

Review of Library Resources and Information Literacy

Proposed new course: PERFA 18 – LYRIC DICTION (music)

The Performing Arts allocation for Library resources is shared between music, dance, and theater and also includes support for the LEAP program. The Library works collaboratively with the Department Chair and/or designated library liaison to develop and maintain an appropriate collection of monographs, serials, media, and electronic resources in support of the four tracts of the Performing Arts curriculum: Music, Dance, Theatre - Performance and Theatre Studies, and Theatre - Technical Theatre and Design. [Library Review, November 2012]

As stated in the Course Proposal, the Library has been aware of the growth in the music program and the corresponding need for more resources to support this growth—specifically music scores and vocal sheet music. To support this need we have added *Naxos Sheet Music* to our collection of database and have greatly increased our collection of popular song sheet music in support of the Performing Ensembles curriculum. With the increased interest and acquisition of music scores we have also enhanced access to the collections by making “Music scores” a limit feature in Albert, and we have reallocated space to the shelving of the scores, separating the miniature from the standard scores and improving the signage for the collection.

The stated learning objectives of this course are to prepare students for graduate school through a systematic study of singing pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet. In addition to transliteration assignments, students will prepare and perform songs in class, and will listen analytically to recordings of Italian, French, and German songs and arias. The Library will be able to obtain one copy of each of the recommended texts, but I am uncertain if our current audio CD collection has the appropriate types and quantities of performances in Italian, French, and German songs to meet the listening expectations for this course. I’m more than happy to work with the Music faculty to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our existing media collection to determine this and to supplement the collection as appropriate.

The Collection:

Books and eBooks in our collection with the following Subject Headings:

Singing – Diction

1. A handbook of diction for singers: Italian, German, French / David Adams. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
2. Phonetics and diction in singing: Italian, French, Spanish, German [electronic resource]
3. Singing and communicating in English : a singer's guide to English diction / Kathryn LaBouff New York : Oxford University Press, 2008
4. Understanding French verse: a guide for singers / David Hunter New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. [electronic resource]

Choral singing -- Instruction and study

1. Building choral excellence: teaching sight-singing in the choral rehearsal / New

- York: Oxford University Press, 2001. [electronic resource]
2. Prescriptions for choral excellence: tone, text, dynamic leadership / Shirlee Emmons, Constance Chase. Oxford, NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 2006. [electronic resource]
 3. The solo singer in the choral setting: a handbook for achieving vocal health / Margaret Olson. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2010. [electronic resource]

Our collection would need strengthening in the areas of Phonetic Alphabet (for Singers) and Choral singing – Diction

Media

In addition to our CD Collection the *Naxos Music Library* database offers a selection of arias and other vocals in French, German, and Italian that may be sufficient to meet the needs of the students in this course.

Library Instruction / Information Literacy

No formal Library Research Instruction is indicated for this course.

Recommendations.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with new Music faculty well in advance of the course offerings to introduce them to the collection and our acquisitions processes and time requirements to make sure the resources are available when needed.

I also look forward to meeting with the full-time Music faculty to identify a core course or courses within which to include Information Literacy activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Walters
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