

FRENCH LYRIC DICTION – MUS 9597

University of Western Ontario
Don Wright Faculty of Music

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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 songs in the fall semester. The winter semester involves application of lyric diction study in performances of works in French by Canadian composers and by contemporary French composers. Study and performance of French opera recitatives will be included. Songs for the Winter semester will be assigned.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Singers and pianists will learn correct pronunciation of French in singing, gain facility in the use of IPA for this purpose, and build an understanding of the syntax and word stress of the French language and French poetry used in French art song. Singers and pianists 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

MATERIALS

T. Donnan: French Lyric Diction

Recommended: 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

COURSE PIANISTS

Decide your songs early, and prepare the scores for your assigned pianist, providing them the music no later than *Sept. 30th*. It is the responsibility of the singer to book a rehearsal with the pianist to take place in the 2 weeks preceding the class performances. It is your responsibility to know the text and the score when you arrive at your rehearsal.

MÉLODIE PERFORMANCE & ACCOMPANYING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Performances:

Fall semester: You will perform three songs in class, chosen from provided lists. Song C will be memorized. Performances will be preceded by recitation of the song text in French (memorization encouraged) and demonstrated knowledge of both the word-for-word translation and the poetic meaning. Performing songs not found on the list may be allowed with consultation. All songs from Debussy are to be sung in original keys. . Winter semester: 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*, due 2 weeks before each performance, in hard copy.
2. Song Profile: Due at the beginning of class the day of each performance.
3. *Listening Assignment: May be handed in anytime up until NOV. 23rd.*

WINTER SEMESTER

1. Song Profile: Due at the beginning of class the day of the 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

Written exam will include IPA transcription and vocabulary and diction rules.

EVALUATION

IPA / Song Profile / Listening Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam	15%
Performances	45%
Attendance, Repertoire level, Participation	10%

IMPORTANT UWO POLICIES

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

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 To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

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

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.

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.

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>).

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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