

Doctoral Vocal Coachings
(course number 9811, 9812, 9813, 9814, 9815, 9816)
Fall/Winter 2026-27

Course Instructor: Prof. Simone Luti, sluti@uwo.ca
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Lesson Times: (to be arranged in September with the instructors)

Course description

The doctoral coaching course consists in weekly sessions of coachings of 50 minutes each. The repertoire worked in the coachings should be discussed and established in collaboration with the instructor, and eventually reassessed throughout the year.

Below are some guidelines for repertoire selection:

- the preparation of the repertoire for recitals or lecture recitals (milestones)
- the preparation of a complete opera role
- In depth study of an art song cycle / set
- Thematic research across various art songs of different composers
- The study of a composer through his lieder or operas
- New music research / study / workshop / performance
- Etc

Doctoral students, prior to each coaching, are expected to prepare repertoire selections at the highest level possible, in order to be able to show, sing and discuss each of the following items with artistry, proficiency, and critical approach:

- Diction
- Translation of the text
- Musical choices
- Technical skills necessary to approach the work
- Understanding of the harmonic texture
- Poetry and relation with the music, drama
- Rhythmical challenges
- Historical background of the composer and of the repertoire
- Critical analysis of different interpretations, through recordings and videos.
- Etc.

Repertoire for the semester is expected to be submitted to the instructor at least one month ahead of each coaching.

Evaluation

Active and engaged participation as described above will form the base of your evaluation. The grade for this course will consist of *Pass* or *Satisfactory*.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students will demonstrate knowledge and skills to work collaboratively with other musicians at a professional level, to prepare and fully understand operatic roles, to strengthen their musicianship for recital, to broaden the spectrum of research and teaching skills. Through weekly reflections, students will acquire the tools to disseminate the gained knowledge through their research and, in turn, their pedagogical activities.

Enrolment 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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

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 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 on the Wellness and Wellbeing website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>

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

Health and Wellness Services

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

Accessible Education (AE)

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 (AE), a confidential service

designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE 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.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

NA