

THEA 131/231/331/431

NFAC 255

Fall Semester 2016

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CLASS MATERIALS

- No text; songs to be chosen by you with my guidance and advice.
- You are expected to purchase materials necessary for satisfactory progress: i.e., sheet music, recording device, etc.
- I will scan any sheet music needed (that I am in possession of) in my office and print it out for you or email it. Anthologies, scores, scripts and vocal selections from my office are for perusal only and will not be loaned out unless for immediate use and return (within twenty-four hours). Sheet music and scores are also available for checkout at LRC.
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

- 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 (*appoggio*), vibrato, resonance and placement of the voice (*imposto*) applied to every style of musical theater (legitimate and contemporary) as well as pop-rock.
- To expand the range, power, flexibility, control, and tonal color palette of your voice.
- To develop technical mastery of a variety of musical theater literature and audition material geared towards your vocal/physical instrument.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- One half-hour lesson per week (14 per semester); time to be arranged.
- Participation in required forum and individual talkback sessions.
- Mastery of songs from the Musical Theater repertoire each semester.
 - o Freshmen: Two songs
 - o Sophomores: Three songs
 - o Juniors: Four songs

- o Seniors: Five+ songs
- Songs may be performed in BFA lab classes, forum, outreach concerts, the End-of-Semester Jury or in a lesson.
- Attendance is **mandatory** at scheduled lesson times.
- If acceptable notification is provided by you at least twenty-four hours before your lesson time, absence is excused, and will be made up if at all possible. It is the student's responsibility to arrange the make-up lesson with me.
- If less than 24 hour notice is given for missing a lesson for any reason, then the absence will be considered unexcused – no exceptions.
- Any lessons due to illness must have a doctor's note confirmation or will be considered unexcused.
- Each unexcused absence will lower your grade by **one full degree** (i.e., A to B)
- Music preparation: Please have TWO COPIES of your music - one for you to note corrections and suggestions on, and one for me to play from, DOUBLE-SIDED and HOLE-PUNCHED. NO PLASTIC SHEETS. If the music is not prepared in this manner, I will not be playing it.
- **Practice at least 45 minutes per day, 6 days per week.** At least 15 minutes per practice session should be spent on vocalization. This daily practice 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 a vocal journal in which you will write what vocalises and songs were worked on at the lesson, what discoveries you made, and what you intend to concentrate on for the next lesson.
Additionally, beyond this, you should include a brief reflection/response after you've listened to that lesson recording.
I will check this journal twice during the semester. You must bring it to **every lesson**.
- Recording all lessons is **required**.
- Performance is required in the BFA Musical Theatre Program End-of-Semester Jury for all students in voice lessons, 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 workshopped and developed in Performance Lab and/or other classes.

The performance will consist of 1 full-length solo song, or could instead 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.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- Please arrive punctually at your lessons warmed up **both physically and vocally**, with your music, recording device, and vocal journal.
- 2 copies of all sheet music for songs to be worked - one for you to note corrections and suggestions on, and one for me to play from. If the music is not prepared in this manner, I will not be playing it. Sheet music should be kept in a three-ring binder, double-sided, with the minimum amount of page turns. Plastic protective sheets are not acceptable. If you have kept your music in this manner previously, please correct accordingly. Plastic sheets are perfectly acceptable for archival purposes, however.
- Please strive to expand your audition portfolio, with numbers from the following categories:
 - o Operetta, Standard Ballad, Standard up-tempo, Great American Songbook, Contemporary ballad, Contemporary up-tempo, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Other "standard" musicals, Sondheim, 16 bars, 8 bars, Jazz/Cabaret, Comedy/special material and/or Patter, Country/Western, Classic Rock, Modern Rock, Contemporary Pop, Contemporary "Theatre Pop/Rock", etc.

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.

Emergency Procedures: In the event of a medical emergency call 911 or use a Red Emergency Phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide Emergency Responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure (NFAC Music Stairwell). See www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet at NFAC bus circle. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.