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Opera Workshop (Music 106/406E)

Spring 2017

Course description: The Opera Workshop ensemble offers participants the opportunity to study, memorize and perform repertoire from the musical theater and operatic repertoire.

During some semesters, this will involve a single opera in which all class members perform together. In Spring of 2017, there will be multiple short operas and scenes performed.

Students will gain experience singing both solo and ensemble parts, collaborating with a conductor and an accompanist, and building and maintaining a character. All singers will participate in 4 public performances of the material learned in class March 23-26 in Gist Hall on the HSU campus.

I. Class Objectives (general)

- A. To rehearse and perform successfully selections from opera and/or musical theater
- B. To explore personal strengths and weaknesses relating to performing
- C. To gain confidence and ability combining healthy vocal production with consistent and committed stagecraft
- D. To promote collaborative learning in a supportive environment

II. Class Meeting Times

- A. Tues & Thurs 5:00-6:50 pm Fulkerson Recital Hall; (and sometimes #109 and #141) January 17-March 23 plus additional rehearsal times in the weeks immediately prior to the performances. For Spring 2017, these will include: Monday, March 19, 6:00-10:00 PM, Tuesday March 20, 6:00-10:30 PM (our longest rehearsal of the semester), Wednesday March 21, 6:00-10:00 PM, with performances on March 23-26, Thursday-Sunday. Exact call times for performances TBA, but expect to arrive at Gist Hall approximately 90 minutes-2 hours prior to show, depending on costume and make-up demands. In addition, all singers will be asked to participate in Strike immediately following the matinee performance on Sunday, March 26.
- B. Also, we will meet for one class period **after** the performances to watch and discuss the show and to discuss the tour. **Attendance at this class meeting is required; Date TBA as soon as possible, but it will be in April during regular Opera Workshop time.**

III. Class Activities

- A. Physical, vocal and dramatic improvisation exercises in both large and small group settings
- B. Regular musical and staging rehearsals (schedule to be posted weekly) culminating in live performances
- C. Individual musical and dramatic coaching scheduled as needed
- D. Discussions about character building, scene analysis and other related topics

IV. Class Requirements

- A. Participation in ALL performances, rehearsals and class activities. (There are no excused absences for the performances, your regular weekly rehearsals or for the extra rehearsals. Missing any one of these without prior notice will result in your grade being lowered by one letter. Missing two or more scheduled rehearsals may result in your dismissal from the production.) The weekly rehearsal schedule will be communicated to all persons involved by no later than Tuesday
- B. Learning and memorizing ALL music and blocking in a timely fashion Note: *Memorization dates for specific scenes will be posted on the Opera board and also communicated via e-mail.*
- C. Respect for everyone involved in the production, no matter what their role
- D. Professional-level commitment to the production as outlined in IV A, B & C

V. Grading Policy

- 50% Attendance (including punctuality), professional deportment* and full participation in all Rehearsals and Performances
- 50% Your consistent effort toward your personal growth as a performer

***Deportment** refers to how you conduct yourself in class. Here are some guidelines:

- Be considerate and respectful of others' talents, time (including the instructor's) and opinions
- Do not bring your lunch or dinner to class
- Approach unfamiliar activities with an open, positive attitude
- Be prepared for all rehearsals, both individual and group
- Record your part so that you can learn it fully, accurately and in a timely manner

Diversity Statement

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability, and other visible and nonvisible differences are welcome here.

All members of this class and the instructor and accompanist are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class.

Open communication is encouraged at all times.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)

Opera Workshop is offered in Area C (106E), which encompasses the disciplines of the Arts, Literature, Philosophy, and Modern Language. Below are the goals and objectives for Area C classes:

Area C Goals

The Arts and Humanities seek to integrate intellect, imagination, sensibility and receptivity in reflection upon human experience. Courses in Area C should assist and inspire students to cultivate and refine their affective and cognitive responses so they can consciously recognize and embody their experiences and their expressions of human existence. Through studying and responding to the great works of human imagination, and through experiencing individual

aesthetic and creative processes, students can gain balance through integration of their intellectual, emotional, and creative responses, thereby, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of human life.

Area C Objectives

All courses shall accomplish the following in a discipline-specific manner.

- Students will apply discipline-specific vocabulary and central discipline-specific concepts and principles to a specific instance, literary work or artistic creation.
- Students will respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and will explain the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses.
- Students will explain the nature and scope of the perspectives and contributions found in a particular discipline within the Arts and Humanities as related to the human experience, both individually (theirs) and collectively.

Arts-specific Student Learning Outcome (SLO):

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual, imaginative, and cultural elements involved in the creative arts through their (or, “as a result of their”) participation in and study of drama, music, studio art and/or creative writing.

Music Department Assessment Goals and corresponding Outcomes

In addition, the Department of Music has the following goals and outcomes. The outcomes in **bold** print are the ones are most relevant to Opera Workshop.

Goal 1: Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.

Outcome 2A: Students can identify and trace essential developments in Western Art Music history.

Outcome 2B: When listening to a musical composition, students can identify its historical era, cultural sources, genre, texture, instrumentation, and possible composer when appropriate.

Outcome 2C: Over the course of four years, music majors will perform a wide variety of Music - in solos, large and small ensembles, from different eras, in different styles.

Goal 3: Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student’s needs, interests, and degree path.

Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate improvement in their performing skills – both in the quality of their performance and the difficulty of the repertoire which they can perform.

Humboldt State Learning Outcomes

Finally, HSU also has certain learning objectives for every student. These are listed below. Again, the most relevant to this class appear in bold print.

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- **Effective communication through written and oral modes.**
- **Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues**
- Competence in a major area of study.
- **Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities and viewpoints.**

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- **Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.**
- **Pursue social justice**, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities