

History of Opera Singers

Instructor: Carlos Feliciano
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Class Meeting Times: TBD

Office: TBD
Office Hours: TBD
Preferred mode of communication: Email and text

I. Course Description:

When studying classical singing it is important to know who were the master singers of the past generations. This course aims to explore some of the most acclaimed classical singers in history. The class will contain a lot of listening examples and exchange of biographical information for each singer.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

Aims

Provide vocal artist with historical information of the past and present important performers of their craft. Understand historical tendencies of vocal production, recording techniques, performance practices and musical styles through the study of vocal performers.

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- A. Correctly identify the singing sounds of each vocal performer.
- B. Provide brief biographical information for each vocal performer.
- C. Identify music periods and styles preferred and mastered with each vocal performer.
- D. Provide analysis of performance practices and techniques.
- E. Analyze performances into vocal concepts that can be beneficial in own vocal journey.

III. Format and Procedures:

The course is divided by voice type: soprano, mezzo & contralto, counter-tenor, tenor, baritone and bass. There will be listening quizzes after we have discussed and listened to the material dedicated to each voice type throughout the semester. At the end of the course there is a final paper in which you will pick one performer from each voice type and write what you learned from each of these performers and how you will apply this knowledge into your life as a vocalist.

IV. Course Requirements:

1. Class Attendance Policy:

- Excused absences and excused tardies. An absence or tardy will be considered excused if you have spoken with the instructor, or have left a message via phone or email, prior to class time, notifying him/her that you will be absent or late. If you are tardy because a class, lesson or appointment with a faculty member runs long and you are unable to contact the instructor prior to class, you must see the instructor immediately after class to be considered for an excused tardy. You are allotted a reasonable number of excused absences and tardies, but the instructor reserves the right to reduce your grade appropriately for what is deemed to be an excessive number of excused absences and tardies (grade will be lowered one level for every excessive excused absence or tardy - example: "B+" becomes a "B").
- Unexcused absences and unexcused tardies. An absence will be considered unexcused if you have not notified the instructor prior to the class period in question; a tardy will be

considered unexcused if you have not notified the instructor by the end of the class period in question. Your course grade will be lowered one level (example: "B+" becomes a "B") for every unexcused absence or tardy.

- Professional release time. Absences resulting from school-sponsored ensemble performances and/or attendance at professional conferences will be considered "professional release time" and will not be counted towards your allowed number of excused absences/tardies. However, you must inform the instructor prior to that class about your absence, and you should not assume that the instructor knows you will not be there.
- Special circumstances. Any unusual circumstances that cause you to be late or absent, such as an extended illness or a death in the immediate family, must be discussed with the instructor and will be given separate consideration.

V. Grading Procedures

Grades will be based on:

- (a) (50%) Attendance, preparation, active participation.
- (b) (30%) Listening quizzes (5 listening quizzes at 6% of your grade each)
- (c) (20%) Final Paper: 5-10 pages written in 12 in font. Choose a singer in each voice type and explain what you like about their artistry and a step by step process on how you hope to incorporate what you learned from this artist into your own performance practice.

VI. Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1 Syllabus/Sopranos

Week 2 Sopranos continuation

Week 3 Listening quiz #1/ Mezzo-sopranos and Contraltos

Week 4 Mezzo-sopranos and Contraltos continuation

Week 5 Listening quiz #2/Castrati & Counter tenors

Week 6 Castrati & Counter tenors continuation

Week 7 Listening quiz #3/ Tenors

Week 8 Tenors continuation

Week 9 Listening quiz #4/ Baritones

Week 10 Baritones continuation

Week 11 Listening quiz #4/ Basses

Week 12 Basses continuation

Week 13 Listening quiz #5/Final Paper Procedures and parameters

Week 14 Recess Week

Week 15 Class Pizza Party

VII. Academic Integrity

TBD

VIII. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

TBD

IX. Inclusivity Statement

TBD