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STUDIO VOICE SYLLABUS

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 practice, performance, and vocal repertoire selection
- To further develop musicianship, musicality, and personal stylistic intuition
- To raise an awareness of proper vocal hygiene
- To continue fostering a genuine enjoyment of singing.

Course Prerequisites

Course numbers and prerequisites for applied lessons are dictated by the Music Performance Studies area in the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University.

Course Content

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 an additional 24 lessons of 25 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.

Graduate students in the MMus Literature and Performance program receive 48 lessons, spread over 4 terms, normally 12 lessons per term. Doctoral Students will receive 12 lessons per term of study in the various course numbers assigned, commencing with 9801a.

The first portion of the lesson will be devoted to the development of a personalized regimen of vocal exercises for warming up 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.

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

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

Students are required to attend and participate in the weekly Performance Class. A schedule will be provided at the beginning of each semester. **Performance Class will take place in MB 254 from 11:30am-1:20pm each Thursday 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 be memorized.**

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.

MPS Recital Card will be handed out at the beginning of the year. Students will be expected to attend 12 concerts throughout the year. For our studio, these concerts should be vocal in nature. **Note that Wieczorek Performance classes may not be counted.** (This requirement has been suspended for the 2021-2022 academic year.)

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. All students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Students are responsible for acquainting themselves, via the website, with Jury Requirements, as well as information contained in the Music Performance Studies Handbook. These two documents together as well as this syllabus comprise the course outline for the Applied Music Instruction and students must receive the course outline during the first week of class. The Music Performance Studies Handbook and the Jury Requirements for each instrument are posted on the Faculty of Music website. Please refer to the last page of the syllabus for these links.

Lesson Times

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

Cancellations

1. If you are unable to attend a scheduled lesson time, you must contact me via text (226-927-8476) or e-mail the morning prior to your lesson time. The sooner I know, the greater chance of rescheduling your lesson
2. If you wake up and are ill, have no voice, or have a sore throat that is not allergy related on a lesson/master class performance day, please contact me to determine our next steps.
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.
5. To ensure lessons are not missed, attempt to trade lesson times with a studio "buddy" if you know you will be unavailable for a scheduled lesson
6. Lessons that I must cancel 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 I am not present at the beginning of the lesson time, please wait for 15 minutes if you have not been contacted by text message. Any missed time will be made up at a mutually convenient time. I will be in contact either by text or email to reschedule the missed time.

Accompanists

1. You are responsible for retaining the services of an accompanist.
2. Accompanists should come to the agreed repertoire portion of the lesson
3. You are responsible for communicating master class performance dates and studio recital dates with your accompanist

Grading

Course Number	Jury Mark	Performance Class	Studio Instructor
M1920, M2920, M2921, M3920, M3922, M4920	25%	10%	65% (Term I & II)
M3921, M4921, M4922, M4923	20%	10%	70% (Term I & II)
M1924, M2925, M3925, M4925, M3924y, M4924y	25%	N/A	75% (Term I & II)

Grading scale

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

Marks for MMus and DMA students will be based on quality of work and performance throughout the term/ academic year.

The Studio Instruction mark will consist of weekly in-lesson evaluations on the assigned materials (exercises and repertoire – see above Course Requirements), and in-lesson attitude, and completion of the recital card.

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.

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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation%20Disabilities.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. <http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

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.

Other Important Links

MPS Student Handbook:

<http://www.music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/index.html>

Undergraduate Jury and Recital Requirements:

<https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/juryRequirements/VOICE%20jury%20requirements.pdf>

Credit Recital Requirements:

<http://www.music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/credit-recitals.html>

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