

## FRENCH LYRIC DICTION – MUS 9797

University of Western Ontario  
Don Wright Faculty of Music

Prof. Patricia Green  
E-mail: mezzo@uwo.ca  
Office: Talbot College 419      Office Hours: By appointment

### PREREQUISITE:

By permission

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intensive study of French lyric diction and mélodie performance practice; including IPA assignments, transcription and pronunciation practice, study of French and Canadian composers of song, and performances of six songs. Students will choose their own songs in the fall semester. The DWFOM library has a magnificent song collection for you to peruse. The winter semester involves application of lyric diction study in performances of works in French and English by Canadian composers and by contemporary French composers. Study and performance of French opera recitatives may be included. Songs for the Winter semester will be assigned.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

For the singer to learn correct pronunciation of French in singing, to gain facility in the use of IPA for this purpose, and to build an understanding of the syntax and word stress of the French language and French poetry used in French art song. Singers are to gain knowledge of composers of mélodie and learn the correct interpretive style for singing mélodie, from early through to current compositions, employing it in performance

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

UWO Bookstore Coursepack: T. Donnan: French Lyric Diction. American University Press PENDING  
P. Bernac: The Interpretation of French Song. New York: Norton, 1976.

*Recommended:* Graham Johnson, Richard Stokes: A French Song Companion New York: Oxford U. Press 2000

*Recommended:* C. Kimball: SONG- A guide to Art Song Style and Literature. Hal Leonard, 2006

*Recommended:* Personal copy of French/English dictionary: Larousse French/English Dictionary or Petit Robert

Songs of Berlioz, Gounod, Saint-Saëns, Bizet, Massenet, Duparc, Chabrier, Chaminade, Chausson, Fauré, Debussy, Satie, Caplet, Roussel, Ravel, Viardot, Chaminade, Poulenc, Hahn, Milhaud, Boulanger, Messiaen, Jolivet, Dutilleux, Papineau-Couture, Garant, Hétu, Pépin, Smallman, Laurin

*The Coursepack is required in class in the first 6 weeks of fall semester. The Bernac is required in class from Week 8 – 12. There will be reading assignments in Bernac in the first 6 weeks of the fall semester.*

### COURSE PIANISTS

Pianists are assigned to this course to accompany you. Decide your songs early, and prepare the scores for your assigned pianist, providing them the music no later than **Oct. 2nd**. It is your responsibility to book a rehearsal with your pianist to take place in the 2 weeks preceding your class performances. If you do not arrange a rehearsal, the pianist is not obliged to accompany you, and you must provide your own pianist for your performance. It is your responsibility to know the text and the score when you arrive at your rehearsal. For your **SONG C** performance, you must provide a copy of your song to the pianist by **Nov. 6th**. This song must be memorized. You will work with the same pianist who plays your SONG B performance.

### 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.

## MÉLODIE PERFORMANCE & ACCOMPANYING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

### **Performances:**

FALL: You will perform three songs in class; chosen from provided lists. The performance of Song C will be memorized. Your performance will include recitation of the song text in French (memorization encouraged) and demonstrated knowledge of both the word-for-word translation and the poetic meaning. With consultation, performing songs not found on the list is allowed. All songs from Debussy forward should be sung in original keys. Indication of correct keys can be found in composers' Works list in *New Grove Dictionary of Music*.

WINTER: All songs and recitatives will be assigned. You will perform two songs by Canadian composers and one song by a contemporary French composer. You will also have the opportunity to speak a recitative passage from a French opera with colleagues. One song performance must be memorized.

### **Written Assignments:**

#### FALL SEMESTER

1. Song IPA: Texts of songs must be written out in French, IPA and English on three consecutive lines. Word-for-word translation and IPA *must be written by hand*. *Keep a copy*. DUE: 2 weeks before your performance in hard copy. The corrected work will be returned to you the following week in class.

2. Song Profile: Due at the beginning of class the day of your performance.

3. *Listening Assignment: May be handed in anytime up until NOV. 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

Listen to a single CD of French mélodies from the provided list. Write a report, listing the composer, title and date of recording, performers and the label. Provide an outline of what you found to be the most important details in the music and the poetry, as well as the interpretation and vocalism. For EIGHT (8) songs, give the song title and the poet's name, voice type and tessitura, vocal difficulties of the song and a short précis of the meaning of the text (not a translation). This must be presented in hard copy; preferably typed.

#### WINTER SEMESTER

1. Song Profile: Due at the beginning of class the day of your performance. Required for all songs

2. Song IPA: Required for all songs and recitatives in French. Proceed as in the Fall semester.

### **FALL SEMESTER MIDTERM EXAM**

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

### **EVALUATION**

#### **FALL Semester**

IPA / Song Profile / Listening Assignments	30%
First Mélodie Performance	15% includes recitation of song text
Second Mélodie Performance	15% includes recitation of song text
Midterm Exam	15% written exam
Third Mélodie Performance	15% includes recitation of song text
Attendance, Repertoire level, Participation	10%

#### **WINTER Semester**

4 Performances (3 songs, one recitative)	45%
Assessment based upon correct spoken and sung diction, correct pitches and rhythms, and overall style, and includes memorization of one song in French.	
3 IPAs of Songs and Recitatives, 3 Song profiles	45%
Attendance and Participation in class	10%

## IMPORTANT UWO POLICIES

i) **Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

ii) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through, or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

iii) **Enrollment Restrictions:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music.

iv) **Health and Wellness:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

v) **Accessible Education Western:** Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

vi) **Written Work and the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is not permitted in the written work for this course. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

vii) **Accommodation on Medical or Compassionate Grounds:** Western recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, at times, be impaired by medical illness or exceptional circumstances. Instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment in determining how or if work missed in such cases will be accommodated. Whether medical documentation is required for work worth less than 10% of the final grade is at the discretion of the instructor (but, if required, this must be indicated on the course outline). If work missed because of medical or non-medical reasons is worth more than 10% of the final grade, documentation is required. Any documentation, when required, is processed through the Office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) and should be sent directly to this office, not to the instructor.

viii) **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Western accommodates students with disabilities, subject to not compromising the academic integrity of the course or program. Students seeking accommodation must contact Accessible Education (aew@uwo.ca), which provides recommendations based on disability documentation and other considerations. Reasonable academic accommodation is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and the instructor. All participants in the process must fulfil their respective obligations as set out in this Policy and the associated Procedures:  
[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

ix) **Religious Accommodation:** When scheduling of course requirements conflicts with religious holidays that require absence from the University or that prohibit or require certain activities on the part of the student, the student will not be penalized for absence because of religious reasons. If a suitable arrangement involving a graduate course cannot be worked out between the student and instructor involved, they should consult the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies).

Further information can be found here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_religious.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf)

x) **Scholastic Offences:** The University has a Scholastic Discipline policy that regulates procedures in the event that a graduate student is suspected of a scholastic offence, most commonly plagiarism or cheating, but also violations of research ethics. It is important to note that while the course instructor will likely investigate the offence, possibly meeting with the student to clarify the issue, it is the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) who, in consultation with the instructor, assesses penalties for scholastic offences in graduate courses. The Scholastic Discipline policy for graduate students may be found at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has developed a mandatory Academic Integrity Module that is designed to help students understand and abide by principles of academic integrity. Further information about this module can be found at: [https://grad.uwo.ca/life\\_community/study/index.html](https://grad.uwo.ca/life_community/study/index.html)

New doctoral students in Music are required to complete the TCPS 2: CORE-2022 (Course on Research Ethics) in their first term. Instructors are encouraged to complete CORE-2022 as well. It is free to access, and the modules can be completed over multiple sessions.

xi) **Grading Guidelines for Graduate Courses:** A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=00-59%