

SPRING SEMESTER - 2026

	*Music Department/Arts and Humanities *MUE 4095-2Special Studies in Music Education – Coaching – Instrumental & Vocal *1 Unit
Spring 2026	

Meeting days:M/W	Melva Morrison; adjunct:
Meeting times: TBA	Phone: (909) 229-7647
Meeting location: Crill #211	Email: mmorriso@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: TBA - Juries	Office location and hours: Crill #211 M/W 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
Additional info:	Additional info:

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.

Foundational Explorations Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed for at least intermediate singers or instrumentalists, this course is a 30-minute lesson session per week. Students meet one on one with the professor to study the art of singing/or the art of playing vocal/instrumental repertoire. The course will cover intensive exploration of skills such as score preparation, stylistic and musicological knowledge as applied to performance practice, technique, interpretation, performance preparation, listening and collaborating with accompanist, and (for vocalists) text, diction, and textual interpretation as related to musical score.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Due to the nature of the difference of individual skill levels, the learning outcomes will be personalized according to the needs of each individual student. Overall learning outcomes include:

Voice students will have a greater understanding of diction, text, and interpretation of assigned music.

Instrumental students will have a greater understanding of articulation, phrasing, and interpretation of assigned music.

Students will develop a greater knowledge of the language of music and understanding how the composer intends the music to be performed.

Students will acquire the skills needed for a more effective collaboration with a pianist such as listening, anticipating, breathing, interplay of musical parts, how to interpret the music, style, and phrasing.

FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who participate completely in this course and commit to the amount of time required should expect:

Thorough understanding of music assigned by voice/instrumental teachers.

Ability to communicate clearly with other collaborative artists.

More confidence in performance abilities and outlook in a variety of settings.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

3-ring binder

List of pieces assigned by voice/instrumental instructor that is kept updated.

Carefully prepared music placed in binder:

Music must be double-sided, three-hole punched, with all notes legible.

Voice students must have text translations and IPA available.

Music needs to have title, composer and lyricist written on the first page.

Pencil

Recording device.

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 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 37.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment is based on:

Preparation for coaching sessions.

Music should be studied before coaching.

Background study of piece should be done:

Research entire work that piece is from (know the synopsis of opera, other movements, etc.)

Spend time with interpretation of text (vocalists) or overlay of programmatic ideas, etc.

Repertoire should be studied by listening to at least three different recordings and be prepared to discuss evaluation of specific recordings studied.

Improvement during and in-between coaching sessions.

There should be clear evidence of good rehearsal techniques.

Music should be memorized thoroughly and efficiently.

All repertoire should be studied every week.

Musicality, phrasing, correct placement of tone, consistently good intonation, careful attention to dynamics, breath control, diction (vocalists), articulation, and awareness of entire score (the connection between soloist and orchestra/pianist) should continue to improve as the semester progresses.

Professionalism during coaching sessions, juries, and performances.

Promptness

Respectfulness

Commitment to excellence at all times

No unexcused absences

I will not make up a coaching session unless notified ahead of time and there is a legitimate reason to miss.

I will make up a coaching session if my schedule causes the issue.

GRADING will be based on:

Preparation	40%
Improvement	40%
Professionalism	10%
Juries/forum/other performances	10%

Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

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

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.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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.

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. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. 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 issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

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 and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

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.

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 drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).