

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
MUSIC 2942y-9596y
LYRIC DICTION FOR PERFORMERS OF VOCAL MUSIC:
ITALIAN and GERMAN DICTION

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MEETING TIME: TUESDAY 1:30-3:00pm, TC100 **OFFICE HOURS: By appointment**

COURSE PRE- or COREQUISITES:

M2921, M2922, M3921, M3922, M4923, M9508, or permission of instructor

SUGGESTED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

Adams, David. *A Handbook of Diction for Singers: Italian, German, French, 2nd edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-19-532559

Italian dictionary (digital or hardcopy) that indicates open and closed vowels for E and O, pronunciation for written Z

German dictionary (digital or hardcopy) with IPA helps

SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

- Binder for notes, handouts, and assignments
- Original scores of music for class performance
- Digital video/audio recorder for assignments

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Gaining a proficient basic working knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as it relates to Italian and German
2. Learning general rules of pronunciation and syllabification for Italian and German
3. Transcribing words and texts from Italian and German into IPA, including word-for-word translations into English
4. Incorporating the rules of pronunciation into spoken and musical contexts
5. Developing critical listening skills in regard to authenticity and flexibility of pronunciation
6. Developing performance strategies and skills through song/aria research

PROCEDURES:

1. Attending class periods either in person or on-line, prepared for quizzes and scheduled examinations
2. Completing readings and homework assignments for the assigned class periods
3. Singing from memory **two art selections (songs and/or arias) and one recitative** in Italian for first term, and **two art selections (songs and/or arias) and one recitative** in German for the second term
4. MMus students will complete **one listening assignment in Italian and one listening assignment in German. These will be presented in-class.**

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS:

This class will be presented in a blended fashion. The class will be divided into two groups to maintain appropriate social distancing within TC 100. Although this course will have each session video recorded and posted, attendance to assigned class periods is expected; likewise, online attendance/participation is also expected. The professor should be informed of absences (medical or non-medical) prior to the class period. To be excused, absences must be cleared by appropriate documentation.

Tardiness to class sessions is strongly discouraged. Please plan accordingly.

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.

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

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 AND 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.**

ACCOMMODATIONS 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.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

NOTICE FOR REMOTE LEARNING:

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

GRADING AND GRADING SCALE for M2942y/M9596y:

Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

Attendance/participation:	20%	A+=100-90%	D=59-50%
Assignments/quizzes:	20%	A=89-80%	F=<49%
4 Songs/arias and 2 Recits:	30%	B=79-70%	
2 Finals (written and oral):	30%	C=69-60%	

GRADING STANDARDS:

1. You will be graded on accuracy of transcription of Italian and German into IPA, the accuracy of pronunciation of IPA symbols, and the accuracy of the sung representation of these languages in song. This includes participation, willingness, and attitude during class sessions.
2. Assignments will be given during the class period, either from the syllabus or verbally. They will be posted on OWL. If you are absent from a class period, you are responsible for getting your assignments from the professor through e-mail, OWL, or individual appointment.
3. **Assignments must be completed/submitted/received by the assigned due date and time to receive full credit.** Appropriate partial credit will be given for assignments that are incomplete or late. Students who are absent for reasons stated above should contact the professor to make arrangements for assignments at the earliest reasonable opportunity. **(M9596y students see below for Listening Assignment instructions and expectations)**
4. **Songs, arias and recitatives video-recorded for class presentation must be memorized.** An IPA transcription, the original text, and a word-for-word translation in English of the text must be completed as part of this assignment. Performing additional background research will also add to your comprehension of the piece and potentially add to your performance
5. If you are unable to complete a singing assignment due to medical reasons, you must contact the professor as soon as possible and prior to the singing assignment due date. If you are able to phonate, you will video a recitation of your text and complete your written portion of your assignment. Performance of the piece will be done at the next class period. Failure to make appropriate arrangements with the professor will result in a failing grade for the assignment
6. **Oral examinations** will be recorded and submitted as part of the take-home final exam. The instructions will be laid out in the final exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The Scholastic Offense Policy in regard to plagiarism states, "Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking." This directly implies that all IPA work be done without the use of other aids beyond the assigned textbook.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Assignment Key:

Reading for next class (from Adams)= [pg.xx]

+ Song and Listening Assignment Explanations

ITALIAN

September

+15- First day-Syllabus, Intro to IPA, Vowels, Syllabification, Stress [xi-21]

22-Vowels Revisited, Consonants, Articulation, Phrasal Doubling [21-63]

29-Diphthongs, Triphthongs, Underlay, Stressed *E* and *O*: does it really matter? [63-81]

October

6- Song #1 Questions; In-class exercises

13- Watching SONG #1 recordings

20-Watching SONG #1 recordings

27- MMus Listening Assignments

November

3- FALL READING WEEK

10-Expressive use of Diction; In-class exercises

17- Watching SONG #2 recordings

24- Watching SONG #2 recordings

December

1- Recit prep; Final Review

8- Take Home Final/Oral Exam/Recitative Due

RECIT ASSIGNMENT/ORAL EXAM: DEC. 11@2PM

GERMAN

January

12- Syllabus, Differences between Italian and German, New Symbols and Sounds

19-Review Reading Assignment/IPA Practice/Speaking exercises

26- Review Reading Assignment/IPA Practice/Speaking exercises

February

2- IPA Practice/Speaking exercises

9- **MMus Listening Assignment #1** IPA Practice/Speaking exercises

16- **Reading Week-No Class**

23- **Singing Assignment #1**

March

2- **Singing Assignment # 1**

9- **Singing Assignment # 1**

16- **Singing Assignment #2**

23- **Singing Assignment #2**

30- **Singing Assignment #2**

April

ORAL AND RECIT FINAL EXAM: TENTATIVELY APRIL 2@2pm

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Adams, Andrew. "Unstressed E's and O's in Italian Lyric Diction: A Comparison of Diction Texts." *Journal of Singing* 59, no. 4 (March/April 2003): 333-39.

Adams, David. *A Handbook of Diction for Singers: Italian, German, French, 2nd ed.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

_____. "Aspects of Consonant Articulation in Italian Diction." *Journal of Singing* 59, no. 3 (January/February 2—3): 247-52.

_____. "On Teaching an Italian Diction Class." *Journal of Singing* 61, no. 2 (November/December 2004): 177-183.

Colorni, Evelina. *Singers' Italian: A Manual of Diction and Phonetics.* New York: Schirmer Books, 1996.

De' Ath, Leslie. "Dittongo and Iato in Italian." *Journal of Singing*, March/April 2005, Volume 61, No. 4, pp. 393-400.

_____. "Materials for Teaching a Lyric Diction Class, Part I." *Journal of Singing*, September/October 2005, Volume 62, No. 1, pp. _____.

_____. "Materials for Teaching a Lyric Diction Class, Part II." *Journal of Singing*, November/December 2005, Volume 62, No. 2, pp. 179-198.

_____. "Phonemics and Lyric Diction." *Journal of Singing*, May/June 2006, Volume 62, No. 5, pp. 549-561.

_____. "Perspectives on Italian Lyric Diction." *Journal of Singing*, May/June 2005, Volume 61, No. 5, pp. 503-515.

Moriarty, John. *Diction*. Boston: E. C. Schirmer: 1975.

Wall, Joan and Robert Caldwell, eds. *Diction for Singers*. Dallas, TX: Pst. . Inc., 1990.

MMus Listening Assignment Instructions:

Oct. 27th

You will complete two listening assignments in groups on two different songs or arias. After selecting pieces for the assignment, your group will make sure the library has a recording of it being performed by a native Italian and a non-native singer. Your group will transcribe the text according to the rules of transcription discussed in class. After transcribing, you should listen to the recordings, indicating the discrepancies between what you transcribed and what was sung. The class presentation will be the combined efforts of your transcription, and comparative listenings of each of the recordings.

Ex.

	Ombra mai fu
Transcription:	[ˈom bra ma:i fu]
Singer 1	[u bre I v]
Singer 2	[mai:]

You need not transcribe the entirety of each recording's diction, only the deviation from the rules discussed in the Adams text and in class.

Song/Recit. Assignment Instructions:

Song #1 Oct. 13th and 20th

Song #2 November 17th and 24th

Recit. Dec. 8th

For each assignment, prepare your text in the following manner:

IPA	[ˈkwe: sto aˈmo:r ver ˈgo a]
Original text	Questo amor, vergonia mia
Translation	This Love

Your assignment will be graded on the following: IPA transcription, translation of the text, spoken accuracy according to the written IPA, and sung accuracy according to the written IPA. Please provide at least 1.5 line spacing between lines of the three lined grouping (IPA, Original Text, and Translation).