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MUSI 500.21: Secondary Performance - Voice

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

To acquire and develop sound technical, musical, and artistic skills as they are applied to the
voice; to develop a base for evaluating healthy and efficient singing as well as correct vocal
technical flaws; to learn a variety of repertoire from the Western classical tradition and/or
contemporary commercial music; to improve vocal technique and musicality through weekly
lessons, daily practice, and assigned repertoire and vocal exercises; and to acquire analytical
skills necessary for successful performances and/or teaching.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

You will meet with me for 50 minutes a week (25 for 1 credit lessons) every week of the semester
minus holidays and official breaks. The course will consist of technical and musical work within the
studio, and daily practice and performance opportunities outside of the studio. Students should
plan to participate in a choral ensemble and attend music performances at UM or in their
community.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Come to assigned lesson time weekly

Be here and ready to sing (already warmed up) at your scheduled time. Please notify me by
phone the night before or the morning of your lesson if you are ill. Leave a message on my
voicemail as soon as you suspect you might need to miss your lesson. (See below for more
information on absences.)

Be prepared

Voice lesson time will be dedicated to the study of vocal technique and musical interpretation -
not note reading. Students are expected to know correct pitches and rhythms before presenting
pieces for lessons. Please let me know if you have concerns regarding preparation for lesson
time.

You will need the following materials for lessons:

- Notebook for recording exercises and other information
- Pencil
- Assigned music & music for your pianist
- Recorder (if possible): I strongly recommend that you record your lessons (suggested formats
  include mp3, mini-disc, tape – not voice activated for speech)
Practice daily
You should keep a written journal of your lessons to help remind you of exercises covered. I also strongly recommend recording and listening to your practice sessions as reinforcement of what we are working on in your lessons. You may also find it helpful to keep a written journal of your practice sessions. Be sure to practice vocal exercises in addition to repertoire. Recommended practice time is 45 minutes to one-and-a-half hours a day for four to six days a week which may be split into smaller sessions within the course of the day. Practice sessions should never exceed 1½ hours, and studies show that learning improves with shorter sessions done throughout the day. Recommended practice time does not include musical preparation, such as diction, translation, and other scholarly preparations.

Be prepared for juries and recitals (if applicable)
Part of our work will be to prepare you for juries, master classes, auditions, recitals, and other performances. You are responsible for knowing departmental requirements for your degree program. Before bringing in repertoire to lessons, be sure that musical preparation and scholarly preparations are underway. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for a masters level student to publicly present repertoire that is not musically, linguistically, technically, and dramatically prepared.

Find an accompanist (if applicable)
You must find an accompanist at the beginning of the semester. Please keep your pianist informed of schedule changes and cancellations. Plan to work with your pianist once a week during your practice time so that you will be prepared for your upcoming performances. Professional accompanists are available for hire, or you may consult the piano area board in the main hall for lists of student accompanists.

Notify me of auditions and outside performances (if applicable)
If you are doing outside auditions or performances (this includes solos in choir and opera scenes), please let me know ahead of time. We should prepare this repertoire together during lesson time.

Check your e-mail daily
E-mail has quickly become the most efficient and direct way to communicate in academic settings. You are responsible for keeping up with announcements sent by UM faculty and administration. You are also required to either check your University of Montana e-mail account daily or set up that account to forward to your regular address.

Check the voice area bulletin board & my office door
Look there for information on voice area policies, procedures, master classes, jury lists, and auditions. You are responsible for posted information.

Be responsible for your vocal health
Ask me for a copy of my handouts and for links to websites with excellent information regarding vocal health. Wash your hands regularly to reduce the likelihood of acquiring the illnesses that go around at school.
GRADING POLICY
Your grade will be based on both your work during the semester (as outlined above). UM grades on the +/- system though the highest grade that can be awarded is A (not A+). Work below the level of B- is not acceptable at the graduate level.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Please read carefully!
• Because the voice is a very delicate instrument, you may need to cancel a lesson for reasons of illness, fatigue, or other inhibiting conditions.
• Make-up lessons due to illness may be granted to those who cancel their lessons with at least one full day's notice (not just the night before) and who present appropriate documentation. You may have up to two make-up lessons per semester.
• For those canceling for other reasons, you will be expected to arrange your own rescheduling by arranging to switch lessons with someone for that week (and notifying me). Excused absences include documented illness, required university events, and professional engagements or auditions.
• Lessons missed without notification will not be made up. If you wake up in the morning and do not feel well, please cancel your lesson. Coming to your lesson will not be productive or good for your voice. To avoid putting others at risk, kindly call to let me know that you will not be coming as opposed to coming by the studio. If I must cancel your lesson for reasons other than official holidays and meetings called by the administration, I will always reschedule it.
• It is your responsibility to inform your accompanist as soon as possible of all changes and cancellations.
• To cancel a lesson for any reason, please call my cell phone and leave a message on voice mail if you miss me; you should also send me e-mail.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES
Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code
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 www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

Students with disabilities and/or special needs should see the instructor at his or her earliest convenience and contact Disabilities Services for Students, http://www.umt.edu/dss/ or x2243.