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Office hours: Wed 11:00-11:50; Thurs 10:15-11:30 & by appt.

Opera Workshop (Music 106/406E)

Spring 2018

Course description and format: The Opera Workshop ensemble offers participants the opportunity to study, memorize and perform repertoire from the musical theater and operatic repertoire. See “Class Activities” below for a full description of how class time will be spent. During some semesters, students will study and prepare a single opera or musical in which all class members perform together. During other semesters, they will study a collection of scenes and/or short works from opera and musical theater.

In Spring of 2018, we will study and perform works of Georg Frederic Handel, including the complete version of *The Pastoral Cantata*. This work is approximately 40 minutes in length, and will involve substantial ensemble singing and some dance for all participants. Students will gain experience singing as a group, collaborating with a conductor and an accompanist, and building and maintaining a character. All singers will participate in 3 public performances on the HSU campus in late March (see below for performance details.)

Student Learning Outcomes for Music Department Large Ensembles:

1. Students will collectively demonstrate improved proficiency on their instrument/voice through rehearsal and performance of literature from a variety of composers and styles.
2. Students will collectively practice and refine skills in rhythmic accuracy, intonation, balance, blend, dynamics, and phrasing.
3. Students will demonstrate understanding of their musical role within the context of the large group setting.
4. Students will make meaningful assessments of the quality of their own large ensemble performance.

Additional Course Objectives for Opera Workshop

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

I. Class Meeting Times

- A. **Tues & Thurs 5:00-6:50 pm in Fulkerson Recital Hall** (and sometimes in #109 and #141) plus individual or small group staging rehearsals **and in the week immediately prior to the performances (Tech week!)**. Note: Staging rehearsals **prior to tech week** will be arranged according to students' schedules. During tech week and for performances, all participants are required to attend all evening rehearsals and comply with performance call times.

Rehearsals will move from Fulkerson Recital Hall to Gist Hall Theater on **Tuesday, March 6.**

For Spring 2018, the additional rehearsal dates are:

Thursday, March 8 5:00-8:00 PM; Sunday, March 19, 7:00-9:30 PM and every evening from **Monday, March 20 through the performances on Friday and Saturday, March 23 & 24.** On **Sunday, March 25, the performance will be at 2:00 PM,** followed immediately by **strike.**

Exact call times for tech week rehearsals & performances TBA, but expect to arrive at GIST HALL theater 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 25.

II. Class Activities

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

III. Class Requirements

- A. Participation in ALL performances, rehearsals and class activities. Please read carefully: 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 may result in a singer being dismissed from the production.
- B. Learning and memorizing ALL music in a timely fashion Note: *Memorization dates for specific scenes will be communicated to the cast during rehearsals.*
- 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

IV. Grading Policy

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| 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

Inclusiveness Statement

This classroom is to be a place where you will be treated with respect. 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 individual present.

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 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

Relevant HSU Policies and Resources

Students may not be aware of their rights and responsibilities and students and the many campus resources available to help them succeed. The Syllabus Addendum website (current URL listed below) has been created to house information about campus policies and procedures and resources for students centrally in one place. The site includes links such as Add/Drop Policy, Resources for Students with Disabilities, Academic Honesty Policy, Attendance and Disruptive Behavior Policy, Financial Aid, Emergency Procedures, and Counseling and Psychological Services.

<https://academicprograms.humboldt.edu/content/syllabus-addendum>

Emergency Procedures

The evacuation plan and emergency procedures for the classroom are posted on the wall near the door of #132.