

**MUA 131: CLASS VOICE I**  
**Spring 2018**

**1 units**

**T-Th 11:300-11:55**

**Cooper 116**

**PROFESSOR: DR. KEITH PEDERSEN**

**OFFICE: CMC 217**

**OFFICE HOURS: M- F 8:45-9:45**

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**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Dayme, Meribeth & Vaughn, Cynthia: *The Singing Book*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. ISBN 13: 978-0-393-0-93052-8

**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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**Catalog:** MUA 131 (1 units) CLASS VOICE I

This class will help you develop the basic techniques of healthy singing. We will start with the assumption that no one in the class has had any training as a solo singer, even though some of you may have had some previous performing experience.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Position of course in college curriculum:** This course is required of music education majors who have not taken voice lessons. It is offered as an elective for those interested in learning to develop their voice.

**Institutional Learning Outcomes**

**Context: Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ**

**ILO #1:** Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits that foster life-long learning

**Context: Growing, In a Christ-Centered Faith Community**

**ILO #2:** Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments

**Departmental Student Learning Outcomes**

This course specifically addresses Music Department Core Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Music graduates will develop both a broad knowledge of their discipline and specific skills in performing, teaching, and directing music.
- 2) Students will develop characteristics necessary to strengthen and contribute to musical life of the communities where they work and live.
- 3) Graduates will be prepared to serve as musicians in a changing world through their technical and professional abilities.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES (Course Learning Outcomes):**

- Students will learn, practice and develop basic techniques important to improving singing tone and ability.
- Students will articulate suggestions for solving/improving basic vocal issues both in class and in concert reports
- Students will apply discussed vocal techniques in the performance of songs in class and for exams.

## **METHODS USED IN THE COURSE:**

The basic techniques we will explore are the physical skills that are basic to beautiful, healthy singing in a variety of styles. To help you incorporate these skills into your singing, we will first discuss and demonstrate important concepts and then we will put those concepts into practice. The basic techniques we will study are:

1. Posture and physical energy
2. Inhalation and breath energy
3. Vocal space (release of jaw, mouth and throat)
4. Vowel and consonant production
5. Range extension
6. Tone development

To internalize these skills, we will practice together each period, using physical and vocal exercises as well as assigned songs. In addition, you will practice individually each song in preparation for graded performances. There will be ample class practice before you ever sing for a grade. There will be two graded performances during the semester plus the final exam performance. Music for graded performances must be memorized.

We will work on songs representing a variety of musical styles, including folk songs, songs in the "classical" style, and musical theatre. Since the primary goal of this class is the establishment of good singing techniques, there will be little time to work on style or interpretation. The technical skills that we discuss, however, are applicable to most styles of music. Please have a recording device in each class so you can record assignments and your singing.

Each class period will begin with physical and vocal exercises. This time is very important since it is through these exercises that you will develop your singing skills. Please be on time. Each of you will receive individualized instruction during class time, but I will be available for some consultation outside class time if you feel there are individual vocal problems that you need more help to solve.

## **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Your work will not be graded on a curve. A traditional US scale will be used (+ and – grades are divided at 7 and 3 points).

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| <b>A</b> indicates exceptional work: 90+pts. | <b>D</b> indicates minimally passing work: 60+pts. |
| <b>B</b> indicates superior work: 80+pts.    | <b>F</b> indicates unsatisfactory work : 60>pts.   |
| <b>C</b> indicates acceptable work: 70+pts.  |  |

To earn an **A** for the semester, you will need:

1. an A average on your graded performances
2. no more than 2 class hours absent from class, for any reason
3. to be prepared with your music learned on assigned dates
4. to perform when called upon, for practice as well as graded performances
5. an A average on any written assignments, tests, or quizzes
6. reports on at least 2 voice concert/recitals

To earn a **B** for the semester, you will need:

1. a **B** average on your graded performances
2. no more than 3 class hours absent from class, for any reason
3. to be prepared with your music learned on assigned dates
4. to perform when called upon, for practice as well as graded performances
5. a B average on any written assignments, tests, or quizzes
6. reports on at least 1 voice concert/recitals

If you do not achieve any of these requirements, you will earn a grade of C or lower.

If you arrive after roll has been called, please tell me after class that you were present but late. If you must leave class early, please inform me as well. Out of respect for those in class, please turn off phones and computers during class unless requested to use them to record.

If you decide that you must drop this class, please fill out a drop slip at the admissions office. Anyone whose name still appears on the final grade roster but who has quit attending classes will receive a grade of **F**.

encourage you to attend many live performances of various musical styles, as you can learn much by listening to and observing other performers.

### **VOICE CONCERT REPORTS**

You are expected to attend vocal concert/recitals of art music. For each concert, prepare a one-page report that discusses repertoire, vocal technique, and stylistic interpretation. A full opera or oratorio will count for two concerts if a two-page report is submitted. Each report must be double-spaced, typewritten and accompanied by a program or ticket stub. It must also demonstrate college-level writing standards. Check the Cooper Center calendar for various recitals and concerts. You may also attend performances at other universities or the community. The Music Department Monday afternoon Student Recitals will count for one recital if you comment on at least 3 of the vocalists singing that day.

## **SCHEDULE OF READINGS, DISCUSSION & ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Instructions and due dates for assignments are found on Canvas in the weekly modules.
- 1 lowest Course Assignment grade as well as the lowest Essay grade will be dropped.

(This schedule is subject to revision as necessary; students are responsible for any announced changes. Assignments after spring break will be confirmed by the end of January.)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>READING/TOPIC</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
1. 1/23	Introduction: Posture, Breathing, Vocal Space, and “The Water is Wide” (p. 72)	
2. 1/30	Review 1 and learn vowels.	<b>1:</b> Ch. 1, 5
3. 2/6	Review 2 and learn higher notes/range extension	<b>2:</b> Ch. 2, 7
4. 2/13	Review 3 and introduce lower notes	<b>3:</b> Ch. 4
5. 2/20	Review 4 and practice for exam I	<b>4:</b> Ch. 8
6. 2/27	Review 5, written exam I and sung exam I, introduce “Sally Gardens” (p. 76)	<b>5, 6: exams</b>
<b><u>3/3-3/11 SPRING BREAK</u></b>		
7. 3/13	Review 6 and consonants	<b>7:</b> Ch. 9
8. 3/13	Review 7 and vowel modifications	<b>9:</b> Ch. 10
9. 3/20	Review 8 and introduce “Red is the Rose” (p. 82)	<b>10:</b> Ch. 11
10. 3/37	Review 9	
<b><u>3/29-4/02 EASTER BREAK</u></b>		
11. 4/3	Review 10 and singing exam II	
12. 4/10	Review 11	
13. 4/17	Review 12	
14. 4/24	Final Class-Review 13	

### **FINAL EXAM (cumulative): Thursday, May 3 10:30-1:00**

Students are expected to stay for the entire designated exam time until dismissed; failure to do so will affect grades. (According to university policy, only students with more than 3 exams on one day may petition to change an exam time. If this is your situation, you must confirm directly with me before the mid-term. No other requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved. As the final exam will be a presentation, please petition a different class, using FLM as a last resort.)