

Music 108V-Beginning Voice--SPRING 2017

Room #109-MUSIC A

Dr. Elisabeth Harrington
Office: Music Building #211
Phone: 826-5437
e-mail: elisabeth.harrington@humboldt.edu
Office hours:

Class Objectives for Music 108 Courses

1. Students will demonstrate healthy, fundamental technique beyond the beginning level (including proper posture) on one or more instruments or voice.
Learning fundamental and healthy vocal technique includes a working knowledge of the physical instrument and how the different parts function interdependently. Specific topics will include breath control, posture, phonation, resonance and articulation.
2. Students will demonstrate beginning level performance skills in areas such as good tone, accurate pitch, accurate rhythm, dynamics and appropriate tempo.
We will apply the above-mentioned technique to specific vocal literature, including literature in languages other than English.
3. Students will demonstrate understanding of the qualities that make a performance excellent.
We will explore and experience the art of performing, including topics such as complete preparation, stage etiquette, expression & dramatic presentation, nerves, collaboration, and other related issues. We will discuss how to integrate these qualities to cultivate musical excellence.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability listen critically and give constructive feedback, both to themselves and others.
We will discuss how to give and receive feedback in the context of in-class performances.

II. Class Activities

- A. Vocal and physical warm-up exercises (10-25 minutes per class)
- B. Discussion and exploration of vocal topics (10 minutes per class)
- C. Group and/or solo singing (20-25 minutes per class)
- D. Discussion of voice related topics (variable)

III. Resource Materials

Required Texts

- A. The Singing Book, 3rd ed. by Meribeth Dayme and Cynthia Vaughn, with optional CD's
Note: It is permissible to share a book with one other student enrolled in this class. You will be asked to identify your partner and to make an agreement about who will bring the book to class each day.

IV. Course Requirements

- A. Attend all class sessions and participate fully in all class activities

B. Stay current with all class assignments, including readings, and learning notes and rhythms for new repertoire

C. Learn, memorize and perform two “new to you” songs from The Singing Book, 3rd ed. In class on your scheduled days. At least one of these must be solo. You may choose any songs from our book, including those we do together as a group.

D. Attend one Vocal performance sponsored by the HSU Music Dept. this semester. Dates will be announced in class prior to the performances, and include the following (More dates may be added): March 24, 25 & 26, April 28, April 29, April 30, May 5, May 7
See the HSU Music Dept. performance calendar for full details.

E. Final exam: Attend one day of the Music Dept. Vocal Showcase program during final exam week on either Tuesday or Wednesday (your choice of day) between 3:00-6:00 PM (Exact time TBA)

In addition:

You will be expected to read chapters from your book and participate in class discussions. We will also learn and sing many songs as a group, vocalises (voice strengthening exercises) and work on sight-singing weekly in class. There are no written assignments for these activities but you are expected to participate fully, and work on building your skills.
Regular practice is the key to improvement!

V. Attendance

Since this is a skills and participation-based class, regular attendance is required. Beginning on **Wednesday, February 1**, you are allowed 2 unexcused absences with no grading penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will lower the grade for Attendance and Participation by 20%. Note: Students missing 7 or more classes without a serious, compelling **and excused** reason cannot receive higher than a “D” in the course-no exceptions!

An excused absence is one that meets all of the following criteria:

A serious and compelling medical reason with written documentation **or** HSU sponsored event with documentation (such as a class field trip or out-of-town conference with another instructor), **and** advance notification to the instructor of **this course** of the absence. Missing class because you are slightly “under the weather” and e-mailing your instructor afterward does **not count** as an excused absence. Leaving early for or returning late from Spring Break does **not count** as an excused absence. *Plan ahead and choose your days to be absent carefully.*

Also, you may not miss your scheduled performance day. (See above under Class Requirements.) Please note: Vocal warm-ups are an extremely important part of the process and will happen at the beginning of each class. If you arrive to class more than 10 minutes late, you will miss the warm up and you will be counted absent for the day.
Plan ahead, arrive on time, and remember to sign yourself in for each class period.

VI. Grading Criteria

40%: Attendance (punctuality counts!); full participation in class, including final exam; 1 Music Dept. sponsored vocal performance before the end of the semester

30%: Complete preparation and performance of 2 songs from our book, from memory, in class*

30%: Written work

Includes initial & revised Questionnaire (10%), Quiz on Musical Terms (10%), and a written reaction after you attend an HSU vocal concert (10%)

*No Rock, Rap or Hip Hop, or any type of “non-pitched” song may be sung for a grade.

You can sing these types of songs for extra performance-practice in class at the end of the semester

VII. Schedule of topics and performances

(Note: The order of topics may change according to class need):

Week 1: 1/18 Introduction; Posture and Breath; Schedule individual appointments

Week 2: 1/23 & 1/25 Individual appointments (schedule will be distributed via e-mail)

Week 3: 1/30 & 2/1 Individual appointments on Monday; Wednesday **FULL CLASS with The Singing Book**; “Let us sing together,” “Four Partner Songs”

Week 4: 2/6 & 2/8 **Questionnaires due electronically by 9:00 AM Monday 2/6**; Posture & Breathing Review; “Day-O,” “Babylon,” “O le le la,” “Cherokee Morning Song”

Week 5: 2/13 & 2/15 Resonance, Articulation & Phonation; Reading the whole musical score; “Shenandoah,” “Nino Precioso,” “My Lord, What a Mornin’!”

Week 6: 2/20 & 2/22 Positive self talk; Giving Constructive Feedback-to yourself and others; Choose 1st song; “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’,” “Blue Skies,” “Sing!”

Week 7: 2/27 & 3/1 Performance Etiquette; Creativity & Imagination

Week 8: 3/6 & 3/8 **1st in-class memorized performances**

Spring Break!

Week 9: 3/20 & 3/22 “Somewhere out there,” “Puttin’ on the Ritz,” “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

Week 10: 3/27 & 3/29 Different styles of vocal production for different genres of music; IPA; “Donzelle fuggite” “Hine ma tov,” “La paloma blanca”

Week 11: 4/3 & 4/5 Review for Quiz; **Musical Terms Quiz on Wednesday, 4/5**

Week 12: 4/10 & 4/12 Choose 2nd song; Interpretation and communication

Week 13: 4/17 & 4/19 **2nd in-class memorized performances**

Week 14: 4/24 & 4/26 Common vocal faults and solutions; Voice types; Extra performances (optional)

Week 15: 5/1 & 5/3 Wrap-up; Revisiting topics of interest; Extra performances (optional)

Exam Week: Attend the Vocal Showcase on either Tuesday, May 8 or Wednesday, May 9 (Choose one day.) Written response to an HSU Vocal concert due by **2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 9.**

Learning Objectives

Area C Goals:

The Arts and Humanities seeks 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.

1. To understand human experience through the development of the ability to recognize and test relationships between particular instances and facts, and general principles and concepts.
2. To develop and/or increase one's subjective responses to humanistic and/or artistic works, including analysis of disciplinary standards of judgment (contemporary and/or historically) in humanistic and artistic areas.

Diversity Statement

We consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and welcome 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. All members of this class 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.