

# Voice Studio Syllabus

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## Course Goals:

Developing vocal skills through the study of singing and repertoire. During lessons and practice, the student will prepare musical pieces for performance. Students will acquire knowledge and techniques to practice productively and retain and achieve healthy vocal habits.

## Required Materials:

- **Three-ring binder with copies of your music.** Please do not use laminate sheets to store your music in the binder.
- **Notebook or loose paper in your binder and a pencil.**
- **Collaborative pianists:** One for your individual lessons picked by you from the list provided in the packet sent on your welcome email, the other will be for our studio class which is chosen by the Teaching Assistants, pianist fees will be incurred by the students taking the lesson and studio class)
- **Templates, guidelines and forms** provided in a packet sent on your welcome email, including the date, name and signature of the last page of this syllabus which is due for the first lesson.
- **Recording device** (optional), though your cell phone probably has the capabilities to perform this task.

## Repertoire:

Repertoire choice will be based on university requirements, and the level of the singer. I encourage you to do research on your own, though I will have the final decision in terms of choices. The aim will be to choose pieces that are both stimulating and reasonably challenging. Repertoire requirements for each MUSI course number can be found on the Appendix section of the syllabus. We will discuss your specific repertoire requirements in the first lesson. Please refer to the Assignment Calendar provided in the Appendix of this syllabus for memorization deadlines and assignment due dates.

## Collaborative Pianists:

You will need to supply your own collaborative pianists for your lessons. They will be **required** for all lessons beginning on the week 4 of the calendar provided in the packet as well as your final jury. It is **highly recommended** that you find a time outside of your lessons to rehearse your pieces. There will be also a one-time fee for the collaborative pianist playing for our own studio class. A list of collaborative pianists is provided on the welcome email

packet. The deadline for securing a pianist and for providing the one-time fee for the studio class will be the week of September 17-21, 2018.

### **Attendance:**

- Students will attend lessons on a weekly basis throughout the semester.
- Students will attend studio class on a weekly basis throughout the semester.
- Students will attend all the voice area recitals taking place once a month on Fridays at 11am throughout the semester. (Students with a recurring conflict should contact me for assignment validation option.)
- Lessons will *not* be given on University Holidays.
- Absences and Punctuality:
  - ◆ Every student must notify me by **email** a minimum of 24 hours prior to not attending a voice lesson, studio class or voice area recital.
  - ◆ If you are contagiously ill, please do not attend your lesson and email 24 hours before to cancel.
  - ◆ An absence will be considered unexcused if you have not notified me, the instructor, prior to the lesson, studio class or voice area recital in question. Your course grade will be lowered one level of your final grade (example: "A" becomes "A-") for every unexcused absence.
  - ◆ If you are going to be late for your lesson please leave a voicemail or text message on the phone number provided in this syllabus.
  - ◆ If you are late for **more than 10 minutes** the lesson will be forfeited, not be made up and considered an unexcused absence.
  - ◆ A tardy will be considered unexcused if you have not notified me, the instructor, prior to the lesson in question. Your course grade will be lowered one level of your final grade (example: "A" becomes "A-") for being late more than twice.
  - ◆ Lessons will last 30 minutes for undergraduate and graduate non-majors and voice minors, and 1 hour for undergraduate voice majors.
  - ◆ If you are late to a lesson, you should not expect to receive a full lesson time.
  - ◆ If I am late or running behind you should expect to receive a full lesson time.
  - ◆ If by some chance I would have to cancel a lesson, you should be notified at least 24 hours in advance, and I will schedule a make up time for your lesson.

### **Preparation and Practice:**

Learning to sing is no different than learning any other skill. It requires attention and daily practice to develop healthy vocal habits.

- Plan to practice your technique and repertoire for a minimum of 20 minutes per day.
- Please make time to learn your music outside of the studio allotted 30 minutes. This will let us accomplish more during our time together.
- During the semester there will be assignments due for writing a word-for-word translations **into your score** for pieces in a foreign language, a background information form for you to fill for each piece assigned and two performance responses papers. Each one of these will have an announced due date. Should these papers be late, assignments will be accepted at **half credit**. All papers must be turned in through **email**, unless you have technological difficulties. Templates, guidelines and forms for these papers have been provided on the welcome email packet.

- Performance response papers are a 1-2 page, double-spaced, 12 font feedback document on the experiences felt from attending a vocal music performance. These will include any student or faculty recitals, school performances, or other approved vocal concerts. The aim is to give a broader appreciation and support to your colleagues, and the hope is to draw inspiration and understanding to your own studies. The content should be your thoughts and feelings about what you saw and heard. There are no right or wrong answers to these, but should give both of us some insight into your specific method of learning. These papers must be **emailed** to the address above, unless you are having technological issues. A guideline of criteria is included in your welcome email packet.
- **All** music selections will need to be memorized for your juries. This is a *specific studio requirement* and supersedes any rules and regulations set by the administering faculty or handbook.
- Before every lesson students must:
  - ◆ Bring all the necessary sheet music in your three-ring binder, a notebook and a pencil.
  - ◆ Have warmed up their voices.
  - ◆ Notify collaborative pianist if he/she needs to be in the lesson.

### **Performance:**

*For undergraduate and graduate non-majors and voice minors:* Though I will not require performance at a voice area recital, I will require at least one performance in our own master class per semester, which may be joined between all TAs. Depending on class size, you are encouraged to perform all of your pieces at least once. There is **never** a substitute for experience especially on the stage.

*For undergraduate voice majors:* I will require voice majors to perform in one voice area recital per semester.

### **Juries:**

Juries will be required of **every singer** taking voice lessons, with the **only exception** being student who are required to perform a recital during the semester. It will serve as the final exam for this class as well. *In case of illness, it is imperative for you to come talk to me as soon as possible.* Specific expectations will be discussed with each singer, individually based on university requirements.

### **Grading:**

Grades will be based on *attendance, preparation of the assignments, bringing your required materials to all lessons, turning in all required papers and your jury.* Each lesson will be given a grade.

### **Video Conferencing lessons:**

There may come an instance where I will be out of town and we would have to schedule and perform lessons through a video conferencing software. For ease during this process I will need 2 alternative dates with times for our lesson and I ask that you keep this time open for make up lesson times.

**Video Recording:**

The Fred Fox School of Music has provided our classroom with video recording technology. Students enrolled in MUSI lessons for voice will be video recorded. The video from the lesson will be uploaded to a cloud service. At no point will the faculty or the administration view the contents of these videos without consent.

As part of my professional materials to secure a university position I am required to provide video teaching examples. In the case that I need access to a video recording from this specific footage you will receive an email from me with a video release form to fill out and sign. This is **NOT** a requirement and will not affect your grade in any way.

**Confidentiality:**

The conversations and lessons during our time are private and will not be discussed with anyone except for my direct supervisor Dr. K. Dauphinais, without the consent of the student. This applies also to any recordings that are made of lessons.

**Accessibility and Accommodations:**

It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations.

Any other policy issues, will be determined by the University of Arizona student handbook.

**Signature:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood all of the information provided by this syllabus and commit to adhering to the stipulations set by this document.

Student Printed Name and Signature:

Date:

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