STUDIO VOICE LESSON SYLLABUS
M250B, M251B, M450B, M451B, M651B
Spring Semester 2015

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Course Description: A physical and academic study of classical vocal technique, literature, and performance. This class consists of thirteen ½ hour lessons for one unit of credit per semester for non-performance majors and thirteen 1-hour lessons for three credits per semester for performance majors.

Course Objective: Students will learn a healthy and expressive vocal technique. They will learn specific knowledge of anatomy and breathing for singing, resonance and tone quality, pronunciation and enunciation of English and foreign languages, historical and musical vocal style, communication, presentation, and memorization skills.

Repertoire Requirements:
M251 Prof. Studies, and Music Ed Majors:
Prepare and perform from memory at least three musical selections to be presented at your jury.

M250 Performance Majors:
Prepare and perform from memory at least four musical selections to be presented at your jury.

M451 Prof. Studies, and Music Ed Majors:
Prepare and perform from memory at least three musical selections to be presented at your jury.

M450 Performance Majors:
Prepare and perform from memory at least six musical selections to be presented at your jury. *

M651 Performance Majors:
Prepare and perform from memory at least six musical selections to be presented at your jury. *

*No jury is required in semesters that you are presenting a Jr., Sr. or Graduate recital

Junior Level Exam: Prepare and perform from memory four (non-performance majors) or five (performance majors) musical selections, one from each of the following periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary and represent at least three different languages. Performance majors must represent German, French and Italian. The fifth piece for performance majors may be chosen from any period and language. This exam is normally taken at the end of the fourth semester of lower division study. You must pass this exam to enroll for upper division lessons.

Memorization:
Repertoire must be learned (notes, rhythms, language, etc.) and memorized by the dates agreed upon by both parties. Memorization will be graded on a pass/fail basis. If you fail to meet these deadlines your studio grade will be lowered one grade per deadline.

Studio Classes:
I will offer three studio classes each semester free of charge. These classes will give you a chance to preview your repertoire and work together on communication, stage deportment, and technical challenges.

- Attendance at all of these classes is mandatory unless the instructor has excused you in advance.
- You are required to perform on at least one of the classes.
- The final class is a jury preparation class and performance is mandatory for everyone who is singing a jury.
- You are required to be in concert dress if you are performing in a class.
- There will be a small fee to cover the cost of an accompanist. Your pianist will figure this into your monthly bill.
Practice:
I expect that you will spend a minimum of 1 hr/day, 6 days/week (Perf. Majors), or ½ hr/day, 6 days/week (non-perf. Majors) practicing singing with mindful technique. This should include approximately 20 minutes on vocal exercises that I give you in your lessons and 30-40 minutes on your repertoire. This DOES NOT include what I call “kitchen table work” – translating, researching poetry and/or story line and character, writing in beats in difficult passages, completing repertoire preparation sheets, etc.

Journal:
You will keep a journal of what we have discussed in each of your lessons as well as the goals we set for the next lesson. I also strongly recommend that you record your lessons and listen to them after as a reminder of what we did and discussed.

Translation:
All music must have word-for-word translations transcribed ON YOUR MUSIC before we begin musical or technical work in your lessons.

Accompanist:
In accordance with the SDSU Music Major Handbook you are required to have an accompanist at your lessons. If you plan to arrange for your own, please let me know immediately. You will be responsible to compensate your accompanist for all lessons and coachings including missed or cancelled lessons with less than 24 notice.

Other Requirements:
- Students in their third semester of lessons and beyond must perform on one scheduled Divisional concerts this semester. Students giving recitals in this semester will not be required to sing on a Divisional concert.
- Schedule a ½ hour rehearsal with their accompanist at least once a week or an hour every other week in addition to their voice lesson.
- Maintain a repertoire list of pieces studied and performed.
- **Attendance at SDSU voice recitals, Voice Division Recitals and Masterclasses is mandatory!** Listening (especially to live performances) is an essential part of your learning process and it is important to support your colleagues in their work. If you have conflicts, please let me know in writing at least a week before the event.

Grading Policy: **66.6% Studio work, 33.3% Jury.** SDSU assigns average work a grade of “C”. Everyone will begin the semester with a “C” and earn their final grade from me based on the following criteria:

**Preparation (23.75 points possible)**
- Is on time for lessons
- Has all materials (music, weekly journal, song prep forms)
- Writes translations in music (and IPA if assigned)
- Provides music for accompanist on time
- Comes to each lesson with assignments completed (music learned, notes and rhythms and text, research, listening and extra readings)

**Engagement (23.75 points possible)**
- Consistently attends lessons with proper notice if he/she must cancel
- Consistently attends Voice Divisionals and Recitals and Masterclasses
- Brings a positive attitude and energy to each lesson
- Records each lesson
- Interacts positively with the teacher, the accompanist and peers in lessons and studio classes
Technique/Performance (23.75 points possible)

- Tone quality
- Intonation
- Vocal/Musical Accuracy
- Musicianship (use of phrasing, dynamics, musical style)
- Stage presence
- Interpretation - commitment to text and character

Improvement (23.75 points possible)

- Consistent display of practice
- Consistent weekly vocal and musical growth
- Consistent application of technical aspects
- Overall improvement (vocal, musical, performances, etc.)

Studio Policies:

- Please be prompt for your lesson and be sure to bring all assigned music to every lesson.
- You are expected to have your own accompanist at each lesson. Please supply them with your music in advance and be sure to pay your fees promptly. Please pay your accompanist directly.
- If you have to miss a lesson please let me know at least 24 hours in advance. I will make up these lessons before the end of the semester; if you do not notify me, I am not obligated to do so. If you cancel with less than 24 hours notice you will be responsible for paying your accompanist.
- If you are seriously ill you should not have a lesson. If, however, you are just tired or a bit hoarse do not cancel your lesson. There is always work to be done on translation, pronunciation, and interpretation that does not require singing.

Academic Integrity Policy:
Membership in the student body of San Diego State University carries with it an obligation to act with honor. Students must comply with the SDSU Honor Code (academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course). Blackboard postings and all submitted assignments must be originally and uniquely your creation. When critiquing, alluding to, or referencing the work of others, please comply with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), version 6. Any violation of the Honor Code will be dealt with within that policy. Should you have questions related to plagiarism, cheating, or academic honesty in general, please speak with the Instructor.

Students with Disabilities: This class complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.