

**Point Loma Nazarene University
Music Department
Acting For Singers MUA331-1
1 Unit or 3 Units**

Fall 2018

Meeting days: Tuesday, Thursday and as arranged	Instructor title and name: Adjunct Professor Michael Sokol
Meeting times: 5:00-5:50 T, Th and as arranged	Office Phone: N/A Cell Phone: 707-254-5138
Meeting location: Green Room	E-mail: msokol@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: TBD	Office location and hours: Cooper 218 MTW(F)

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

Acting is the art of embodying and communicating the written word in performance. Vocalists are unique among musicians in the presence of text and the need to impart it intelligently in a musical context. In the university setting, theatre study in the art of acting encompasses the entire tenure of one's college career—and yet, vocal actors are asked to become proficient as communicators with very little advanced instruction. This course is one step in remedying that imbalance. Students in MUA 331 will study beginning through advanced acting technique, will dissect and reassemble the text they perform, and will be involved in midterm and final performance projects to put there technique in practical evidence.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of this course students will have achieved a greater command of the following:

- How to approach the text of sung material

- How to listen onstage as the active participant in a scene from the lyric (singing) stage
- Singing in multiple languages and complete comprehension of everything sung by the student in that language
- Preparation and memorization of repertoire for performance

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Required:

- **Sheet Music** – Once assigned, students are required to obtain/print sheet music and bring to the next class meeting. Music can be purchased in the form of books, ordered online (Sheetmusicplus.com, Musicnotes.com, Schubertline.co.uk, Addall.com, etc.), or borrowed from the library. Additionally, some public domain music is available for free download at IMSLP.org. Music should be purchased, although photocopies in a binder are allowed for rehearsal purposes.
- **Two - 3 Ring Binders** – Students will use this to organize double-sided sheet music and to keep other related material. One binder is for your personal use and the other is for the pianist or coach.

Recommended:

- Texts for Acting lessons will be provided by the instructor. However, several books are recommended for further guidance:

TO THE ACTOR, Michael Chekhov, AN ACTOR PREPARES, Constantin Stanislavsky, MEISNER ON ACTING, Sanford Meisner, RESPECT FOR ACTING, Uta Hagen, THE COMPLETE SINGER-ACTOR, Wesley Balk, IMPROVISATION FOR THE THEATER, Viola Spolin, LETTERS TO A YOUNG POET, Rainer Maria Rilke

EVALUATION:

Method of Instruction:

- Guidance and explanation of acting technique for singers
- Assignment of a variety of scenes, songs and arias
- Homework as an aid to ongoing acting as a singer understanding
- Exposure to various levels of student, faculty, and professional performances through live and video exposure
- Follow-up on outside rehearsal methods and time.

Grading Procedures:

Class Involvement	40%
Rehearsal participation	20%
Assignments	10%
<u>Final Performance</u>	<u>30%</u>
	100%

1. Lesson Involvement: 40%

Evaluation based prompt and regular attendance, preparedness, and progress.

2. Scene/Rehearsal Participation: 20%

Students will be involved in performing at least one scene from the lyric theatre. Students are expected to be prompt, participate in classroom discussions, and be attentive, respectful audience members. Lack of participation will result in a 20% reduction in the final grade.

3. Assignments: 10%

Assignments are completed as specified by instructor and submitted in a timely fashion on Canvas. Assignments will include, but are not limited to a study for each scene assigned and IPA transcriptions of foreign language texts and word for word translations for all text in the scene.

4. Final Performance/Jury: 30%

See final exam policy below regarding requirements for majors and non-majors.

Grading scale:

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and rehearsals. Students are granted one unexcused absence (to be used for illness, emergencies, etc.) Further absences will only be excused only at the instructor's discretion and if notification is given to the instructor 12 hours before the scheduled start time. Absences beyond the allotted amount will negatively affect Class Participation components of the grade and may result in a failing grade. Whether the absence is excused or not, it is expected that students will notify the instructor by text or email.

HOMEWORK: Students are expected to complete translations and IPA transcriptions within a week of their assignment. Further assignments may be given at Professor Sokol's discretion.

TESTS:

Students will be tested on technical and practical information at midterm

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY: Performance of the assigned scenes and arias from memory in full staging will serve as the final examination for the course

ADVANCED STUDENT PROJECT:

Students taking MUA 331 for 3 units will be required to create and deliver a document due at the end of term by final class day. The document must include a detailed character analysis for one of the scenes or arias they have performed, a brief historical examination of the same work and a personal accounting of the performance of that scene or aria.

CELL PHONE USE: Phones may be used as recording devices in class. Out of respect for the musical rehearsals and performances of students in class, mobile devices are to be silenced and used only for self-recording for personal use.

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY: Office hours will be posted on the studio door (C218) and published electronically once the final schedule has been determined. Students may text, e-mail, or verbally request a private conference with Professor Sokol

SPIRITUAL GOALS: PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end we provide resources for our graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. At the Mission Valley campus, we have an onsite chaplain, Rev. Nancy Pitts who is available during class break times across the week. If students have questions, a desire to meet with Rev Pitts or prayer requests you can contact her directly at gradchaplainmissionvalley@pointloma.edu. In addition there are resources for your Christian faith journey available at <http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/faith/graduate-student-spiritual-life>

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 in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact Jean Moncada in the Center for Student Success (CSS) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at (619) 563-2849 or by e-mail at jmoncada@pointloma.edu. Ask your academic advisor or program director for any additional accommodation information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in 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. See Academic Policies in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for additional detail.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

REPERTOIRE:

Determined by the instructor in consultation with the respective studio teacher.

PERFORMANCES:

Performance of scenes and arias and songs will occur in the following forums

- PLOT (Point Loma Opera Theatre) performances

- In class performance days at midterm and at class conclusion
- Informal class performing at the instructor's discretion.

COACHING with Melva Morrison: Students who are performing in Acing for Singers are encouraged to enroll in one-unit coachings.

PRACTICE: It is recommended that the student follow PLNU music department student handbook guidelines for vocal practice. In addition to singing, rehearsal time must also include private lesson review and note-taking (with recording), translating foreign texts, IPA transcriptions, song/composer research, listening to recordings, and mental exercises for memorization and performance visualization.

REPERTOIRE: Selection of repertoire will be made by the instructor for MUA 331.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain the assigned sheet music. Professor Sokol will assist whenever possible. His scores and books are often available to check out from his personal library. Also students will utilize their own music library whenever possible. See page one of syllabus for free music resources online.