

SPRING 2025

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MEETING DAYS / TIMES / LOCATIONS:

2 weekly meetings:

1. *Weekly Private Lesson:* One-on-one meeting held once per week for 25-min (1 unit) or 50-min (2 units). An email with a link to a Google Drive Sheet will be sent to every student for lesson time sign ups.
2. *Weekly Vocal Forums:* Wednesdays, 4-5:00pm
 - a. This is a group masterclass where all students taking lessons practice performing and receive constructive feedback from a PLNU Voice Instructor or Guest Artists. Attendance Required. See Canvas for link to detailed schedule and Course Policies for more detailed information.

FINAL EXAM (Voice Jury or Mock Jury):

- For Music majors and minors with voice emphasis, and recipients of a regular Music Department Vocal scholarship - TBD on the week of Finals
- For all other students: Mock Juries on Wednesday, December 11th, during the final Vocal Forum. If unable to attend Forum, student and instructor will mutually agree on a format and day/time for final examination.

PLNU MISSION

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send. Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Private, applied instruction in a performing area is a vital part of the development of Music majors, as well as an appropriate elective for many non-majors. Each level of study has defined materials and technical masteries to be achieved. Students are assigned to a level according to their proficiency and mastery of materials listed for a given level.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will develop applied music skills in one primary performance area in both solo and ensemble settings.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this course you will:

1. Demonstrate technical progress ;
2. Grow your repertoire;
3. Acquire and strengthen performance skills.

Mastery will be demonstrated in a jury by scoring a minimum of 3 out of 4 in each category.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 1 or 2-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

The PLNU Music Department student handbook states, "a student should practice one hour daily for each half-hour lesson per week (1 unit of registration). A student with a one-hour lesson per week (2 units of registration) should practice two hours daily. Students preparing for a junior or senior recital will need more practice time. Specific guidelines are provided in the syllabus for each instructor."

See "Guidelines for Practicing" in Course Policies section below for more information.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **PRIVATE LESSONS.** The week before classes begin, a schedule will be sent out for students to sign-up a weekly meeting time. Regular, on-time attendance is required. Tardiness will affect your grade. Missing 20% or more of your lessons may result in de-enrollment. **Students will be allowed one (1) excused absence during the semester for Weekly Lessons to be used for emergencies or illness.**

If unable to come to a lesson or Vocal Forum, students must inform instructor via email or text (619) 985-4297 at least 4 hours before the lesson time. If you are sick (fever, sore throat, or any contagious illness), please DO cancel your lesson. If sick or aware of an upcoming scheduling conflict for your lessons, please make every effort to switch lesson times with another student in our studio and notify me of the change (schedule will be posted on Canvas).

No make-up lessons will be offered. Any lessons that I cancel will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient time.

2. **VOCAL FORUMS.** Regular, on-time and full class attendance is required. Tardiness may affect your grade. Music majors, minors, and recipients of a regular Music Department Vocal scholarship are expected to perform 2 times in Vocal Forum. Non-music majors perform 1 time in Vocal Forum. unless required by scholarship. Music may be used for the first performance; the second performance must be memorized. **Students will be allowed two (2) excused absences for Vocal Forum during the semester to be used for emergencies or illness.** Attendance will only be waived for students with an academic conflict that is cleared with me in advance. Any other conflicts will be excused at my discretion. If Zoom meetings take place for Vocal Forum, as a way to honor fellow performers and guests, please keep cameras on during this time.
3. **PRACTICING.** Regular individual, private practice is expected and is crucial for all students' vocal progress. **Students are required to keep track of and submit a weekly log of their practice time via Canvas on Mondays;** this counts toward your final grade. Your practice time is expected to include warm-ups and technique exercises, singing assigned music, mapping out assigned music, listening, researching basic information, story/plot, and history of assigned music, memorizing, and any other assignments given during your weekly lesson. Worship or gig rehearsals and choir practice do not count toward your practice time. Think of your practice time as "focused on singing only" time.

 **Guidelines for Practicing** (See *Assignments* section of this syllabus for more specific information pertaining to logging your practice time.)

- a. **1 Unit (1/2 hr. lesson):** 4-6 hours per week.
- b. **2 Units (1 hr. lesson):** 8-12 hours per week.

At least 70-75% of your practice time should be devoted to singing and the other 25-30% to other non-singing activities (described above in *Practicing* section).

Practice Rooms. Please contact Susan Bradley, Music Building Coordinator, for access to practice rooms and about any questions regarding their use. Regardless of practice room availability, you are still expected to practice your required hours.

4. **COACHING HOURS.** All students taking lessons have access to 15 mins. per week of rehearsal with pianist, Melva Morrison (first come, first served). This time can be used to learn your music, record accompaniments, receive musical suggestions from Mrs. Morrison, etc. I highly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity (PLUS it counts toward your practice time!) Be on the lookout for an email from her as the semester starts regarding scheduling time with her.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS. The following assignments are to be submitted through Canvas. Please see policies for late assignments on page 4. An At-A-Glance Semester Assignment calendar is found on Canvas.

1. **WEEKLY PRACTICE LOGS & READING.** Student keeps track of and will be graded on tracking the following components: (1) timely submission, (2) rehearsal hours, (3) content reflecting relevant practice described with sufficient detail and showing evidence of thoughtful engagement (reading journal, weekly goal, highlight from lesson, and all components on days practiced have content). (See Canvas in Assignments section for practice log assignment format). While I am not assigning specific requirements for the exact number of hours students should practice, please follow the Guidelines for Practicing on this syllabus. It is expected that all material assigned in a lesson will be prepared for the following week's lesson. Thorough tracking and evidence of purposeful and thoughtful individual practice that incorporates concepts covered in lessons will be looked for. The books assigned for the semester will be helpful resources regarding the use of your voice (speaking or singing), in helping with the mental aspects of performing, and gaining tools for getting the best out of your practice time.

Why? While students can initially grasp concepts presented in private lessons, long-lasting learning and vocal changes happen in practicing these concepts on a regular basis outside of the lesson. It is in the practice room that we get to know how own voice works, reacts, and what it is capable of. Keeping a log is helpful in making sure our practice time is effective and efficient.

Due Date: Most Mondays (Check schedule on "Semester-at-a-glance" for specific due dates). **The first log, due Monday, January 27th.** The last log is due on Monday, April 28th, for non-music majors and non-voice concentration music majors, and Monday, May 5th for Music majors and minors with voice emphasis and recipients of a regular Music Department Vocal scholarship.

2. **SONG STUDY.** Student completes a general analysis of characters, text, and musical components of all songs assigned for the semester. This is graded as a complete/incomplete assignment.

Why? Jeanie LoVetri, voice teacher and specialist, says, "In almost every song we are telling a story... in all styles, emotional depth is always a necessary ingredient of powerful musical communication." Telling the story of a song through singing is a skill. Through this exercise you will develop that skill by doing the research that will help you communicate in a truthful and genuine way.

Due Date: Monday, March 3rd.

3. **RECORDED PERFORMANCES AND SELF-ASSESSMENTS (2).** All students are required to record two (2) singing performances of their assigned repertoire/songs and they must complete a self-assessment quiz for each one. After each performance, students will watch the video of their singing and complete a self-assessment quiz on Canvas. Students are allowed use of sheet music for the first video, but the second one must be memorized. If there is an academic conflict with Vocal Forum, the student must still record two (2) videos of themselves singing one of their assigned pieces in a performance, service, event, or a performance practice session, complete the self-assessment quiz (you will be prompted to submit a video link, if the performance did not take place during Vocal Forum. It is recommended that students upload their performance video on YouTube and set it as unlisted.)

This assignment will be graded on the following components: (1) Clear and brief explanations in quiz questions with use of correct grammar and spelling.

Why? Performing is a vital part of getting to know our unique vocal instrument. Oftentimes, we have different reactions in performance that are not our "normal" in the practice room or in your weekly lesson. This exercise is an opportunity to develop, evaluate, and improve and hone our presentation skills, practice using an accompaniment track, accompanying yourself and, when working with an instrumentalist, to strengthen our collaborative skills. These skills will not only be valuable for singing, but will also help in other life experiences like interviews, public speaking, lecture teaching, etc.

Due Date: First recorded video (not memorized) and self-assessment quiz is due on Monday, March 24th; second video (memorized) and self-assessment quiz is due by or on Monday, May 5th.

REQUIRED TEXTS, MATERIALS, AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

TEXTS:

Only if this is your first or second semester in Prof. Peralta's studio:

A weekly reading schedule will be located on a tab in your Practice Log Google Document and on the "Semester Assignments" section of the Syllabus page on Canvas.

1. **1st Semester in Peralta Studio (any level):** DeVore, Kate, and Starr Cookman. The Voice Book: Caring for, Protecting, and Improving Your Voice. Second ed., Chicago Review Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-64160-330-0. ** Please make sure to download the audio tracks that come with the book at <https://www.chicagoreviewpress.com/the-voice-book-pages-630.php> Links to an external site..
2. **2nd Semester in Peralta Studio (any level):** Gallwey, W. Timothy. The Inner Game of Tennis: The Classic Guide to the Mental Side of Peak Performance. Pan Books, 2015.

MATERIALS:

1. Assigned sheet music. Printed, whole punched in 2 binders, or available on an iPad, tablet, or other device. One binder is for your use, the second binder is for pianist, Melva Morrison.
 - Students are required to obtain/print music they were assigned and bring it to every lesson once pieces/songs have been assigned. Music can be purchased online, and in public domain cases, can be retrieved online free of charge or can be copied from a book at the Ryan Library. Purchasing your music is honoring of composers whose work is still under copyright, helps you build a music library, and ensures you are following the law. Some helpful online sites for purchasing music: Musicnotes.com, sheetmusicplus.com, Amazon, etc. Also, some public domain pieces can be downloaded for free at www.imslp.com.
2. Pencil and Eraser to make notes on your sheet music or, if using an iPad or tablet for your music, make sure you can make annotations.
3. Accompaniment Tracks. Students are required to obtain accompaniment tracks for their assigned pieces and have them accessible for your practicing. You have the following options for obtaining tracks:
 - Ask pianist, Melva Morrison, to record accompaniment of your songs during one (or several) of your 15-minute coaching times with her.
 - Create a playlist of your "karaoke tracks" on Spotify or YouTube.
 - Use different websites or apps that provide tracks or links to where you can purchase them, like Appcompanionist, Theatretrip.com, etc.
4. Device to record voice lessons.

**** Note:** Digital Applications on a smartphone/tablet/laptop: Metronome, Keyboard, pitch pipe (recommended, but not required).

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Students will be graded on the following:

- Private Lesson Attendance & Participation – 20% (See Course Policies for detailed information)
- Vocal Forum Attendance – 15% (See Course Policies for detailed information)
- Assignments – 45% (See Assignments for detailed information)
 - Weekly Practice Logs & Reading – 20%
 - Recorded Performances & Self-Assessments – 15%
 - Song Study – 10%
- Final Exam (Voice Jury or Mock Jury) – 20% (See below for detailed information)

Grading Scale:

A	93%-100%	C	73%-76%
A-	90%-92%	C-	70%-72%
B+	87%-89%	D+	67%-69%
B	83%-86%	D	63%-66%
B-	80%-82%	D-	60%-62%
C+	77%-79%	F	0%-59%

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Due to the nature of this class, all assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the outlined due dates –including assignments posted in Canvas. There will be a 48-hour grace period to turn in assignments and receive credit without a penalty (Life happens, right? We all need some grace.); after those 48 hours, 10% of the assignment grade will be deducted for every day it is not turned in. Without prior arrangements, work can be submitted up to one week later for 50% credit. After a week, there will be no submissions allowed and the assignment will be graded as zero. Exceptions may be considered only in cases of extraordinary, documented circumstances, as determined by the instructor. Incomplete assignments will only be accepted in extremely unusual circumstances.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

For Music Majors and Minors whose concentration instrument is Voice and Regular Music Department Scholarship recipients:

The jury is the final examination. Successful completion of this class requires completing a jury on its scheduled day (See "Final Exam" section above.)

- According to the requirements in the Catalog, you are required to take a jury at the end of each term.
- Failure to do a required jury will result in course failure.
- The final grade instructor assigns must be no more than one grade higher or lower than the jury grade.

Non-music majors are required to do a Mock Jury the last week of classes during the final Vocal Forum. If unable to attend Forum, student and instructor will mutually agree on a format and day/time for final examination.

Voice juries are planned to be conducted in-person. See Canvas Syllabus for grading rubric.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Repertoire. "What will I be singing?"

Students will be assigned music that is appropriate for their voice and that will best help them accomplish the technical goals for the semester that are agreed upon by the professor and student. Please keep a repertoire list for your records that specifies all repertoire studied and dates performed in concerts and/or auditions.

Voice Department Repertoire Requirements for Private Voice – Commercial**			
1 st Year	4 songs minimum	1 Foreign Language	2 CCM* styles minimum
2 nd Year	5 songs minimum	1 Foreign Language	3 CCM* styles minimum
3 rd and 4 th Year	6 songs minimum	1 Foreign Language	4 CCM* styles minimum
*CCM: Contemporary commercial music. "A generic term created to cover everything including music theater, pop, rock, gospel, R&B, soul, hip-hop, rap, country, folk, experimental music, and all other styles that are not considered classical." Jeannette LoVetri, "Editorial: Contemporary Commercial Music," <i>Journal of Voice</i> 22, no. 3 (2008): 260.			
**These requirements are subject to change.			

DEPARTMENT EXPECTATIONS (For Music Majors)

Performances

Department Student Recitals – As stated in the Music Department Student Handbook, Music majors are required perform in Department Student Recitals at least twice each year during required study in their applied area. Student recitals will be held three (3) times during the semester, typically on Mondays from 4pm-5pm. Recital dates: TBA.

Please plan ahead and arrange your schedule to be present for these recitals.

Special Events. Music majors, music minors, and recipients of a Regular Music Department Vocal Scholarship are required, and non-music majors are highly encouraged, to attend and participate (when appropriate) in any special events (masterclasses, competitions/auditions, concerts featuring singers, etc.) that are not held during Vocal Forum meeting times. Please keep in mind that these events will greatly enhance your knowledge and experience as a singer.

Device Use. Please silence all devices (smartphones, laptop and tablet notifications) during lessons, vocal forums, and any other recital/performances. When face-to-face lessons continue, phones may be used to record private lessons and vocal forum performances.

Music Majors. Please be aware that music majors have additional performance requirements (department recitals, junior/senior recitals, etc.). While I will assist in reminding and preparing you to meet these requirements, it is your responsibility to fulfill them. Please familiarize yourself with the Music Department Student Handbook and be on the lookout for any updates on behalf of the Music Department throughout the semester.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY. Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY. You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY. Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION. In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel. Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY. PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION. Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the Title IX Office at [Point Loma Title IX](#). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at [Point Loma Title IX](#).

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [Point Loma Bias](#)

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY. Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

STATE AUTHORIZATION. State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

SPIRITUAL CARE. PLNU strives to be a place where students grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain, or if you have prayer requests, you can contact the [Office of Student Life and Formation](#).