SYLLABUS

MUSIC 516   Performance Forum: Strings   Spring 2016

Instructor: Travis Maril
Email: tmaril@mail.sdsu.edu
Office: M 241
Office Hours: By Appointment

Classroom: M 271
Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays: 7-8:40pm

Required Materials: “Casals and the Art of Interpretation” by David Blum.

Class Objectives:

Students will develop their own individual process for approaching new repertoire, from the initial choice of a piece to its performance on stage. Students will develop this process through discussion, assignments and personal practice. The class will culminate in a recital in Rhapsody at the end of the term. It is the instructor’s hope that students’ comprehensive work on this piece should leave them feeling more prepared for this performance than any other in their recent experience.

This class is divided into three discrete units: Prep, Practice, and Performance. In the Prep Unit, students will integrate tools from their courses in theory, history and ear training into their approach to a new work as well as learn organizational strategies to ensure their preparation for performance is sound. In the Practice Unit we will cover the pedagogy of practice, learning tools for approaching technical and musical problems in the music and solving them on the instrument. The final unit will cover aspects of performance preparation including performance psychology, stage logistics, and how to write and speak for a live audience.

Prep Unit
January 26: Class Introduction - Repertoire, Casals Assignment
February 2: Putting it into Context - Researching Your Piece
February 9: To Listen or Not Listen? That is the Question. Casals Part 1
February 16: Keeping Your Axe Fit as a Fiddle - Guest Speakers from The Violin Shop
February 25: Casals Part 2

Practice Unit
March 1: Staying Sane in the Practice Room - Practice Organization
March 8: Practice Strategies (Nuts and Bolts)
March 15: Scales and Etudes Are Your Friends
March 22: *I Sound Like That?? Recording Yourself*
March 29: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

**Performance Unit**
April 5: *Visualizing and Speech Writing*
April 12: *Bulletproofing your Performance*
April 19: *Dress Rehearsal in Rhapsody*
April 26: *String Forum Recital in Rhapsody*
May 3: *Post Mortem and Next Steps*

**Grading:**
Assignments = 50%
Participation = 50%

**Policies:**
Deep concentration and the ability to listen intently are critical skills for all musicians. Research has proven that electronic devices are poisonous to these kinds of attention. Therefore this will be a device-free classroom. There will be a break in the middle of each class for students to check devices. The instructor reserves the right to excuse students from the class for unauthorized use of devices during class time.