



Point Loma Nazarene University Music  
 Department  
 Class Voice MUA 131  
 1 Unit

FALL 2016

<b>Meeting days:</b> MW	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Professor Amy Mein
<b>Meeting times:</b> 11am-11:50am	<b>Phone:</b> (619) 849-3391
<b>Meeting location:</b> Cooper 115	<b>E-mail:</b> amein@pointloma.edu
<b>Final Exam:</b> December 14, 10:30am-1pm	<b>Office location and hours:</b> Cooper 216 MTW (hours TBD)

**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**

Class instruction in singing for the student without prior study; development of specific vocal and musical abilities; selected and graded songs suited to vocal goals. Offered every fall and spring semester. Class voice can be repeated.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- Healthy vocal technique
- Basic vocal repertoire
- Experience singing in multiple languages
- Musical skills and vocabulary
- Preparing vocal music for performance

**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. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES**

**Required Text:** The required textbook for Class Voice is *The Singing Book*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, by Meribeth Dayme and Cynthia Vaughn. The ISBN number is 978-0-393-92025-3.

**Recommended Materials:**

- Video/Audio Recording Device
- Pitch Pipe (available as free smart phone applications)
- Metronome (available as free smart phone applications)

**EVALUATION:**

**Method of Instruction:**

- Lecture of topics related to singing
- Demonstration of vocal topics by instructor, guest artist, or multimedia examples
- Use of video to monitor student progress
- Assignment of homework for outside classroom exploration

**Grading Procedures:**

Quarterly Performances	40%
Quarterly Quizzes	25%
Homework	20%
Participation	15%
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	100%

**1. Quarterly Performances: 40%**

Evaluation based on vocal technique, musical accuracy, stage deportment, and individual progress.

**2. Quarterly Quizzes: 25%**

Quizzes will contain material covered in classroom discussion and exploration in addition to the textbook reading assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate in the event of an absence.

**3. Homework: 20%**

Assignments are completed as specified by instructor and submitted in a timely fashion.

**4. Class Participation: 15%**

Attend class and be prepared to actively participate in lectures, exercises, and performances with music.

**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:** Regular and punctual attendance at all classes in which a student is registered is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in this class are minimal requirements to be met.

The final grade in this class will be affected by active participation, including attendance, as follows: two unexcused absences will lower one’s grade by 10% (ex: A to B.) Two tardies are equivalent to an absence. An absence will be considered unexcused if the student does not notify the professor before the missed class occurs. In the case of an unexpected emergency, contact the professor as soon as possible and a decision will be made in regards to excused eligibility.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** Students are expected to complete assignments by the projected date. Late assignments will not be accepted. Quizzes will be afforded a make-up only in the event of an emergency-caused absence.

**PROJECTS:** Four song studies and four journals of varying topics - detailed on pages 4 and 5.

**TESTS:** There will be four scheduled quizzes and four scheduled graded performances.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY**

Successful completion of this class requires attending class on its scheduled day for the final quiz and song performance. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

**EXTRA CREDIT PROJECTS:** Optional Concert Attendance - TBD

**UNAUTHORIZED CELL PHONE USE:** Out of respect for the musical rehearsals and performances of students in this class, mobile devices are to be silenced and used only for direct classroom aids (personal recording, use of music apps on smart phones.)

**INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY:** Students may call, e-mail, or verbally request a private conference with Professor Mein.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## **Assignment Guidelines**

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**I. General** –All assignments are to be submitted in a typed format, printed and submitted in class OR emailed to instructor on the date due as listed in the semester schedule. Late assignments will not be accepted. Homework must be submitted regardless of classroom attendance on the due date. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Thursday, Dec 15.

**II. Journals – Topics will vary.** General example: Record your methods and experiences in your independent vocal practice in relation to classroom topics. Describe your rehearsal and related observations. Be specific about what vocalizes and repertoire you sing. Detail any progress and/or challenges you experience. The journals will be returned to you for your records. 300 words.

**III. Song Study:** Based on your research and interpretation of the particular piece, describe the context and your intention for conveying the overall message of your song on the given form.

### **Assignments**

Subject to change with notification from instructor

#### **I. Song Study**

It is essential that you have a full understanding of each song that you perform. You will complete four song studies throughout the semester, one for each song that you select to perform. Answer a series of questions about the context, content, history, and meaning of your chosen song. In many cases you will need to do some research, but at times you will also need to supply your own creative interpretation.

**The song study does not need to be completed in essay form.** Answer the following questions regarding your chosen song in a minimum of 300 words. Please remember that plagiarism is fairly easy to identify and won't be accepted. If answering in list form, please include each question followed by your answer.

1. What is the genre?
2. Who is the composer and lyricist/poet? What other works are they known for?
3. What is the historical context of your song? When was it written?
4. What is notable about the music – the vocal line and/or the accompaniment?
5. Who are you, as the singer/story-teller in your song?
6. When and where are you?
7. Who are you “speaking” to?
8. What is the mood you are conveying?
9. What is your objective, as the character?
10. How do you intend to convey your intended mood and message?
11. Why did you select this song?
12. What do you anticipate will be your strengths and challenges in performing this song?

## **II. Journals**

Journals will cover a wide range of topics and are subject to change with prior notification from the instructor. Unlike the song study, **the journals are required to be completed in essay form** using correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. Please take the time to proofread your paper and check for errors. Papers that are incoherent or poorly written will be returned for revision. Journals will be a minimum of 300 words:

1. **Journal #1** (due 9/21) – Write about your musical, vocal, and performing background. Why are you taking this class? What are your objectives and how do you intend to accomplish your goals? In the first few weeks of class, you will learn some ways to rehearse, learn new music, and warm up your voice. Write about your independent rehearsal and what exercises you utilize. What are some initial observations about your voice – what do you do well and what do you find challenging?

2. **Journal #2** (due 10/19)

Part One: Respond to and critique your first song performance. How did nerves affect you? What do you think went well? What do you want to improve on? How will you approach your next performance in terms of preparation? What did you notice overall about your colleagues' performances that you can learn from?

Part Two: We are discussing breathing and posture in this quarter. Briefly research the Alexander Method and the Feldenkrais Technique and how they relate to singing. What other exercises or practices do you think would have a positive impact on your breath and body for singing?

3. **Journal #3** (due 11/16) – Watch a video of a laryngoscope. What do you notice about the motions within the larynx? Explore your own tone, resonance, and register shifts. What are your observations about your own voice? What do you look for in singers? Identify one male and one female singer who you think have good voices. Specifically describe what you like about their voice. Supply a video/audio link for each singer.

4. **Journal #4** (due 12/7) – Watch and respond to a series of assigned performances online. You will receive an email with links to YouTube videos. What do you notice about their voices, stage presence, effectiveness in conveying meaning and emotion, and their overall performance? Be specific about what you observe in relation to our classroom topics.

## **Approximate Semester Schedule**

Subject to change with notification from instructor

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### **I. Music Basics and Preparation for Singing/Performing: Aug 30 – Sept 28**

1. Read Chapters 1-6, Appendix C & E
2. Homework – Due Wednesday 9/21 (song study, journal 1)
3. Written Quiz #1 – Monday 9/26
4. Performance #1– Wednesday, 9/28  
Select one of the following folk songs to perform by memory:
  - a.) “The Water Is Wide”
  - b.) “Shenandoah”
  - c.) “Scarborough Fair”
  - d.) “Salley Gardens”
  - e.) “How Can I Keep From Singing?”

### **II. Breathing and Posture for Singing: Oct 3 – Oct 26**

1. Read Chapters 7-8
2. Homework – Due Wednesday 10/19 (song study, journal 2)
3. Written Quiz #2 – Monday 10/24
4. Performance #2 Wednesday 10/26  
Select one of the following musical theater/popular songs to perform by memory:
  - a.) “Someone Like You”
  - b.) “Somewhere Out There”
  - c.) “Skylark”
  - d.) “Not While I’m Around”
  - e.) “There’s A Fine, Fine Line”

### **III. Phonation, Resonance, and Registers: Oct 31 – Nov 21**

1. Read Chapters 9-11 and Appendix D
2. **\*Submit sheet music for Performance #4 – Wednesday, 11-9**
3. Homework – Due Monday 11/14 (song study, journal 3)
4. Written Quiz #3 – Wednesday 11/16
5. Performance #3 – Monday 11/21  
Select one of the following foreign language art songs/arias to perform by memory:
  - a.) “Star vicino”
  - b.) “Panis angelicus”
  - c.) “Wiegenlied”
  - d.) “Adieu”
  - e.) “La paloma blanca”

### **IV. Vocal Health and Continuing Vocal Study: Nov 28 – Dec 14**

1. Read Chapter 12
2. Homework – Due Wednesday 12/7 (song study, journal 4)
3. Written Quiz #4 – Finals Week: Wednesday 12/14, 10:30am – 1pm
4. Performance #4, Song of your choice – Finals Week: Wednesday 12/14, 10am – 1pm