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MUSI 111A.01: Singing for Non-Majors

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Singing for Non-Majors

MUSI 111A - 2 credits

University of Montana

Department of Music

Fall 2013

Instructor: Ira McIntosh, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Email: ira.mcintosh@gmail.com

Office Number: 11 (in the basement)

Office Hours: By appointment

Class Time: MWF 11:10am-12:00pm

Final Exam:

Location: Music 105

Required Text and Course Materials

- *The Singing Book, 2nd Ed.*, by Meribeth Dayme & Cynthia Vaughn
- Black Basic Composition Book - nothing fancy
- Pen and pencil

Course Description

An introduction to the skills which enable and enhance artistic singing. As a group, students will work to understand and exercise good tone production, musicality, and performance skills with a baseline of musical knowledge.

Course Goals

- To build your musicianship skills and confidence in performance
- To establish a vocabulary for discussing singing
- To hear and document your progress as a vocalist

Course Objectives

- Discuss how the voice works
- Understand singing basics (ie. posture, breathing, etc.)
- Sing in groups as well as alone
- Discover strategies for learning a new song

Assignments:

- Preparation of repertoire as assigned throughout the semester
- Critiques of live and recorded vocal performances
 - Students are required to attend one classical vocal performance and write a 2-3 page response. Students are also required to choose and watch three vocal performances on YouTube. All videos must be approved the class period prior to due date. This "proposal" comprises a quarter of the final paper grade. They will then write a 1-2 page response to the video. These must be written in the voice journal - no emailed copies will be accepted.
- Voice Journal
 - Students will keep a journal throughout the semester concerning, but not limited to, the following:
 - List of vocal and physical exercises assigned, notes from class discussion, notes from performances watched, comments on practices both during and between class sessions
 - Each entry should be at least one paragraph in length
 - All entries should start with the date, type of entry, and time (time span when practicing)
 - The instructor will inform students as to when to write and will allow time for writing in class if needed

Quizzes and Performances

- There will be two written quizzes based on information in the textbook and class sessions
- There will be three performances throughout the semester
- There will be a final paper, rubric to be handed out near the end of the semester

Expectations

- Cell phones and all other electronic devices off and stowed
- Preparation of repertoire and exercises outside of class, writing in translations as needed
- Warm up before class times so we may better use our rehearsal time
- Completion of all assignments
- Attendance of all class sessions - participation is a large part of your grade
- Professionalism
 - Treat your classmates/colleagues with respect, especially in regards to their performances
 - On performance days dress accordingly

Grading

Participation	100 points
Voice Journal	100 points
Live Performance Critique	40 points
Video Critiques	20 points each (3 total)
Performances	50 points each (3 total)
Quizzes	20 points each (2 total)
Voice and Vocation Paper	110 points
Total	600 points

Late assignments lose 5 points the first day (not class session) late, 10 points the second day late, and are not accepted the third day late.

Grading Scale

A 93-100%	A- 90-92%	
B+ 87-89%	B 84-86%	B- 80-83%
C+ 77-79%	C 74-76%	C- 70-73%
D+ 67-69%	D 64-66%	D- 60-63%
F 0-59%		

Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting the instructor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Academic Misconduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/visa/student_conduct/php.

Class and Assignment Schedule (subject to change)

M 8/26 - First day of class, introductions, syllabus

W 8/28 - Breathing and posture

WEAR: Clothes you can move in (i.e. yoga pants, sweats, etc.)

DUE: Read Ch. 1-2, 7-8, App. A

F 8/30 - Vocal warm-ups and sound production

DUE: Read Ch. 9-10, App. D

M 9/2 - NO CLASS - LABOR DAY

W 9/4 - Pronunciation, articulation, and expression

DUE: Read Ch. 11, App. C

F 9/6 - Selecting music and learning it correctly

DUE: Read Ch. 3-5, 12, App. B, E

M 9/9 - Rehearsal day

W 9/11 - Rehearsal day

DUE: Video proposal for critique

F 9/13 - Rehearsal day

DUE: Video critique #1

M 9/16 - Dress Rehearsal, review for Quiz #1

WEAR: What you think pop stars wear to record in (I doubt they'd wear THAT...)

W 9/18 - QUIZ #1

F 9/20 - PERFORMANCE #1, review of Quiz #1

WEAR: Sunday best or semi-formal clothes (No tux needed!)

M 9/23 - Selection of new music

DUE: Voice Journal

W 9/25 - Finish selection of new music, rehearsal day

F 9/27 - Rehearsal day

M 9/30 - Rehearsal day

W 10/2 - Rehearsal day

F 10/4 - Rehearsal day

M 10/7 - Rehearsal day

W 10/9 - Rehearsal day

F 10/11 - Rehearsal day

M 10/14 - Rehearsal day

W 10/16 - Rehearsal day

F 10/18 - Rehearsal day

DUE: Video proposal for critique

M 10/21 - Review of videos watched, rehearse

DUE: Video critique #2

W 10/23 - Rehearsal day

F 10/25 - Rehearsal day

M 10/28 - Dress Rehearsal, review for Quiz #2

WEAR: Part of your Halloween costume (Test it out that new idea!)

W 10/30 - Quiz #2

F 11/1 - Performance #2, review of Quiz #2

WEAR: Sunday best or semi-formal clothes (Would your mother approve?)

M 11/4 - Selection of new music

DUE: Voice Journal

W 11/6 - Finish selection of new music, rehearsal day

F 11/8 - Rehearsal day

M 11/11 - NO CLASS - VETERANS DAY

W 11/13 - Rehearsal day

DUE: Video proposal for critique

F 11/15 - Rehearsal day

M 11/18 - Review of videos watched, rehearse

DUE: Video critique #3

W 11/20 - Rehearsal day

F 11/22 - Rehearsal day

M 11/25 - Rehearsal day

DUE: Voice and Vocation Paper, last day to turn in extra credit

W 11/27 - NO CLASS - STUDENT TRAVEL DAY

F 11/29 - NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

M 12/2 - Rehearsal day

W 12/4 - Rehearsal day

DUE: Voice Journal, and last day to turn in live performance critique

F 12/6 - Dress Rehearsal

WEAR: Pajamas! (It's almost finals week...we all want to wear them anyway.)

T 12/12 - FINAL PERFORMANCE

WEAR: Formal clothes (This is the final, let's make it amazing!)

- Time will be allowed at the end to change into street clothes for your next final.
- Last names A-G bring something to drink, H-Z bring something to eat.