

MUSIC 9831 - FRENCH MÉLODIE Fall 2025

University of Western Ontario
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Course Instructor: Prof. Patricia Green

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Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intensive study of French mélodie and its composers, including stylistic and poetic influences and considerations in research and performance, from early mélodie to current compositions. Refined pronunciation of the language is an essential aspect of the performances.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students will demonstrate knowledge of composers of French mélodie and their works, including Canadian and contemporary French composers. Students will understand the correct interpretive style and language use for singing mélodie and employ it in performance. They will develop knowledge of the historical development of the mélodie and the influences on its development while planning and giving presentations. This knowledge will lead to performances in which students will implement correct pronunciation of French lyric diction, expressing understanding of the syntax, word stress and important poetic texts of the French language.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

Graham Johnson, Richard Stokes: A French Song Companion. NY: Oxford U. Press 2000 On reserve
P. Bernac: The Interpretation of French Song. New York: Norton, 1976. On reserve
Emily Kilpatrick: French Art Song. U of Rochester Press 2022 – On reserve
Francois le Roux (transl. Sylvia Kahan): Le Chant Intime. OUP : July 2021 On Reserve
Songbooks: Berlioz, Gounod, Massenet, Duparc, Chabrier, Chausson, Fauré, Debussy, Satie,
Caplet, Roussel, Ravel, Poulenc, Boulanger, Milhaud, Messiaen, Jolivet, Dutilleux, Papineau-Couture,
Hétu, Garant and others.
Reading list

COMMUNICATION

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.

EVALUATION

Composer presentation	20%
Poet presentation	20%
Canadian Composer presentation	20%
Contemporary French Composer presentation	20%
Final Concert	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Evaluation will consider demonstration of appropriate academic depth of research, effective communication, presentation techniques, demonstration of intellectual independence, creativity, and performance skills.

SCHEDULE

Sept.	Syllabus and French diction review
Sept. 16	Mélodie overview and listening
Sept. 23	Mélodie overview and listening
Sept. 30	Poet presentations
Oct. 7	Poet presentations
Oct. 14	Teaching Songs
Oct. 21	Composer presentations
Oct. 28 th	Composer presentations

READING WEEK

Nov. 11	Contemporary French composer presentations
Nov. 18	Contemporary French composer presentations
Nov. 25	Canadian composer presentations
Dec 2.	Canadian composer presentations
Dec. 9 th	Final performance

COURSE TIMELINE AND FORMAT

This course will involve research projects, which will be presented as lecture performances every two to three weeks.

Written work with sources and footnotes to be provide to me. Limit your use of online resources, and document those used.

Keynote, Powerpoint, recordings, paper and berets, etc. may be used in presenting your research. Song performances do not need to be memorized. There will be discussion following the presentations. Students are requested to take notes and formulate questions for this purpose. Further research activities may be added. It is essential to determine your songs in the first three weeks, and provide the pianist assigned to the class with the scores. The due date for the scores is SEPTEMBER 23rd.

Enrollment Restrictions

Enrolment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music, as well as any student who has obtained special permission from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

Statement on 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

Note especially that plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. Students are expected to write all assignments in their own words. If you take an idea from another author, you must acknowledge this by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing.

Statement on 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 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.

Statement on 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 (AEW)

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

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps for written assignments is unacceptable in this course.