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 (12 per term). 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 by :35, knock. Lessons are from 25 min after the hour for 50 min.

CANCELATIONS: 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, 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 languages (at least Eng, French, Italian, German, bonus Spanish, Latin and Russian, etc.) from a variety of eras, appropriate to your vocal ability and Fach. We will work together along with your pianist in choosing programmes and material for auditions, juries, recitals, etc.

POSTINGS: I will inform you 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 on or off-campus. Be sure to join the Voice Area 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 in OWL. Please submit written assignments through OWL.

OUTPUT: It is included in the DWFOM Handbook that suggested song minimums for undergraduate lessons are as follows:
Performance:
1st year: 15 songs
2nd: 16 songs
3rd: 40 min recital + 5 songs/arias/Dec. jury
4th: 50 min recital + 5 songs/arias/Dec. jury

All other voice majors:
1st year: 14 songs
2nd: 15 songs
3rd: 15 songs (advanced)
4th: 15 songs (advanced)

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, practising 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.
- **2022 UWOPERA**: Hansel und Gretl (November), Falstaff (March), EMS Gala (February)
- 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!
- **2022 sees Western hosting NATS on November 19-20 (classical and CCM respectively)** SIGN UP! Repertoire and fee due October 30
- Studio Recitals will occur on **November 30 @ 6pm and February 1 @ 8pm in Studio 242**. Invite your friends and family!
- 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 charmains.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.

• **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 Diane, Sarah, Sydney... dates TBA

• **Voice Fridays** is a topics series held in TC 100 on Fridays at 1:30. Speakers present excellent additional supplements and there are often also performance opportunities - make every effort to attend!
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 in MB 445
- September 15: SINGING-TO-KNOW YOU MC (see schedule below)
- September 18: Beth sings OPERANTICS Concert in VKH, 3pm
- October 28: Beth sings FRIDAY NOON Concert in VKH: Lieder
- October 30: NATS (Live or Virtual) registration/recordings due
- October 31: Fall Reading Week (No MC or lessons)
- November 19-20: NATS @ UWO
- November 30: Oratorio Studio Recital, 6pm (no MC)
● December 7-11: 3-4th year performance juries, VKH
● January 11: Lessons recommence
● February 1: 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**

**Important Note...on Anxiety**

● ALL of us have some experience with anxiety in life
● ALL of us have experienced some level of performance anxiety
● Voice work and vocal studies is inherently personal! So it would make perfect sense that these studies are accompanied by some (sometimes more or less) anxiety and stress
● Know that you are not alone
● Know that it’s ok to work through or discuss (or not) your anxiety in our class
● I share with you that I have a diagnosed anxiety disorder (I get it)

Some Tips:

1) Grounding: Try the 3-things-you-can-see, 3-things-you-can-feel, 3-things-you-can-hear, etc.
2) Fear List: Try allowing yourself to write down all the things that scare you (about singing, or otherwise). Sometimes voicing this is half the battle. Then look at the list and rational discuss (alone or with a friend) things you can do to mitigate these stressors
3) Prepare: Try to take the time and space to properly prepare and practice - this will help you feel most comfortable to present
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:
  https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/jury-requirements.html
- Policy on Accommodation for Illness:
  http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html
- Statement on Mental Health:
  http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth

Course Prerequisites: Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol 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: & Missing Work (≥10%): Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.
Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

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

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

**Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (i.e. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean’s office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean’s office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

**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: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered 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 assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.