Stephen F. Austin State University

Diction for Singers - English (MUP 370)

Syllabus

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School of Music
M 258

Course Description: One of a sequence of courses in the study of phonetic sounds of French, Italian, German, English and their relationships to rhythmic and melodic aspects of singing. This class concentrates on English diction for singers.

Program Learning Outcome for this Class: Students will demonstrate knowledge of applicable solo materials, an orientation to the fundamentals of pedagogy as pertaining to the instrument or area of study [i.e., voice], and comprehensive capabilities in preparing and performing a solo at a high level.

Student Learning Outcomes for this Class:

1) To fully understand the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as a tool that supports artistic singing.

2) Following the recommendations of the author of our text (Madeleine Marshall), to provide evidence one can correctly articulate words and thoughts in English while singing.

3) To master the ability to be clearly understood when singing artistically in the English language.

4) To have a clear understanding of the concept of rhythmic diction as it applies to singing.

5) To have a clear understanding of how diction can be used expressively when singing in the English language.

6) To be able to prepare English diction to a high level of artistry and to be able to use this skill in various choral ensembles one might lead.

Required Texts:

Marshall, Madeline. *The Singer's Manual of English Diction*. New York: G. Schirmer, Inc., 1953.

15 Recital Songs in English. Milwaukee: Hal Leonard Corporation distributor for Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., 2006. [With CD of piano accompaniments; published in high and low voice editions.]

Exams: Two written semester exams and final exams during dead week. Two singing exams (one near mid semester and one as part of the final exam during exam week). Occasional drop quizzes throughout the semester.

Grading:

Written Semester Exams	30% [15% each exam]
Final Written Exams	20%
Singing Exams	30% [15% each exam]
Semester Assignments and Quizzes	20%

Tentative Weekly Schedule:

Week 1		
Tues.	Aug. 28	Welcome - Orientation
Thurs.	Aug. 30	Ch. 29 - Phonetic Alphabet
Week 2		
Tues.	Sept. 4	Ch. 1 - 5 "R" Rules
Thurs.	Sept. 6	Ch. 6 - 7 - "R" before a vowel
Week 3		
Tues.	Sept. 11	Ch. 30 - 36 - Vowels
Thurs.	Sept. 13	Ch. 30 - 36 - Vowels
Week 4		
Tues.	Sept. 18	Ch. 37 - 41 - Vowels
Thurs.	Sept. 20	Ch. 37 - 41 - Vowels
Week 5		
Tues.	Sept. 25	Ch. 42 - 43 - Neutral Vowel
Thurs.	Sept. 27	Ch. 45 - 47 - Diphthongs & Triphthongs
Week 6		
Tues.	Oct. 2	**Exam #1**
Thurs.	Oct. 4	Ch. 48 - "æ" and "ɑ"
Week 7		
Tues.	Oct. 9	Singing Exams
Thurs.	Oct. 11	Singing Exams
Week 8		
Tues.	Oct. 16	Ch. 8 - Voiceless and Voiced Consonants

Thurs.	Oct. 18	Ch. 9 - 13 Consonants
Week 9		
Tues.	Oct. 23	Ch. 17 - "Bed Bug" Rule
Thurs.	Oct. 25	Ch. 18 - 22 - Consonants
Week 10		
Tues.	Oct. 30	Ch. 23 - 26 - Consonants
Thurs.	Nov. 1	**Exam #2**
Week 11		
Tues.	Nov. 6	Rhythmic Diction
Thurs.	Nov. 8	NATS Conference
Week 12		
Tues.	Nov. 13	Expressive Diction
Thurs.	Nov. 15	Putting it all together!
Week 13		
Tues.	Nov. 20	Putting it all together!
Thurs.	Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Break
Week 14		
Tues.	Nov. 27	Review
Thurs.	Nov. 29	Review
Week 15		
Tues.	Dec. 4	**Take Home Exam Due**
Thurs.	Dec. 6	**Written Final**
Final Exam	Dec. 11, 1-3 p.m. (3:30 p.m. class) Dec. 13, 1-3 p.m. (2 p.m. class)	**Singing Exams**

[Note: you are being advised here that you will have exams due during "Dead Week" in accordance with SFA Policy A-15.]

Attendance Policy:

As this course seeks to help the student develop skills as well as accumulate knowledge, attendance is mandatory and essential. More than two unexcused absences will result in a progressive lowering of the student's participation grade. Absences can be excused if an acceptable explanation is given to the instructor (in person, by phone or by e-mail) ***before*** the class to be missed. Exceptions can be made in the case of an emergency. In all cases, ***the***

student *is responsible for* ***all material*** *covered in class.* Missed quizzes and performances will not be made up unless arrangements are made with the instructor ***before*** the due date. I can be contacted by phone and e-mail (through the class or at randerson@sfasu.edu .)

Academic Integrity (*A-9.1*)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades *Semester Grades Policy* (*A-54*)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.