Intermediate Voice: MUSC 37A / 37B
Advanced Voice: MUSC 137A /137B
Graduate Voice: MUSC 219/220
California State University, Sacramento
Department of Music

Fall 2004

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Weekly Lesson: TBA
Repertoire Class (MUSC 172): Wednesday 1:00-2:30 in Music Recital Hall
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Materials:
- 14 hours of recordable audiocassette tapes to be stored in my office by Lesson #2
- Each tape unwrapped with your name on the spine
- Music as assigned, copied and put in a binder
- A notebook (“Voice Journal”)
- “IPA Flashcards” to be purchased at the Campus Bookstore

Practical Learning
Weekly Lessons

First say to yourself what you would be; then do what you have to do.
Epictetus

To be successful in the study of Singing, you must hear yourself singing with a new voice every semester! You must embrace change and work for it every week. Attendance is essential.

Tapes, Notebook and Binder: we will tape each lesson, and you are required to write notes from the lesson in a notebook. Please share your notes with me each lesson including questions about your progress. Make copies of your assigned music and put it neatly in a binder. Keep original scores at home to preserve them from wear and tear.

I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.  Frank Lloyd Wright

Your lesson should be the culmination of week’s worth of experience and preparation. Think about the following:
- Rest well the night before your lesson and avoid straining your voice
- Practicing three long hours the night before your lesson will guarantee that I will miss hearing your best singing! Practice 20-40 minutes each day instead.
- Train your voice! Think of the vocal exercises I give you as our “workout” routine – think how strong and attractive your voice will be when you workout regularly and conscientiously for 15 weeks! Work for beauty as well as strength.
- Learn all the notes and texts of an assigned piece before you come to your lesson.

It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure to embrace the new. But there is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous & exciting, for in movement there is life, and in change there is power!  Alan Cohen
Research
Self-Directed Learning

Art is the only thing you cannot punch a button for. You must do it the old-fashioned way. Stay up and really burn the midnight oil. There are no compromises.  
Leontyne Price

To augment your lessons each week, you are required to do outside research about your assigned pieces, about vocal technique and about the profession you choose to pursue in the future. In your notebook (“Voice Journal”), you are required to write notes about the following:

- Composer’s information for all of your pieces
- Translations and phoneticization for all foreign language pieces (write this in your music as well)
- Poet’s information
- Websites you visit about classical singing and voice health
- Recordings you have listened to with singer’s names

Performance
Practical Application

There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it’s going to be a butterfly.  
Brockminster Fuller

Never forget that your academic major is an art form!!! Nurture your artistic environment by listening to classical music, going to concerts and opera performances, and imagining yourself as a confident performer. Sing your pieces each practice session with an ear to the singer you will become through perseverance.

You are required to sing by memory in Repertoire Class at least three times. Schedule a rehearsal session with staff pianist Roy Sanchez right away and plan what piece(s) you will perform. Please notify me when you sing off campus so that we might prepare the music together: your performance represents me as well!

Midterm and Final: at Midterm (the week of Oct. 25) you will be expected to have half of your assigned music memorized; you will be tested in your lesson. On December 14, you will present a list of your semester’s prepared music to the voice faculty and perform selected pieces.

Cherish forever what makes you unique, ‘cuz you’re really a yawn if it goes!  
Bette Midler

Degree Recitals

When I hear music, I fear no danger. I am invulnerable. I see no foe. I am related to the earliest times, and to the latest.  
Henry David Thoreau

If you are performing a degree recital, be aware of the following guidelines:

- A “Recital Permission” hearing takes place at jury time in the semester preceding your recital
- No recital may be scheduled the last week of a semester
- No recital may be scheduled in the week following a CSUS opera production
- All recital music must be memorized 2 weeks before performance or the date will be cancelled
Course Grades

50%  Preparation and Progress in your weekly Lessons

25%  Class Assignments:
      Attendance in lessons
      Voice Journal: weekly notes & research in your notebook
      3 Performances in Repertoire Class
      Midterm Grade

25%  Jury
      Final exam for Voice Faculty
      (or recital if applicable to your degree plan)

Ethics

Six essential qualities that are the key to success: sincerity, personal integrity, humility, courtesy, wisdom, charity.  William Menninger

Our department encourages professionalism in thought, word and deed. We can all be an example to others by thinking the best of all colleagues at all times, saying positive things about everyone’s performance and considering the sensitivities of others. Be on time. Dress professionally in order to be taken seriously. Respect other studios and their self-esteem: there are many ways to learn to sing! Take pride in the success of others and you will find more joy in your own success.

You can stand tall without standing on someone.
You can be a victor without having victims.    Harriet Woods