Syllabus for Applied Voice, MUS 162/262/362/462/762, Spring 2018

Professor Susan Bender

Noel Fine Arts Center 313

Office: 715.346.4048

sbender@uwsp.edu

**GOAL**

Vocal performance is advanced through individualized instruction, student practice and experimentation, academic study, performance and listening. The study of singing at the university level incorporates these different components in a methodical manner to promote vocal habits in preparation for a life of healthy singing and to learn critical listening and diagnostic skills to become a more accomplished and sophisticated artist/teacher.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

* Students registered for MUS 162 are encouraged to purchase *Building Beautiful Voices* by Paul Nesheim. The cost is less than $4 and is available through the music store.
* Each student will be expected to purchase their own scores for this class based on individual strengths, voice type and technical abilities. Repertoire will be drawn from a wide variety of sources and will include English and foreign language art song, folksong, opera, oratorio and musical theater.
* Photocopying of *copyrighted* material is illegal, and students are expected to comply with current law. Budget accordingly to start your own library or learn to use the university library system to obtain your music. All students registered at UWSP have access to the entire UW library system for scores, recordings and other scholarly documents. <http://www.uwsp.edu/library/Pages/default.aspx>
* For music that no longer carries a copyright, you may use the following link to obtain music: <http://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page> . Be aware that some of these editions contain errors, so download with discretion. The Petrucci Library is a valuable resource, and downloads of music in the public domain (where copyrights have expired) are available for your use.
* If you purchase music in a PDF download form, make certain you retain the receipt as proof of purchase. Competitions such as NATS require proof of purchase of downloaded music.

**VOICE LESSONS**

Students will arrange a private lesson time with the instructor prior to and during the first week of class via email. Attendance at each lesson is mandatory – any unexcused absences will be given an F (unexcused absences are those where the instructor has no notice of the absence). Lessons missed due to student or teacher illness will be rescheduled as time permits. If scheduling proves impossible because of conflicts, the instructor may give a listening or reading assignment related to their studies in lieu of a 1:1 lesson. Students are responsible for informing the instructor by phone, email or in person of any absences 24 hours in advance. Three unexcused absences in a semester will result in failure of the course.

Students will thoroughly prepare assigned repertoire, technical exercises and scales for weekly lessons. Voice majors typically practice a ***minimum*** of 1 -2 hours/daily regardless of the length of your actual lesson. Each lesson is given a grade: students may request an evaluation of their work at any time during the term. Students will correct technical challenges brought to your attention in previous lessons and will accurately and independently prepare music rudiments and technical etudes assigned by the instructor. You are expected to know your score thoroughly. This includes but is not limited to knowledge of foreign language word for word translations, diacritical markings in both the vocal lines *and* the accompaniment, an ability to articulate affect and intention of character, historically relevant details of the piece or larger work and the vocal challenges facing any performance of the literature. If you are uncertain of expectations, please ask.

**ACCOMPANISTS FOR LESSONS**

Accompanists will attend lessons on alternate weeks during the semester. Their schedule is as follows:

Monday Susan Schaefer sjssing51@gmail.com

Tuesday Priscilla Kite 3PKat@solarus.net

Wednesday David Richardson dkrichardson@viterbo.edu

Thursday Mara Prausa Mara.Prausa@uwsp.edu

 Collaborative Pianist Guidelines

 Payment:   1. Collaborative pianists charge $30/hr. for lessons and rehearsals. ($15 for 30 minutes) The students must pay at the time of service or at the request of the specific pianist (please try to have the correct change). If a rehearsal/lesson is planned and the student does not show up, he/she will be charged the full amount.Please give your pianist at least two hours notice by either email or text in case of illness.   2. Studio fee is a steal at $7.50. This fee should be paid at the time of service.  This fee does not include a rehearsal, but if your music is particularly tricky, please provide a copy for them the week prior to your performance so they can prepare. 3. The fee for a VAR/Colloquium is $10 for one piece and $5/piece for each additional selection.   4. The fee for Pas or performance auditions is $15 for 3 songs or fewer. There is an additional charge of $5/song for each additional selection prepared.     5. Recitals including dress rehearsals – fee TBD based on length of performance and difficulty of repertoire.

**PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS**

Each semester culminates in a comprehensive assessment of proficiency and preparedness of assigned repertoire. All music will be memorized with the exception of oratorio arias. You will be given a letter grade for the prepared literature 25% of the semester grade for the applied study is determined by the performance assessment for all music majors. If a student is placed on probation, the highest grade they may receive that semester for applied study is a “C”. Exceptions can only be granted through consultation with the area coordinator and the department chair. Please refer to the Student Handbook on the UWSP Music website for more information regarding performance assessments: <http://www.uwsp.edu/music/academics/handbook/index.htm>

Performance assessments will be presented:

 Monday, May 14 10am-12:45pm NFAC 270

 Monday, May 14 1 pm – 4 pm NFAC 221

 Tuesday, May 16 10-4 PM NFAC 270

Your PA time will need to be coordinated with your pianist, all of whom travel to Stevens Point from out of town, so sign up for your time as soon as possible after the list is posted on Dr. Markham’s board.

**STUDIO CLASS AND VOICE AREA RECITALS**

Studio class is held twice weekly: section 1, Tuesday at 12 p.m. and section 2, Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Jazz Room, NFAC 340, and all studio classes will be combined this term. Students may attend both sessions but must choose one class to attend for performance. Students are expected to attend class each week **for the entire class period.** Once committed to a studio class students are expected to attend all the classes scheduled for that time and to perform in that class period. Assignments for your singing will be posted outside NFAC 313 by the second week of class.

**Studio classes** will be held weekly with Priscilla Kite playing for Tuesday class and Mara Prausa playing for Thursday. The fee for accompanists’ services is $7.50 per studio performance and does not include a rehearsal. Fees are to be paid at the time of service; pianists may refuse to play for any students with accounts in arrears.

**Voice Area Recitals**

There is one VAR recital this term and it is combined with the diction students’ presentation of French art song, March 20 at 4 PM in NFAC 270. Performers will be notified.

**ATTENDANCE ,COLLOQUIUAE, AND COMPETITIONS**

Music students are requiredby the department to attend 15 performances during the semester: recitals in which you perform do *not* count toward the number of recitals for this requirement. You will need to turn in a program from each recital to your applied teacher before your grade can be posted. Even though this departmental requirement is given no credit, your grade can be held if you do not turn in these programs. You must attend the entire recital in order to receive credit.

Five of the 15 required recitals must be Colloquiuae. Colloquium is held Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Michelsen Hall. Students must obtain their applied teacher’s permission to perform on these recitals, and the proper forms need to be turned into the office in order to reserve your time slot.

As a voice major, you are required to attend all voice recitals. This recital schedule is made available to you at the beginning of each semester to assist you in your planning, and your attendance is required whether the presenters are guests, current voice faculty or fellow students. Check the online calendar and listen to announcements in studio class for the most current information.

Class conflicts and illness are legitimate excuses for missing vocal area activities. Any other excuse for missing a recital in the voice area must be cleared by your private studio teacher prior to each event. Your studio teacher has the prerogative of deciding whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused, and unexcused absences will have a negative affect on your final grade. Plan accordingly.

**Percentage Breakdown & Grading Scale**

Voice lessons/preparation of material 60 %

Performance Assessment 25 %

Studio class and VAR performances 15 %

Voice area recital attendance 0 %

Recital attendance 0 %

Below, please find examples of student disposition as it relates to grade. These dispositions are important behaviors in realizing course outcomes as outlined in the NATS rubric used for evaluation of singing for each of the levels of study. See final page.

The A Student: Superior work •   Work for lessons not only prepared with all elements in the music well learned (notes, rhythms, diction) but also smoothly executed

•   In every lesson, goes far beyond the basic assignment requirements

•   Takes initiative to go beyond and exceed normal expectations

•   Is on time for every lesson

•   If needs to be late or absent, notifies professor before the lesson (see attendance policy) •   Brings eagerness, openness and energy to every lesson

•   Follows through on assignments and corrections

•   Is willing to try new concepts and practices regularly to insure their success and implementation •   Actively participates in Studio Class

•   Performs with security in areas of memorization, communication, musicality and interpretation •   Regularly attends coaching sessions on time, is warmed up properly and ready with materials to work with coach

•   Serves as a model of excellence for peers

The B Student: Good work

•   On the way to becoming an “A” student once minor adjustments are made

•   Lacks comprehensive follow-through on assignments

•   May lack organizational clarity and/or skills

•   May have much talent but lacks discipline

•   Exceeds normal expectations on some levels

•   Performances are mostly effective but not particularly memorable or standouts

•   Competent but whose work falls just short of total commitment filled with polish, energy, and results

•   Attends Studio Class but only occasionally actively contributes

•   Performances may lack security and commitment

•   May be late for lessons or fail to call or e-mail if needing to be absent

•   Practices sporadically and/or practices right before lessons rather than daily and in a systematic manner

•   May not always be on time or prepared for coaching sessions

•   Corrections need to be repeated

The C Student: Competent, average work

•   Average job of presenting work

•   Not as polished or as prepared as the “B”student

•   Meets basic requirements but uses minimal effort and is inconsistent in lesson preparation, lesson results, studio class performances, etc.

•   May have a good end result but needs more time to prepare and work consistently, tending to rely too heavily on the professor for the same corrections to be made time and time again

•   Work is far from poor or terrible but isn’t as engaging as should or could be

•   Repeatedly late for lessons and ill-prepared on more than one occasion •   Repeatedly late or ill-prepared for coaching sessions

•   Does not actively contribute in Studio Class

•   Exceeds absences for Studio Class and is not well-prepared for personal performances

The D student: Delinquent and deficient work

•   Should not be a voice major

•   If this is the case, we will have a talk well before this would occur!!

Here is the link to the rubric created for The National Association of Teachers of Singing for evaluating student performances for your level. You can download this document for your use**.** I’ve also included the pdf in an attachment. [**https://www.nats.org/\_Library/NSA\_Files/NSA\_Rubric\_-\_Aug\_6\_.pdf**](https://www.nats.org/_Library/NSA_Files/NSA_Rubric_-_Aug_6_.pdf)

**UWSP COMMUNITY BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations have been developed for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. For more information go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilites.aspx>

The Rights and Responsibilities document also includes the policies regarding academic misconduct, which can be found in Chapter 14. A direct link can be found here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP’s policies, check here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyinfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>