Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Professor Layna Chianakas
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Office Hours: M 9:00-9:30AM, W 9:00-9:30AM
By appointment
Class Days/Time: Scheduled in conjunction with student's availability
Classroom: Music 244

Course Description

To work with the individual singer in acquiring vocal technical and interpretive skills, and the knowledge of the repertoire necessary for performance and/or teaching. One 1/2 hour (B.A./BMEd) and one hour (B.M.) of private vocal instruction per week. Each private voice lesson will consist of focused work in individual vocal problems and the preparation of song repertoire. The vocalises and vocal literature studied in the private lesson should be the foundation for the student’s DAILY practice sessions.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

- Student will perform the music studied with correct rhythms, notes and pronunciation in public performances, juries and studio-wide recitals.
- Student will be able to produce an artistic and stylistically accurate musical rendering in public performances.
- Student will demonstrate professional behavior, dress, and concert etiquette in all performance venues.
- Student will acquire a solid and learned technique which will result in beauty, freedom, and joy in singing.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Semester I:

Required texts: None. Each student will be individually assigned the literature to be studied for the semester. At that time, purchase of certain volumes of music will be necessary. First semester will
concentrate on the basic vocal technique. A minimum of three (3) songs for B.A./BMEd and five (5) songs for B.M. are to be memorized. Songs will be selected for the 17th and 18th century Italian literature, English and American song literature, and if the student has a facility with other languages, German, Spanish and French songs may be assigned.

Semester II:
Same requirements as Semester I

Semesters III & IV:
A natural progression of technical and interpretive study. There will be expanded emphasis on vocal agility, correct style and improved language skills. Required songs: A minimum of four (4) for B.A./BMEd, and a minimum of six (6) for B.M. to be memorized each semester. Based on language abilities and vocal improvement, songs will be chosen from a variety of languages including German “Lied,” and the French art song. Study of opera and oratorio may commence, especially for those students pursuing a B.M. degree. Student must pass Junior Qualifying when completing Musc 033-D.

Semester V and Beyond: A continuation of technical and interpretive study. Required songs: a minimum of six (6) for B.A./BMEd, and a minimum of ten (10) for B.M. Songs will be a representative selection of art songs, opera and oratorio arias in different languages, and in various vocal style from Baroque through Contemporary.

**Required Texts**
Due to the laboratory nature of this class, students will be given voice-appropriate songs to be studied and performed in juries, public performances, and a studio wide recital.

**Suggested/Other Readings**
*Great Singers on Great Singing* by Jerome Heines
*Vocal Rescue* by Lois Alba

**Grading Policy**
1. Student will receive a grade at the end of every lesson. This grade is the average of the grade the applied professor has given the student, and the grade the student has given him/herself.

Grading is based on the following criterion:

- Student is on time
- Student is dressed appropriately (no torn jeans or pants, NO SHORTS--long-length or otherwise, no flip flops, no pajamas)
- Students is acceptably groomed
- Student has turned in a practice schedule for the week
- Student has come prepared with his/her pieces learned that were assigned by the teacher. Per the professor's discretion, notes are to be learned, rhythm is learned, language is IPAed, piece.
is memorized, etc.

- OR: Student comes to lesson with instructions or assignment from previous week’s lesson completed.

- Student follows the cancellation policy as outlined in the Greensheet

- Student has an overall attitude of eagerness to learn and general positivity

2. Student will be given a "6-Week Alert" should he/she have an average grade of C or lower in the sixth week of the semester.

3. Grading scale is as follows:

   50% Average of weekly grades 20% Listening Hour Studio performance 30% Jury grade

4. ALL SONGS MUST BE MEMORIZED TWO WEEKS BEFORE JURIES AND STUDENT WILL BE TESTED FOR PREPAREDNESS. If student is has not committed to his/her songs to memory two weeks before juries, a half letter grade will be dropped for each week the songs are not memorized.

   For the Final Exam it will be necessary for each student to participate in a Jury. The Jury will constitute 30% of the final grade. At the jury, first semester Freshmen BM students are required to have three (3) selections memorized, second semester Freshmen through Senior BM students are required to have five (5) selections memorized and BAComp/BMEd students are required to have three (3) selections memorized and students will be required to prepare ALL the memorized selections. Failure to sing the Jury will result in a grade of Incomplete. In order to remove the Incomplete (which automatically becomes an F after one year) and be allowed to register for the next semester of vocal study, the student must sing a make-up jury which will be scheduled at the beginning of the following semester.

   - Juries may be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016

**Grading Scale**

A: Student comes to lesson on time and gives 24 hour notice if he must miss a lesson. He is prepared with the assignment given to him from the previous week. He has filled out and signed a practice schedule. He has met all the above requirements. He shows a general willingness to learn and excitement in singing.

B: Student misses more than 2 lessons in a semester, is not memorized two weeks before jury but gives a good jury performance. He is inconsistent in his preparedness with the assignment given to him from the previous week. He has filled out and signed a practice schedule. He shows a general willingness to learn and excitement in singing.

C: Student misses more than 2 lessons in a semester, and gives an inadequate jury performance. He is inconsistent in his preparedness with the assignment given to him from the previous week. He has not consistently filled out a practice schedule. He shows a general unwillingness to learn and is not
excited about singing.

**Juries**

Repertoire:

**BM Performance**

Freshmen and Sophomores: 1-hour lessons, 4 Songs representing 3 Singing languages. This reduction in repertoire allows professors to hone in on technique as the priority for the first 2 years of study

Juniors and Seniors: 1-hour lessons, 6 Songs representing all 4 Singing languages

**BM Education**

Freshmen and Sophomores: 1/2-hour lessons, 3 Songs

Juniors and Seniors: 1-hour lessons, 5 Songs representing all 4 Singing languages

**Sophomore Barrier Exams**

**BM Performance: 8 Songs representing all 4 singing languages as well as Spanish if desired**

- Juries will be 15 minutes in length
- Professors in attendance will discuss and decide if student passes and may continue in the major, or fails and must change majors.
- Professors in attendance will determine whether passed student receives 1-hour, or 1/2-hour weekly lessons
- Professors agree to inform students of the importance of this jury in relationship to the rest of their college/career life
- Students will present a folder containing all music, repertoire list of music sung over the past 4 semesters, and the IPA and translation for ALL of the foreign language songs. The binder should go to the applied instructor after all professors in attendance have reviewed it. Should student decide to sing a song in another language other than the usual singing languages (Spanish, Russian, Czech, etc) this song must also be IPAed.
- It is expected that Jury repertoire contain the repertoire that students will perform on his/her Jr Recital so as to keep student on track and efficient.

**BM Education: 6 Songs representing all 4 singing languages as well as Spanish if desired**

- Juries will be 12 minutes in length
- Professors in attendance will discuss and decide if student passes and may continue in the major, or fails and must change majors.
- Professors in attendance will determine whether passed student receives 1-hour, or 1/2-hour weekly lessons
- Professors agree to inform students of the importance of this jury in relationship to the rest of their college/career life
• Students will present a folder containing all music, repertoire list of music sung over the past 4 semesters, and the IPA and translation for ALL of the foreign language songs. The binder should go to the applied instructor after all professors in attendance have reviewed it. Should student decide to sing a song in another language other than the usual singing languages (Spanish, Russian, Czech, etc) this song must also be IPAed.

• It is expected that Jury repertoire contain the repertoire that students will perform on his/her Jr Recital so as to keep student on track and efficient.

**Junior Recitals**

BM Performance: 30 minutes of music and/or approximately 4 sets of 3 songs each in the 4 singing languages. Spanish may replace Italian.

**Senior Recitals**

BM Performance and Education: 45 minutes of music and/or approximately 4 sets of 4 songs in the 4 singing languages. This language requirement is more flexible based on singer skill set, language proficiency, and professor discretion.

**Junior and Senior Recital Hearing**

• One month prior to recital date, from memory

• Professors in attendance will choose from the recital “menu” and students will sing those songs

• If the student does not pass the recital hearing, an incomplete is given for applied voice for the semester and the student must present another recital hearing at the top of the following semester, resulting in the possibility of having to give 2 recitals in one semester.

**Exceptions:** B.M. candidates are excused from a Jury for the semester in which they perform either the Junior or Senior Recitals. BMEd candidates are excused in the semester of the Senior Recital.

2) **Junior Qualifying Jury:** At the end of the 4th semester of applied study, students are evaluated during the jury exam for placement in Upper Division study. The Jury Panel will determine whether the student: 1) is allowed to continue in the major and 2) receives one-hour lessons.

*Please consult the student handbook for more details.*

**Classroom Protocol**

1) **Cell Phone Usage:** If a cell phone is used or the ringer is kept on, the student will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class, and possible grade deductions will be made.

2) **Attire:** It is expected that all students will come dressed in appropriate attire for lessons. No shorts, torn jeans, flip-flops, tennis shoes, cropped shirts, or dirty clothing are allowed, nor is a general, disheveled appearance. Students may wear sandals and flats. This also applies to any performances
attended at the university and outside of the university. Being aware of your appearance during lessons, will affect the quality of your singing and is a key to building self-respect and confidence. The lesson before our Listening Hour performance, the student is required to wear or bring in the outfit he/she is going to wear for the recital. This will prevent inappropriate attire at the recital and thus, the removing of the student from participating on recital day and a subsequent lowering of the student’s semester grade.

3) **Recording Devices:** **EACH STUDENT** is **required** to record his/her lesson via computer, IPod, MP3 recorder, etc. Failure to record lessons after only ONE warning, will result in a 10% drop in his/her final grade.

4) **Performance and Performance Attendance Expectations:** All music majors are required to register for Music 81 (lower division) or 181 (upper division) each semester. Students must attend 12 performances. These may include Tuesday-Thursday Recital Hour, faculty recitals, senior/graduate recitals, SJSU ensemble concerts or live San Francisco Opera simulcasts. Please check the student handbook for more details. **Students must also perform in one studio performance and one public performance each semester.**

5) **“The Masters Teach” Master Classes:** Throughout the year, you will be required to attend master classes given by conductors/singers/teachers who are successful in the opera field. This is an opportunity for you as singers, to receive important and pertinent instruction from teachers or coaches outside of SJSU. All master classes are required attendance and ample time will be given so each student may be present.

6) **Opera Theater:** Although not a requirement by the department, it is a requirement of this studio that you participate in Opera Workshop your Junior and Senior years, if you are a BM major. BMEd majors are also encouraged to participate in Opera Workshop although it is not a requirement. If you are a scholarship student, your scholarship requires you to participate in Opera Workshop your Junior and Senior years.

7) **Listening Hour Performance:** Our Studio Listening Hour is **November 1, 2016 at 12:30-1:15pm** in the Concert Hall. It is up to you to sign up for a rehearsal time with the pianists playing the Listening Hour.

8) **Repertoire Class:** This class is listed in the schedule of classes as Music 144, and meets on Wednesdays, from 3:30-5:20PM. It is encouraged that all students enrolled in Music 033, 133, or 224 also enroll in this class. This semester Prof. Snitkovskaya will teach Russian Art Song. BM Perf Requirement: 4 semesters, MM Perf Requirement: 4 semesters.

9) **Studio Class:** Studio Class will be held once a month on a Tuesday at 12:30-1:20PM. Students will be required to attend and attendance will be taken. Dates are TBD but ample time will be given so students can adjust their schedules properly. Students will sing for classmates and receive constructive criticism.

10) **“Practice Buddy:”** Each student will be paired with a fellow student, and students will then sing for each other, offering constructive criticism and encouragement for 20 minutes per week. Repertoire is at the discretion of the students. “Buddies” will be assigned in the first week of school via a posted list.
These sessions will be scheduled per the availability of the students and may be conducted in the department practice rooms. Students will then report progress to Prof. Chianakas.

11) Open Door Lesson Policy: If a fellow singers gives approval ahead of time, you may sit in on his/her lesson. Prof. Chianakas encourages the singers to attend as many voice lessons as possible to help the student solidify technique and gain insight.

12) Concert Attendance Requirements: See attached. All music majors are required to register into Music 81 (lower division) or 182 (upper division) each semester. Students must attend twelve (12) performances. These may include Tuesday-Thursday Listening Recital Hour, faculty recitals, senior/graduate recitals or SJSU ensemble concerts. Concert Credit is NOT given to students performing on a recital or in an ensemble.

13) Fellow Singer Recitals: Although not required, it is highly encouraged, that the entire studio attends fellow singers’ Junior, Senior, or Graduate recitals. Be supportive and be inspired by your colleague’s hard work and perseverance!

14) Singing in Public: You may not sing in public, any song, without discussing your piece(s) with Prof. Chianakas. If Prof. Chianakas agrees you do not need coaching on the piece(s), they will not be worked on in lesson. Otherwise, every song you sing must be prepared properly and sung in such a way that makes you, and your professor, proud! This includes ALL opera workshop repertoire, any and all repertoire performed on other students’ recital, any repertoire performed in other classes, (as in Art Song class, Collegium, Diction, etc), any solo concert repertoire, and singing at your best friend’s wedding!

15) Cancellation Policy: Students taking applied voice lessons are expected to attend each scheduled lesson. There will be NO MAKEUP LESSONS. This is a policy to hopefully keep students healthy for lessons and encourage a lifestyle which is conducive to the career of singing. If you MUST miss a lesson, please notify Prof. Chianakas 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE with an explanation and the lesson may be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor. If you think you may be feeling ill the day before the lesson, please call and cancel, with the agreement that the student may still take the lesson if he/she is feeling better the next day, IF the student’s lesson time is still available. Professor Chianakas WILL NOT MAKE UP LESSONS WHEN A STUDENT CALLS THE DAY OF A LESSON OR SHOWS UP TO A LESSON SICK. Messages should be left via email: Layna.Chianakas@sjsu.edu, text message at 408-655-0892, or voice mail at 408-924-4658.

16) Signed Contract: By the student’s 2nd lesson, he/she must have turned in the signed contract stating that he/she has read this Greensheet and understands its content.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/"