Notes: Last MC in March**
  Prepare notes on each submission of your jury. Include at least: composer dates
and details, historical period/significance, a poetic or preferably wd-4-wd translation, a “plot summary,” musical challenges and highlights, unique score markings, etc. These have proved extremely helpful when preparing for juries.

- **Concert Cards: Last MC of 2nd term**
  All students must attend a minimum of 12 concerts per year (excluding concerts you sing in, but including up to 2 non-UWO events). Voice students are expected to attend a minimum of 10 vocal events, but you can count 1 non-voice concert per semester (but go to more!) Cards must be signed by a faculty member or accompanied by a programme. This requirement is factored into your MC grade.

- **Performance-Major Recitals:** You are required to attend your studio colleagues’ performance recitals - this year’s will include Rose, Katie, Danielle, Nicole... dates TBA

- **Vocal Fridays** is our voice topics series held in TC 101 on Fridays at 1:30. These speakers and topics are highly relevant to your degree and often also include performance opportunities - make every effort to attend

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**EVALUATION**

- Studio course grade breakdown:
  UG 1-2 and non-performance 3-4 55% Lessons 10% Course Work
25% Jury
10% Masterclass and Class Recitals
UG 3-4 performance
60% Lessons 10% Course Work
20% Dec. Jury
10% Masterclass and Class Recitals
MMus 1-2
80% Lessons 5% Course Work
10% Masterclass and Class Recitals

Important Dates

- September 8: Lessons commence and 1st MC (no singing, talk and body map)
- October 31: NATS (Virtual) registration and recordings due
- October 15: BETH sing for Fridays @ Noon, 12:30pm, VKH
- November 2: Fall Reading Week (No MC or lessons)
- November 15: BETH sings Faculty Concert @ 3pm
- November 20-21: NATS @ UWO TBA
- **December 1:** Baroque Studio Recital, 6pm (no MC)
- December 7-11: 3-4th year performance juries, VKH
- January 6-7: Lessons recommence
- January 23: BETH sings Faculty Concert @ 3pm
- February 5: BETH sings for Fridays @ Noon, 12:30, VKH
- **February 9:** Broadway Studio Recital, 8pm
- April 5-9 TBA: Year-end juries
- April TBA: Perf. Auditions

** Also stay apprised of Opera dates, Recital dates and other important events via the Faculty Facebook Page**

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Code of Student Conduct:
  http://www.uwo.ca/police/resources/code_of_student_conduct.html
- DWFOM Handbook:
- Statement on Scholastic Offences:
  http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- Jury Requirements:
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.

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

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 of a student's Home Faculty.

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

- Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

**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.

**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

**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.

**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

**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.


**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.