

Syllabus for Studio Voice (Music 221/421)

Spring 2018

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#211 Music B

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Note for Spring 2018: I will be teaching for the first part of the semester only, through February 9. Students enrolled in this section of MUS 221 will be working with Annika Bäckström or Katherine Gunnink after that time, and should confirm policies with their new Studio instructor regarding their expectations related to attendance, lesson preparation, practice logs, etc.

Course Description and Format

Private studio instruction. Students meet weekly with their instructor to develop their voice.

Course Learning Objectives

- Students will demonstrate improvement in technique, tone, musicianship, and, where appropriate, intonation and/or diction.
- Students will polish and perform repertoire appropriate to their level of skill.

Additional Class Goals

- To study and apply the technique required for consistent, beautiful singing
- To learn, memorize and perform vocal literature appropriate to your voice and skill level from a variety of musical genres (including at least one foreign-language piece)
- To hone your skills as a musician and interpretive performer
- To develop an individualized method for effective practice
- To gain confidence in singing and performing
- To experience the joy of musical growth and achievement

Class Meeting Times

- A. Fourteen 30-minute weekly lessons (1 hour lessons for MUS 421 students) to be scheduled individually
- B. Regular attendance at MUS 385V-**Vocal Performance Seminar** on Thursday afternoon at 3:00 PM in #131 or #109 (Please refer to the separate syllabus for MUS 385V for more details)
- C. Additional rehearsal time with an accompanist: to be scheduled individually every week
- D. Voice Studio Recitals in Fulkerson Recital Hall: April 5 & 6
- E. Vocal Showcase during exam week (Tuesday or Wednesday, Dec 12 or 13, between the hours of 3:00-7:00 PM; exact time TBA as soon the exam schedule is finalized)

Class Requirements

- A. Attend and **record** all lessons. Exception: Students may miss **any one lesson** with no grade penalty. Missing a second lesson without prior arrangement will result in the final grade being lowered by a letter grade for each occurrence; Failing to record a lesson will result in your final grade being lowered by one third of a letter grade for each occurrence.

No student may miss more than 4 lessons and receive a passing grade for the course. No exceptions!

My lesson attendance policy: If you miss a lesson without prior arrangement it is at my discretion whether I will offer you a make-up lesson. A make-up lesson will not be offered to students who fail to show up without prior notice. You will receive an absence for that day's lesson, at the rate outlined above. *If I need to miss your lesson for any reason, I will always offer to schedule a make-up lesson with you.*

If you are going to be late to your lesson, please let me know via email or text as soon as possible. Excessive lateness (multiple occurrences, and/or for more than a few minutes) will result in your semester lesson grade being lowered by one-third of a letter grade. (You will receive a warning before your grade is affected so that you can work on improving your punctuality.)

- B. Attend and participate in **MUS 385V Vocal Performance Seminar Thursdays at 3pm**
- C. Sing in Vocal Performance Seminar on your assigned days (see MUS 385V syllabus)
- D. Practice a minimum of two hours every week, and...
- E. **Maintain a record of your weekly progress in a practice journal to be turned in at the end of the semester.** (Refer to your syllabus for MUS 385V for complete notebook contents) I will ask you to share insights from your practice logs on a regular basis at your lesson.
- F. Learn and memorize a minimum of **4 “new to you” songs** during the semester using the following timeline as a guide: Song 1 by week 6/7; Song 2 by week 9/10, Song 3 by 11/12 12, Song 4 by week 13/14.
- G. Participate in the final exam by singing in one of the 2 **Vocal Showcase** programs during finals week on **Tuesday or Wednesday 3:00-7:00 PM (May 8 or 9 for Spring 2018)**. You will sing two of your memorized songs at this time (one chosen by you, and one chosen by the Voice faculty) and perform a one-minute spoken introduction for the song you choose to sing.
- H. Attend both, and participate in at least 1 of the semester **Voice Studio Recitals**. Dates for Fall 2017 are: **Thursday, April 5 at 8:00 PM and Friday, April 6 at 5:00 PM.**
- I. Attend Music Dept. concerts during the semester (6 for Music majors; 3 for non-majors)

Grading Policy

30% Attendance (including punctuality) for all Lessons, Studio recitals, and the Vocal Showcase, and including your attendance and participation in MUS385V-Vocal Performance Seminar if you are not also registered for credit in MUS 385V. Please review the policy in III A above.

50% Weekly Preparedness and Effort (music learned and memorized in a **timely** manner; lessons recorded; Vocal journal and Songsheets up to date; music appropriately copied, placed in a binder, and marked for the accompanist)

20% Attitude (Openness to new ideas and pedagogical approaches, Openness to suggestions for vocal improvement; Willingness to explore diverse genres of vocal repertoire; Respect for the art form and the learning process, and all persons involved in a lesson and rehearsal setting, including instructor, accompanist, other singers, and yourself. ☺)

Vocal Health Tips and Resources

The following websites provide information about Vocal Health. Please visit them as often as necessary whenever you suspect your voice might not be completely healthy. In addition, please talk with your studio teacher and/or choral director immediately if you ever experience unexplained pain or stress in your throat, mouth or jaw area.

Guidelines for continued, healthy singing:

- Get plenty of rest!
- Stay hydrated!
- Don't sing when your throat and/or neck area is sore. Practice instead your breathing, phrasing, text, etc. Much of the important preparation for successful singing takes place without actually singing!
- Stay relaxed in your body as much as possible during long rehearsals and practice sessions.
- Don't wait to investigate when your singing is physically uncomfortable, or feels strained, raspy, or forced in any way.

<https://www.berklee.edu/bt/123/winter.html>

<http://www.yorku.ca/earmstro/journey/care.html>

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/voice/pages/takingcare.aspx>

V. HSU Learning Outcomes

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning

This course (MUS 221/421 Studio Voice) explicitly contributes to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these HSU Learning Outcomes:

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

Music Department Learning Outcomes (Revised Oct. 2007)

In addition, this course will contribute to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these Music Department (and National Association of Schools of Music) learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's

- needs, interests, and degree path.
- 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

Referral to 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 #106 and all Music Building A & B rooms where lessons might occur.