

FRENCH LYRIC DICTION – MUS 3942y FALL SEMESTER

Western University, Don Wright Faculty of Music
2021 Syllabus

Instructor Information

Dr. Chad Louwerse, Assistant Professor | Room MB 255
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Weekly Office Hours: drop in on Tuesday from 10:20-11:00 or 3:00-3:30, or by appointment
University of Western Ontario
Don Wright Faculty of Music

Course TAs

Classroom TA - Andrea Willis - anolan9@uwo.ca
Pianist - Laura Altenmueller - laltenmu@uwo.ca
Pianist - Vladimir Djurovic - vdjurovi@uwo.ca
Pianist – Sunjoo Han - shan376@uwo.ca

Class Schedule

Wednesday 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm, TC 100

Course Description

Intensive study of French lyric diction and mélodie performance practice; including IPA assignments, transcription and pronunciation practice, mid-term exam, study of French composers of song, and performances of songs. The second semester, which Professor Patricia Green will teach, involves application of lyric French diction in performances of repertoire by Canadian composers (in English and French), and contemporary French composers. French opera recitatives may be studied and performed.

Course Objectives

For the student to learn correct pronunciation of French in singing, to understand and gain facility in the use of IPA for the same purpose, and to gain an understanding of the syntax and flow of French. Singers are to gain knowledge of French poetry, French art song, composers of art songs in French, and learn the correct interpretive style for singing mélodies, employing it in performance.

Required Materials

Donnan, Thomas M.: *French Lyric Diction*. New York: University Press of America, 1994.
Bernac, Pierre: *The Interpretation of French Song*. New York: Norton, 1976.

Recommended Materials:

C. Kimball: *SONG- A guide to Art Song Style and Literature*. Hal Leonard, 2006 French/English dictionary:
Suggested title - *Larousse Pocket French/English Dictionary*. If you choose another dictionary, be certain it includes IPA for French.
Songbooks of Berlioz, Gounod, Massenet, Duparc, Chabrier, Chausson, Fauré, Debussy, Satie, Ibert, Caplet, Roussel, Ravel, Poulenc, Hahn, Sévérac, Viardot

Course Pianists

Pianists are assigned to this course to accompany you. **You must provide a hard copy and PDF of your chosen List A and B songs to them by SEPT. 29th**. It is your responsibility to book a rehearsal time and find a room for you and your pianist in the week before you perform. If you fail to do so, the pianist is not obliged to accompany you, and you must provide your own pianist. It is your responsibility to know the text and the score when you arrive at your rehearsal.

For the December **EXAM** performance, you must provide a copy of your song to the pianist by **OCTOBER 27th**. You are invited to ask your studio pianist to play for you.

Communication

Important class announcements and information may be sent to you by email. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly and respond as necessary.

Overview of the Fall Schedule

Weeks 1-6:	Introduction and Intensive work on Lyric French Diction mastery
Week 7:	Midterm (Diction)
Reading Week	
Weeks 8-10:	Mélodie Performances (List A Song) (Music due to pianist by Sept. 29 th)
Weeks 11-12:	Mélodie Performances (List B Song) (Music due to pianist by Sept. 29 th)
Exam period	Final Exam Mélodie Performance: List C song (Music due to pianist by Oct. 27 th)

Mélodie Performance

- You will perform two songs in class chosen from List A and B (following pages).
- *One will be sung from memory.*
- All songs from Fauré forward should be sung in original keys. Indication of correct keys can be found in Works lists of composers in Groves Dictionary of Music. Dover and Hal Leonard editions of songs are usually in the correct keys. International Editions are usually not. Be sure to give the pianist the same key you are singing.
- With consultation, performing songs not found on the list is allowed.
- Your performance will include recitation (memorization encouraged) of the song text in French before you sing, demonstrated knowledge of both word-for-word translation and the poetic meaning in how you sing, as well as a brief presentation outlining the Song Profile information (see following page).

Written Assignments for Each Mélodie Performance

- **Texts, IPA, and Translation:** Texts of each song must be written out in IPA, French, and English on three consecutive lines. Word-for-word translation and IPA must be written by hand. Keep a copy. The original will be returned to you by the week before your performance.
- **Song Profile:** Create a Song Profile for each song to be handed in on the day of performance at the beginning of class. Make a copy for yourself. You may refer to it in giving your presentation.

If due to illness or family emergency you are unable to sing on the day you are scheduled, you must make every effort to trade with someone else, and you must notify me (and your pianist) as soon as possible in advance by telephone and/or by e-mail.

Midterm Exam (October 20)

This written exam will include an IPA transcription, and questions on vocabulary and diction rules.

Final Exam Mélodie Performance (December)

The final exam involves a performance by each singer of one List C song sung from memory, with a Song Profile and IPA sheet for the song to be handed in at the exam performance. It is acceptable for your studio pianist to accompany you on the final exam. There may be a take home IPA transcription component to the exam.

The grade is determined by pronunciation and interpretation in the performance, and IPA/Song profile, and may include written knowledge of composers and songs discussed and presented in class over the term.

It is inadvisable to make travel plans before the exam schedule is released.

Evaluation

IPA Assignments	25%
Mélodie 1 Performance	15%
Second Mélodie Performance	15%
Written Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam Mélodie Performance	15%
Attendance, Repertoire, Participation	10%

ELECTRONICS

The in-class use of electronic devices is expressly prohibited other than for class-related purposes. Students found using devices for other reasons will be asked to leave the class.

Song Profile Template

Music 3942a/b/y

Use the headings of this Template to create a **Song Profile Sheet** for each song you perform in class. Provide the information as required, with spacing as needed. Always create a copy for yourself. For more detail, see: *SONG- A guide to Art Song Style and Literature*: Carol Kimball Library Call #: MT120. K56 2006

DUE: The song profile is due at the beginning of class on the day of your performance.

Your Name:

Song Title _____, (opus) Date composed Composer Dates
(from – if from a set/cycle)

Poet: Poet dates

Essential meaning of the text: (no more than two lines)

Pertinent Historic Information on the composer and their professional work:

Note other songs and important vocal works written by the composer, when the song was written in their career, cite influences on compositional style for this song, composer's connection to the poet if any, and other settings of the same poetry by other composers.

Main Characteristics of Song

Key:

Range: (*lowest to highest note*)

Harmony: (*Diatonic / Chromatic / Modal / Serial / Major-Minor contrast*)

Rhythm: Outline the predominant rhythmic structure

Form: (*Strophic, irregular, binary, ternary, through-composed*)

Accompaniment: (*Predominant chordal, melodic or rhythmic features*)

Song Text IPA Assignment

IPA and translation must be handwritten.

Be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

Will be handed in 2 weeks preceding the performance of the song.

Organize the text on the page on three consecutive lines:

IPA

French Text

Word for word English translation

Music 3942 y
French Lyric Diction
WINTER SEMESTER 2022
French-Canadian and Contemporary French Art Song

Professor Patricia Green

Email: mezzo@uwo.ca

Office: TC419 Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-1:30 or by Appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE

Wednesdays 1:30-3pm TC 100

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Following upon French lyric diction learned in the first semester, this term offers students the opportunity to hone lyric French diction skills while gaining knowledge of Canadian and 21st century art song repertoire in French. Most of the songs to be performed are found in the DWFOM music library. Performance of one song in English by a Canadian composer may be included. Performance of French opera recitatives (spoken) may be included.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To gain mastery of fluency and ease in French lyric diction in performances of songs by French-Canadian and contemporary French composers. To learn the compositional styles of this idiom and gain awareness of contemporary French poetry. The performances are to be sung with excellent French lyric diction.

COMMUNICATION

Class announcements and information may be sent to you by email. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly and respond as required. OWL will not be used as a communication device.

PERFORMANCE & ACCOMPANYING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You will perform three assigned songs in class. Performances will be preceded by recitation of the song text in French (memorization encouraged), with demonstrated knowledge of both the word-for-word translation and poetic meanings. **One** performance in French must be **memorized**. Memorization counts for 10% of your grade for this song. Some will have the opportunity to perform Canadian songs in a public *Voice Fridays* concert.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

IPA: Song texts in French must be written by hand in French, IPA and English on three consecutive lines.

It is to be **handed in 2 weeks** preceding your performance in class.

Translations must be word-for-word, but it is expected you will understand the poetic context.

Make a copy for yourself before handing it in.

No IPA for English will be required, but good English diction is.

As in the first semester, for each performance, you will prepare a song profile, which is due at your performance. The profile is to include pertinent historic information regarding the song, composer and poet such as: teachers, and a listing of important vocal (songs, chamber music, opera) and poetic works. For a detailed description of Song Profiles, see:

SONG- A guide to Art Song Style and Literature: Carol Kimball Library Call #: MT120. K56 2006

You will recite the text in French, and present the essential meaning of the text before singing.

You are expected to request a rehearsal with your assigned class pianist within the 2 weeks preceding your performances. If you fail to set up a rehearsal, you will be required to provide your own pianist.

If due to extreme illness or a death in the family, you are unable to sing on the day you are scheduled, you must make every attempt to trade with someone, and you must notify me at the earliest moment possible (preferably 24 hours in advance) in person, or by email or telephone.

RESOURCES

Canadian Music Centre: www.musiccentre.ca

Living Composer Project: www.livingcomposers.com

Plangere Editions: <http://store.plangere.com>

Composers websites

On Canadian Music: R. Murray Schafer: Arcana Editions; 1984

A French Song Companion: Graham Johnson, Richard Stokes: Oxford University Press; Rev.Ed. (Feb. 1 2002)

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Performances in class	45%
Assessment based upon correct spoken and sung diction, correct pitches and rhythms, and overall style.	
Assignments (IPA and Song profile)	45%
Attendance and Participation in class	10%

Electronic Devices in Classrooms: The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class.

Important UWO Policies

i) **Course Prerequisites:** MUS 2942y (Italian/German lyric diction). 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) **Examinations & Attendance:** Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

xi) **Electronic Devices in Exams:** Electronic devices of any type will not be permitted during the Midterm Test and/or Final Exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).