



James Westman

149 William Street, Stratford, Ontario N5A 4X9 | 519-271-5021

WESTMAN VOICE STUDIO, Applied Voice, UWO 2020-2021

Studio Facebook page. Westman Voice

Professor Westman Contact: Text/Cell 519 301 7270 email: jwestma7@uwo.ca

Course Outline

Course Objective

Through mastering a personalized regiment of operatic vocal exercises, vocal health, traditions, history, repertoire, and ear training; each student develops their own optimized external resonance which is unique to the individual.

With a complete actor's body and mind, we then use our full potential resonance to confidently deliver perfectly pronounced language ready to inspire an audience.

Most importantly the course objective is to nurture a true enjoyment of singing, its cultural significance in our community and its diverse applications for future career aspirations.

The collective studio creates the best possible nurturing environment for each individual student to excel and reach their academic and performance goals.

Lessons will be conducted in a pre-covid pandemic fashion. Lessons are scheduled for 50 minutes on the hour or half hour. Performance students will be an extra 25 minutes. Everyone student in the studio will receive 25 minutes of vocal technique and pedagogy each week. Students that wish to wear a mask is encouraged to do so as they please. PLEASE, if any student in the studio has any symptoms of a cold or flu, consider your colleagues, and stay home to nurture your health.

Course Materials

- **Three binders**...one black/ Professor...one blue/ Studio Pianist....one any colour/Student. Or completely digital.
- **Multiple Space Dividers** with tabs for all three binders for languages.
- **Recording device** ready and charged with good microphone for all lessons.
- Weekly vocal **log** for all first-year students
- **Mirror** preferably full length for your practice space
- Good **humidifier** for residence.
- **Portable laptop** (Skype, internet, Wi-Fi)
- **Metronome** (with pitches)
- Performance class, Jury, Recital; make sure your wardrobe is adequate...Shoes...Jacket...Professional.
- **Contract** with the collaborative pianist for weekly coaching. First year students must discuss this with the professor.

UWO Music Faculty Grading

Please read very carefully and fully understand the following documents that specify the requirements that are expected of each student.

- **Voice Jury/Recital Requirements**
(<http://www.music.uwo.ca/pdf/handbook/voiceJuryRequirements.pdf>)
- **Performance Studies Handbook**
(http://www.music.uwo.ca/current_students/undergraduate/departments/music_performance/handbook/credit_recitals.html) as well as the
- **Recital Procedure**
http://www.music.uwo.ca/current_students/undergraduate/departments/music_performance/handbook/index.html

Undergraduate Students

Evaluation for Studio Mark:

Studio and Master Class (Term Work) will be evaluated from several perspectives:

- Vocal progress: growth in technical facility and vocal coordination: **35%**
- Master classes: Performance, preparation, presentation, participation: **30%**
- Repertoire: quantity and quality of preparation (repertoire from a variety of stylistic periods and languages) in lessons: **20%** (binder preparation 25% of this grade)
- Attitude/Commitment: promptness and preparation of assigned work, positive, willingness, attendance, procrastination: **15%**

Graduate Students

Evaluation on Studio and Recitals is Pass or Fail

I will hand out evaluation similar to the Undergrads but with an emphasis on future performance opera Arias and recital repertoire proficiency.

Studio and Master Class (Term Work) will be evaluated from several perspectives:

- Vocal progress: growth in technical facility and vocal coordination: **40%**
- Repertoire: quantity and quality of preparation (repertoire from a variety of stylistic periods and languages) in lessons: **40%** (binder preparation 25% of this grade)
- Attitude/Commitment: promptness and preparedness of assigned work, positive, willingness, attendance, procrastination: **20%**

Course Collaborative Pianists/ Repetiteur: Olena Bratishko

- Western University requires you to provide a collaborative pianist for your lessons, studio performance class, juries, and recitals. Olena Bratishko is predominantly the collaborative pianist, however, it is the student's choice.
- Furthermore, you must meet with your collaborative pianist for at least an additional **30-minute weekly session** to secure repertoire confidently.
- Graduate students and Performance majors are required to contract your pianist for an extra 30 minutes per week.
- Contract your pianist for dress rehearsal for juries and recitals.
- Prepare your repertoire and diction with your pianist. Please note that at Western you are responsible for all financial arrangements and commitments with pianists throughout the year. Respect your coaching time with your pianist. Have your music prepared and always present clear photocopies, with title, composer, your name and contact on top.
- **Show up for your collaborative pianist sessions confident and knowing your music. No sight reading.**
- You must also have a word for word literal translation written clearly below each word in the song or aria.
- You **MUST** have your foreign language repertoire in reduced IPA for singers. This IPA must be finalized before you present it to the Studio or the professor.

Course Repertoire

- Students are responsible for **discovering, researching, and proposing** their own repertoire. The Professor may suggest repertoire however the student's choice will be more intrinsic to the enjoyment of singing.
- Students are responsible for providing music for Pianists and Professors.
- Provide a photocopy of the music for the Professor and the Pianist one week prior to their involvement.

- Please keep your music well-organized, labeled, and in order. (Space dividers for different languages in art song, Opera and Oratorio) Or on an easy accessible digital file
- Keep a repertoire list and update it weekly.
- Repertoire should be chosen from **various periods** and **styles**, from **baroque to romantic**. and must include at least the four languages this faculty requires (**English, German French and Italian**). Russian Czech, Hungarian or Spanish may be included with permission from the Professor.
- Third- and Fourth-year students must have a modern post 1960 selection on their repertoire list. Fourth year students must have a Canadian selection.
- First year singers must begin the year with Italian baroque repertoire and pre-1930 English art song.
- A 3% studio mark BONUS to any Undergraduate Student who collaborates with fellow UWO composers and places their work in recitals or juries.

Graduate Students are expected to perform graduate-level recitals with themed conceptions. A Canadian Composer Song cycle must be performed in one of your recitals. A graduate is encouraged to learn a complete Operatic role and/or a complete Oratorio. Opera/Concert audition repertoire is mastered. A past repertoire list must be submitted by the first scheduled lesson. A proposed repertoire list must be submitted by the end of the first term.

-

Artist Diploma Students are expected to perform a recital program as well as 4 opera/oratorio arias suitable for career auditions. A proposed repertoire list must be submitted by the end of first term. December jury requirement is required for Artist Diploma students.

Performance:

First Year – 10 songs may include 1 Oratorio/Opera arias.

Second Year – 12 songs must include 1 Oratorio/Opera arias.

Third Year – 15 songs, including Oratorio juries and 1-2 Opera Aria; 35 minute Recital.

Fourth Year – 15 songs, 2-4 Opera arias. 45 Minute recital. Oratorio Role Study.

Non-Performance:

First Year – 10 songs total

Second Year – 10 songs, may include one Opera/Oratorio aria.

Third Year – 12 songs, may include two Opera/Oratorio

Fourth Year – 12 songs may include two Opera/Oratorio

Graduate Programs:

First Year – Song Recital(s), audition arias and involvement in UWO Opera

Second Year – Song Recital(s), audition arias finalized, and involvement with UWO Opera

Studio Lesson

- Students receive **24 1-hour** lessons each, normally **12 per term**. Performance Students receive additional **24, 30 mins live** sessions, **12 per term** total 1.5 hours. Graduate Students may receive additional collaboration as needed. Makeup lessons may take place in subsequent semesters.
- **25 Minutes of individual technique with Professor**. A regiment of personalized intense vocal exercises to establish positive healthy muscle memory for a paramount sound.
- **25 Minutes repertoire CONTRACTED STUDIO PIANIST PRESENT**. Styles, pronunciation, text, communication, musicality, dynamics, color choice and tuning all combined to create works of art. Some advanced students may be asked to use the entire 50-minute.
- The **voice and body** must be **warmed up**, calibrated, ready to work. Warm-up strategies will be discussed in great detail.

Masterclass / Performance Class

- Performance class will meet approximately **once per week for 60mins....** room and time TBA.
- All repertoire must be **memorized**...word for word...note for note...dynamics expressed with passion.
- Performance Class will begin promptly. Deductions for late attendance.
- **Attendance is mandatory for Bachelor of Music students** and unexcused absences will reflect your performance in the class evaluation. All other students in the studio are encouraged to participate and attend without evaluation.
- Repertoire must be listed on a **sign-up sheet** in the Studio at least **a week prior** to your scheduled involvement.
- This is a participatory class and students are encouraged to **contribute to discussions** following performances.
- Repertoire performed must be **memorized**.
- Students must introduce their pieces clearly and confidently with **dates and brief text description** and a discussed **cultural significance**.
- **Photocopies** for the entire class must be presented to the professor **10 minutes before Performance class begins**.
- **IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)** must be present on all photocopies.
- English word for word **translation** must be present on all photocopies.
- Performance **attire** and personal style are a must while performing. If you look and feel great, you will be one step further to being great! Jury/Recital wardrobe is not necessary. Sneakers, Sandals, Jeans, T-shirts, Track Pants, Shorts, are not appropriate.
- You are highly encouraged to **invite guests**, parents, and colleagues from other studios to Performance Classes and studio recitals
- Each semester the studio will perform a fun group recital. You are highly encouraged to **invite guests**, parents, and colleagues from other studios to these studio recitals.

Weekly Practice Reflection Log 1st and 2nd year students

- Every student in first- and second-year undergraduate must write a weekly vocal log sheet. Totally 8 logs each academic year. This participation will be evaluated as part of your Studio Grade. This weekly reflection is a chance for the student to convey vocal successes, troubles, wishes, and goals. Prof. Westman will reply to all reflections before the following **Saturday**.

Recitals and Juries

- Recitals must have some sense of repertoire diversity and cohesion.
- Students presenting a credit recital are encouraged to perform a recital in public at least **two weeks prior** to the credited recital. **Hometown libraries, churches, nursing homes, and concert associations** are very appreciative of these concerts, and YOU will benefit greatly from the experience.
- Students presenting a jury are encouraged to perform the entire jury in public at **least two weeks prior** to the scheduled jury.
- All recitals require full professional **Wardrobe** expectations.
- Please study the attached links referring to Juries and recitals and take note **of how the faculty will evaluate you on your recitals and juries**.

Preparation

- Students are expected to come to lessons thoroughly **prepared**.
- Texts must be translated **word-for-word, Poetic** and **IPA** perfectly displayed. Students who fail to provide a translation will be denied their lesson! Studying repertoire is impossible if a singer cannot understand the text. Example below of all three.

dove ma:j kwestamor dove spinzemi il pjanto su:o
Dove mai quest'amor, dove spinsemi il pianto suo?
Where ever this-love where drove-me the weeping her?
To what has my love and her weeping driven me?

- Repertoire presented in a lesson must have been coached at least **twice** with an accompanist. This repertoire must be completely learned and well on the way to complete memorization. However, when studying in the lesson we will refer to the score.
- If songs/arias are not learned and your **face and posture is still in the score** then the repertoire lesson is denied.
- All Repertoire in **Performance class** must be **fully memorized**.

Cancellations

- If the student is unable to attend a scheduled lesson time, the student must contact the professor at least **24 hours** prior to the lesson time. If you cancel after the 24-hour period, the lesson will not be rescheduled. Rescheduling will be at a mutually convenient time.
- If a student wishes to exchange a lesson time with another student, **24-hour** notice to the professor and pianist is required.

Concert Attendance and Review

- An important aspect of your growth is attending concerts – both vocal and instrumental throughout London and even abroad. PLEASE enjoy the concert environment at Western and support colleagues, other studios, and faculty.
- Guest Masterclass attendance: The music student body supports the Faculty Gift Fund, which allows you to hear brilliant musicians play and teach. Take advantage of Masterclass in other areas besides singing as well.
- **Voice Fridays Attendance:** Fridays 1:30-2:30 Consider this hour a fantastic opportunity for learning and performing. Please Place this date in your weekly schedule. The entire Studio is encouraged to attend to strengthen their vocal palate. Attendance is not mandatory.

Recording Lessons

- Each student is encouraged to record all Lessons and Masterclass using a fully charged **cell phone or USB flash-drive**. This is an extremely valuable tool that encourages progress and consistency. I will be recording all lessons and Masterclass as well.

UWO Resources and Procedures

- Voice Jury/Recital Requirements
(<http://www.music.uwo.ca/pdf/handbook/voiceJuryRequirements.pdf>)
- Performance Studies Handbook
http://www.music.uwo.ca/current_students/undergraduate/departments/music_performance/handbook/credit_recitals.html
- Recital Procedure
http://www.music.uwo.ca/current_students/undergraduate/departments/music_performance/handbook/index.html
- **Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at the following website**
https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
- Students may be excused to observe a religious holy day of their faith without penalty provided they notify the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for material covered in their absence and each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.
- If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let the instructor know during the first week of classes, and, if you have not done so already, register as soon as possible with Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities). You can learn more about the Student Success Centre's services for accessible education at <http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html>.
- **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):**

In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments / lessons, or equivalent in applied studio courses) 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.

Recording Online Activity.

- **Only the instructor is allowed to record online sessions. The data recorded for this course may include your image, voice, discussions, contributions, and name displayed on screen. The recordings will only be used for educational purposes regarding the course, including evaluations. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns regarding the recording of your sessions.**

Online Manners

- **Use laptops and home computers refrain from iPhone and iPads unless specifically addressed.**
- **Make sure that any online session are private and clear of background noises and distractions. Do not share your screen unless you have permission from the instructor.**
- **if we have a zoom group studio meeting, please make sure your mic is muted until you are asked to participate.**
- **The course instructor will act as monitor unless otherwise notified.**
- **Always be respectful and create the appropriate learning environment independently. Be involved.**

**I am available any time of the day 24/7 if you have any problems this term.
Please do not hesitate to call at any time.**

Literature

Great Singers on Great Singing, Jerome Hines.

The Inner Game of Music, Barry Green

Complete Preparation, Dornemann

The Complete Singer Actor, Wesley Balk

The Interpretation of French Song, Pierre Bernac

On the Art of Singing..... Securing Baritone. Bass-Baritone and Bass Voices.... Solutions for Singers;Training Tenor Voices;Training Soprano voice All books by Richard Miller.

Opera Online, Opera Canada, Classical Note

Live Performance Venues

Metropolitan Opera Cinema, www.metopera.org/season/in-cinemas/encore-schedule/

Canadian Opera Company

Toronto Symphony

Tafelmusik

Opera Atelier

Keorner Hall

London Symphony

