

# Vocal Training

THEA 131/231/331/431, Section 2

Fall Semester 2016

Mark Hanson  
Assistant Professor/Program Coordinator  
mhanson@uwsp.edu  
715-346-3981  
NFAC 256

## CLASS MATERIALS

- Songs to be chosen by you with my guidance and advice.
- Journal Notebook for personal reflection/lesson notes/song research
- You are expected to purchase materials necessary for satisfactory progress: i.e., sheet music, recording device, etc.
- I will scan any sheet music in my office and print it out for you or email it. Anthologies, scores, scripts and vocal selections are for perusal only and will not be loaned out unless for immediate use and return (within twenty-four hours). I will maintain a checkout list of materials taken from the office. Material must be returned in the same condition in which it was loaned. If it is not, you are responsible for its replacement.

## CLASS OBJECTIVES (LEARNING OUTCOMES)

- To develop a fundamentally sound vocal technique that will allow you to interpret the music and lyrics of musical theater pieces according to the acting demands and style of the material. This technique shall encompass principles and practices of breath management, support and posture and placement of the voice applied to the various styles and demands of the musical theater literature.
- To expand the range, power, flexibility, control, and tonal color palette of your voice.
- To acquaint you with a variety of musical theater literature for your voice and casting type

## CLASS REQUIREMENTS

- One half-hour lesson each week; time to be arranged.
- **NEW! Weekly Progress Report submitted at start of each lesson.**
- Participation in required End-of-Semester Jury and individual talkback sessions.
- Mastery of songs from the Musical Theater repertoire each semester as follows:
  - First Year: 2 songs
  - Sophomores: 3 songs
  - Juniors: 4 songs
  - Seniors: 5+ songsSongs may be performed in BFA lab classes, Spotlight, Jury, Outreach concerts or in a Lesson.
- Attendance is mandatory at scheduled lesson times.
  - **24 hour notice** is required for excused absence and will be made up if at all possible. It is the student's responsibility to arrange the make-up lesson with me.
  - **Lessons cancelled on same day will be made up at my discretion.**
  - Each unexcused absence will lower your grade by **one full degree** (A to B, etc)

- Practice at least 30-45 minutes six days of the week. This is crucial to your vocal progress and must be a priority in your scheduling. It is better to do a little each day rather than a lot the day before your lesson.
- Maintenance of your Vocal Journal in which you will write what vocal exercises and songs were worked on at the lesson, what discoveries you made, and what you intend to concentrate on for the next lesson. I will check this journal twice during the semester. You must bring it to **every lesson**.
- It is strongly recommended that you record your lessons each week.
- Performance is required in the BFA Musical Theater Program *End-of-Semester Jury* for all students in Vocal Training, and functions as the final exam for the course. Performance in the Jury will be waived for seniors in their final semester due to Senior Showcase.

## **END-OF-SEMESTER JURY**

All students enrolled in voice lessons will be required to perform in the BFA Musical Theatre Program End-of-Semester Jury. This performance is open to the public, and serves not only as the final exam for the private voice lesson course, but also as a cumulative performance that is designed to showcase your artistic progress based on your semester of study in all program courses. This performance should be the pinnacle of your work throughout the semester, and while it must be worked in voice lessons, could also have been workshoped and developed in Performance Lab and/or other classes.

The performance will consist of 1 full-length solo song, or possibly, be a musical scene with a partner. The material will be selected by the student with instructor approval.

The Jury performances will be filmed for evaluation by both musical theatre faculty members, but will also be evaluated by select members of the Theatre & Dance faculty and possibly other professional guest evaluators. These performance evaluations will be discussed with the student as part of the end-of-semester program evaluations. The final grade for the Jury performance will be determined solely by the student's voice lesson instructor, although all of the faculty evaluations will be taken into consideration.

The Jury performance will count for 20% of the student's final grade in voice lessons for the semester.

Seniors in their final semester will be exempt from the Jury Performance requirement due to Senior Showcase.

## **CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

- Please arrive punctually at your lessons warmed-up both physically and vocally, with your music, recording device and vocal journal.
- Sheet music should be kept in a 3-ring binder, double-sided, with the minimum amount of page turns. You should have two (2) copies of your songs - one for you to use and mark during the lesson and one for my use during the lesson. Please no plastic sheet protectors in the studio.
- You should plan to expand your audition/lesson portfolio with numbers from all the styles of musical theater, such as:  
 Operetta, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Contemporary Musicals, Comedy/Special material, Pop/Rock, Country/Western, Standards – Ballad and Up-tempo

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

Each lesson will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Promptness (this should go without saying!)
- Thorough preparation
- Positive attitude and ability to integrate instruction into vocal technique and song interpretation
- Individual initiative in selection and preparation of material

Your final grade will be based on:

- Individual lesson grades (50% of final grade)
- Demonstrated improvement in vocal quality, range, and performance skills based on **regular** practice throughout the semester. (20% of final grade)
- Voice Lesson Journal (10% of final grade)
- End-of-Semester Jury Performance (20% of final grade)

## **BASIS FOR GRADING**

A = Excellent

The student is constantly challenging him/herself in all aspects. Each work session demonstrates growth and experimentation. The results are individual and reveal understanding and discovery. There is present a consistently high level of professionalism.

B = Above Average

Work consistently goes beyond basics. Creativity and imagination are present on a regular basis. Student shows an above-average command of technical skills.

C = Average

The student seems to adequately comprehend the basic sense of the individual lessons and is generally able to apply these ideas to his/her work.

D = Fair

Although some progress is seen, little evidence is observed of a basic understanding of overreaching technical principles.

F = Poor

Essentially no growth is evident. Major difficulties exist in accomplishing the daily work required in regard to individual instruction.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services during the first two weeks of the semester if they wish to request accommodations for this class.

**Religious Beliefs:** Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as the student notifies the instructor within the first three weeks of the beginning of the semester with the days or dates on which he/she wishes to request relief from an examination or academic requirement.