

MUE 495
Seminar in Music Education: vocal coaching
Fall 2015

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Location: Parlor

Course Description

Designed for at least intermediate singers, this course is a 30-minute lesson session, where students meet one-on-one with the teacher to study the art of classical singing and repertoire. The course will cover intensive exploration of skills such as diction, interpretation of text and language, score preparation, stylistic and musicological knowledge as is applicable to performance, practice technique and performance preparation.

Student 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 student. Overall learning outcomes include:

- Students will have a greater understanding of language diction, text and subtext, interpretation of song and aria, aspects of good musicianship, and the skills needed to put these into practice in performance.
- Students will develop a greater knowledge and intuition to the language of music and understanding how the composer relates the music to the text
- Students will acquire the skills needed for more effective collaboration with a pianist such as listening, anticipating, breathing, interplay of musical parts, how to interpret the music, style and phrasing.

Materials

- 3-ring binder
- copied music, fully prepared(taped/double-sided, hole-punched), with thorough notation(ipa, translation,etc)
- Pencil
- Recording device

Preparation and Assignment

There is a high performance standard for this class: all assigned music should be thoroughly prepared before coaching sessions. This means:

- **TEXT AND LANGUAGE:** You MUST **write** on the score 3 things: IPA(International Phonetic Alphabets); literal word-for-word translation; translation in idiomatic English if needed.

You will need to interpret the meaning of the poem and the text. For arias and other operatic works, you need to write down the synopsis of the whole opera, and how the excerpts are placed in the whole opera, the scene in where the aria is taken place, who you are talking to, etc. A thorough research and study the character is a must. **References:** ipasource.com(thru pointloma portal), aria-database.com, Word-By-Word Translations of Songs and Arias Part1-2, www.operatings.com, artsongcentral.com, recmusic.org, good old dictionary.

- **MUSIC:** All notes and rhythm HAVE to be learned before coaching time. Unlearned material will not be heard.
- **MUSIC AND TEXT RELATIONSHIP:** Be sensitive towards the 'language of the music'. Use it as subtext to your text. Listen and understand the accompaniment part as well as your own music.

RECORDING REFERENCE: Listen listen listen! There are ample amount of ways to do this: Youtube, Itunes, etc. Listen to the works with open ears and critical mind. For art songs, listen to the interplay between the singer and the pianist while referencing to the text, and how they paint the words. Listen to the music, the phrasing of the music, the articulation of the accompaniment part. For operatic works, listen to the orchestra parts and take notes of instrumentations. Listen to the different texture and timbre of the orchestra and how the composer used them to create the scene, the character, and the emotion of the work. It is very much encouraged to listen to other works that are NOT vocal music by the same composer.

Attendance and Professionalism

In order to succeed in any business, attendance and professionalism are essential. **I do not tolerate unexcused absences.** If you need to miss a session, you need to send me a text message or call the front office 24 hours before. If you need to switch with someone, you need to do so yourself, and let me know about the change **ahead** of time. **Two unexcused absences will get you an F.** I will not make up lessons for a student's absence, regardless of the reason. I will however make up any lessons that are missed on my account.

Professionalism:

- BE ON TIME
- Know your material
- Have a respectful and open minded attitude

Grading

- Preparation 50%
- Professionalism 30%
- Jury and other performances 20%

Extra credit will be given when attending the collaborative pianists group studio classes(datesTBD) and their showcase at the end of the semester(date TBA)