INSTRUCTOR: Michelle Ayres  
EMAIL ADDRESS: MAYRES@MAIL.SDSU.EDU  
OFFICE HOURS: Room M269, Monday/Wednesday 10:00 am – 11:00 am (by appointment)  

MEETING TIME: Individual Scheduled Lessons (60 min/30 min)  
LOCATION: Music Building, Room 269 (office), Room 218/271 (lessons), Room 218 (Studio Class)  

COURSE OBJECTIVES  

Basic and advanced vocal skills will be developed. Correct breathing, posture, tone production, diction, vocal health will be stressed, as well as unity of respiration, phonation, and resonance to improve the tone quality, vocal range, support, intonation and flexibility.  
• The study of basic principles of vocal pedagogy, choral vocal pedagogy, vocal production, and the development of poise and stage deportment including an acquaintance with a variety of solo literature and the histrionics of vocal pedagogy.  
• Impart a collaborative and interactive learning environment that will enable students to prepare and implement musical performances that reflect the unique perspectives and gifts of each singer.  

Specific repertoire for each voice type will be given in order to finalize the technical aspects of singing and to develop an understanding of the historical and musical styles appropriate to the performance of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th/21st century Classical repertoire as well as Musical Theatre, and Jazz/Pop/Rock crossover repertoire.  

COURSE OUTCOMES  

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:  
1. Identify and demonstrate the various aspects of the singing process  
2. Explain and execute good habits for vocal health, performance practice, and musical practice habits  
3. Sing, from memory, all solo vocal literature for a public audience  
4. Use newly developed skills to more fully perform their jury repertoire/recital repertoire/junior level by the end of the semester.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Vocal Music Folder**: All music should be kept in a three ring binder with tabs.

2. **Supplies**: Please make sure to have the following at your lesson: music for assigned songs, and scores, Vocal Music Folder, pencil, water, (scan disk 2G, thumb drive, laptop or personal recording devices to record your lessons).

3. **Assignment Essays**: Each song/aria studied will require completion of a brief biography of the composer, poet and historical period **due on the first day of individual repertoire study. Please keep your copies in your Vocal Music Folder.**

4. **Music Repertoire Requirements**: Be prepared to perform from memory at least 3 (Music Education, Professional Studies, B.A.), or 5-8 (Vocal Performance) musical selections to be presented at your jury at the end of the semester. (See Voice Department Handbook for exact repertoire requirements.)

5. **Recital Attendance and Written Assignments for Required Recital/Concert Attendance**: (You are required to attend all student and faculty recitals as well as Noon Day Concerts.) For each Required Recital/Concert performance, the student will compose a well-written 300-400 word commentary essay that addresses the performance. In addition you must submit one essay of an opera performance and one of a choral concert (even if you are performing); other vocal related programs are permitted (with permission). **Faculty Recital: M. Ayres & B. Bolzenthal, October 2nd 7:30pm – Smith Hall**

6. **Lesson Attendance**:
   a. If you are unable to attend your scheduled lesson time, supply me with **at least 24hrs advance notice by phone/text AND email.** ALWAYS cancel or reschedule your lesson if you are contagious.
   b. Failure to show up at your appointed time without notification constitutes a cancellation of a lesson. Lessons canceled by the student without notice are not required to be made up, although I will make an effort to do so for legitimate excuses. It is your responsibility to request a make-up lesson for lessons that you cancel due to illness.
   c. Any lessons canceled by me will be made up.

7. **Collaborative Pianist**: 
   Susie Shick will be our studio pianists. See contact information: Susie Shick-susieshick@yahoo.com
   a. Please provide clean copies of your music (devoid of any writing) well in advance and if applicable, **be sure to pay your fees promptly.**
   b. Performance majors **must** schedule a 30-60 minute rehearsal with their accompanist at least twice a month in addition to their voice lesson. (All other music majors are advised to schedule 30 minute rehearsals twice a month.)
8. **Music/Text Preparation**: Students should practice a minimum of 2 hours per day, 5 days per week outside of regularly scheduled lessons and coaching. (Techniques for practice will be discussed at your lesson) Grading of preparation will be based on the following:

a. Knowing the melody and rhythms securely
b. Providing a copy of diction analysis, breath markings, musical markings written on your music
c. Complete translation of text (word for word) of repertoire in foreign language (using IPA if possible)
d. Complete memorization of repertoire by deadlines (see below)

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**All musical selections must be fully prepared by the first lesson of study.** All pitches, rhythms, and if necessary, a word-for-word translation need be written below the vocal line, as well as IPA which must be included and written out below the vocal line on your sheet music. I will check your sheet music on the first day of song study.

All music assigned **must be completely memorized by the 12th week of classes.**

**Music Ed., Professional Studies, B.A., Performance Certificate:**

- Song one memorized by 4th week of class
- Song two memorized by 8th week of class
- Song three memorized by 12th week of class

*Junior level song 4 memorized by 12th week of class

**Voice Performance:**

- Song one memorized by 4th week of class
- Song two memorized by 6th week of class
- Song three memorized by 8th week of class
- Song four memorized by 10th week of class
- Song(s) five/six memorized by 12th week of class

*Junior level song 5 memorized by 12th week of class

**Failure to comply with this will result in the lowering of your lesson grade by one (½) letter grade each lesson that you are late in memorization.**

**Musical Performance:** Students should perform in **at least** three (3) Vocal Studio Classes to be held throughout the semester, specific days and times TBA. Participation is required. If your schedule prohibits attendance, notify me of your conflict in advance and we will work it out. Times and locations of Studio Class and sign-up sheets will be posted outside my office. **All students are required to have sung their jury/recital/junior level selections by the final Studio Class.** If time is available during the semester you are welcome to sing more than the required times.
EVALUATION:

Lesson Grades:
Lesson grades will be given at each lesson/each week; one for vocal development and one for overall preparation, considering each of the following:

1. Musical preparation
2. Linguistic preparation
3. Memorization
4. Vocal repertoire folder / Essays
5. Recital attendance (if applicable)
6. Participation in Studio Class
7. Attendance

Final Semester Grade:
Is a composite grade based on the following – Vocal development, Composer-Poet Essays, Recital Essays, Translations/IPA, Recital Attendance, Lesson Attendance, Vocal Music Folder, Memorization, Studio Class Participation, and Jury/Junior Level/Recital Hearing.

Numeric Grading Scale:
A 96-94         C+ 81-82
A- 93-90        C 76-80
B+ 90-91        C- 74-75
B 85-89         D 70-73
B- 83-84        F 69 or below

DIVISIONAL RECITALS:
All students in their third semester of study and thereafter are required to sing from memory two pieces on one Divisional Recital per semester. Fall Dates: Monday October 19 & 26 noon concert – Smith Hall, Sunday November 1st 7:00pm – Smith Hall

JURIES/JUNIOR LEVELS/HEARINGS
The final exam for this course is a Jury/Junior Level/Recital Hearing. Jury dates TBA. Professional attire is required. Failure to perform a jury will result in an incomplete of the course.

STUDIO CLASS
Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30pm Room 218

STUDIO SEMESTER RECITAL
Towards the end of the semester all students will be presented in a studio recital. Students will be expected to perform 2-3 selections of their studied repertoire from memory. If needed performance of 3 pieces during the recital may take the place of Studio Class Participation.
Performance attire is expected. The recital will be free of charge and open to the public. **Recital Date: Tuesday, December 1st 7:30pm – Rhapsody Hall**

**LATE WORK POLICY**
Late work will not be accepted unless approved by the instructor.

**COMMUNICATION**
The course syllabus, class schedule, class announcements, will be made available through Blackboard. Students will receive periodic e-mails (announcements, changes in schedule, etc.) from the instructor. All correspondence will be sent to the student’s school (@mail.sdsu.edu) e-mail address.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**
Attendance is essential for this course and is therefore mandatory for all students. Please note:
1. All absences are considered unexcused unless approved by the instructor/teacher. You are allowed four (4) unexcused absences, after four absences you may be removed from the program. It is a wise idea to save them in case of illness.
2. Each unexcused absence beyond the student’s third absence lowers his/her final grade for the course by one letter grade, unless excused. (i.e. On the fourth absence, an “A” becomes a “B” for the semester.)
3. **Punctuality is also necessary. Three late arrivals are equivalent to one absence.**
4. Excessive Absences due to medical reasons are considered unexcused unless accompanied by written documentation showing the student’s name, date(s), and signed by a licensed medical professional.
5. Kindly let me know by email and text or cell as soon as possible, and no later than 24 hours in advance about any absences.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**
Students enrolled in Applied Lessons agree to abide by the San Diego State University Academic Integrity Policy as stated in the SDSU General Catalog. This policy addresses basic obligations relating to honesty, truth, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Your signature on all your work and your participation in this class indicate you have read and abided by this policy.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
Students with documented disabilities desiring testing or other accommodations should not hesitate to contact the instructor. Strict confidentiality will be maintained in such cases.

**SDSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECITAL, CHORAL, AND OPERA SCHEDULE**
Visit http://music.sdsu.edu/index.php/site/calendar for updated locations, dates, and times. Make sure you check this schedule often, as dates may change. All operas are ticketed events; you may purchase tickets at any campus box office prior to the beginning of the show or at the door.

*Open Door Policy:  I encourage an open door policy in my studio. If you are able to attend a peer’s lesson I encourage you to do so.*