



Music Department
Course Name: Acting for Singers MUA 3031
Spring 2021
1 Unit

Instructor's Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Han
Email: jhan@pointloma.edu
Meeting Days/Location: Wednesday/Online
Meeting Times: 3 PM – 3:50 PM
Final Performance: June 9 Video Submission

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to provide students with basic techniques and approaches to the art of acting for opera. Although many examples and contents used during the class will be based on opera, those who are interested in developing their acting skills on stage (including musical theatre) are welcome. Emphasis is on using acting tools to create expression through song. Students will develop skills through stage performance with classroom audiences. This course focuses mainly on introducing and developing the acting tools of characterization, role analysis, stage movement, voice, and body control.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Students will be able to employ acting and audition preparation skills for an academic or professional audition.
2. Students will be able to analyze form, structure, settings, text, and music.
3. Students will be able to identify and practice the acting concepts of subtext, human behavior, observation, discovery, and action.
4. Students will apply the elements of body, voice, breath, mind, acting, and movement in their performances.

5. Students will be able to distinguish between different Fachs in the German Fach system and will employ this information when selecting appropriate repertoire.
6. Students will discuss the challenges Christian musicians face in the music industry and how to maintain relationship as Christian musicians.

RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

- **Acting is Believing—A Basic Method:** Charles McGraw, Larry D. Clark
- **The Actor and the Target:** Declan Donnellan
- **Respect for Acting:** Uta Hagen

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

The course grade will be based on the following elements:

Journal	10%
Dramatic Analysis	20%
Attendance	30%
Final Performance	40%

Extra Credit: May be obtained by writing a reflection paper among the three recommended books or by performing a duet performance which needs pre-approval from the instructor. Please discuss with instructor for more details.

Grades will be based on the following:

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	

JOURNAL 10%

Students are required to write a class journal every week and it will be assessed at the end of the semester. Class journal should contain information connecting class material, lectures, and personal observations that is pertinent to the course. There is no limit for the number of pages for your journal. Please submit all the weekly class journals in PDF format on Canvas by **Week 14, June 2.**

DRAMATIC ANALYSIS 20%

Students are required to submit dramatic analysis where all blockings, images, dramatic directions are marked on your score as well as translations of the piece for the final performance. Translations must contain both word-for-word and general translation on the score. I encourage you to note both your dramatic analysis and translations on the same score. However, if you have

limited space on your score, you can submit two separate sheets. I will provide more details and examples on how to do this during class. Please submit dramatic analysis on Canvas by **Week 10, May 5**.

ATTENDANCE 30%

Attendance is highly important. You are expected to come to class already vocally warmed-up and ready to go if you are assigned to sing that day.

You must notify your course instructor in advance if you must miss class, you will be late, or you are unable to sing due to illness. Unexcused absences and/or not being prepared for class will result in the lowering of your grade.

*** Excused Absences Include:**

1. Illness or injury to the student
2. Death, injury, or serious illness of an immediate family member or the like
3. Religious reasons (California Education Code section 89320)
4. Jury duty or government obligation

FINAL PERFORMANCE 40%

Step 1: Students are required to choose one opera aria for their final performance and send an email to me about which song they will perform by **Week 4, Mar 24**.

For repertoire selections, although I recommend one of the arias from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, I encourage you to select a piece which you will be likely singing for your academic/professional audition. If you have difficulty finding a proper repertoire, please consult me.

Step 2: Complete your dramatic analysis. You are expected to note all of your blockings, images, dramatic directions on your score. Due **Week 10, May 5**.

Step 3: Rehearse on your own until you memorize all the blockings, body gestures and lyrics. Please note that you are not improvising, but mapping out every single movement for your performance.

Step 4: Students will rehearse during class. Please be prepared to sing your aria with a pre-recorded accompaniment or app during your assigned rehearsal class. You must be memorized "off book." Other students and I will give suggestions and constructive feedback. It is expected for students to support and learn from each other. I will provide the rehearsal date each student will be rehearsing in class.

Step 5: Submit recorded final performance by **Week 15, June 9**.

Instructions for recorded final performance:

1. Wear formal attire (suits, dress shirts, dresses, well-fitting pants or pantsuits).
2. Introduce yourself and the piece you will be singing before you begin.
3. You may use Photo Booth, Zoom, a phone or tablet. If you record on your phone or tablet, please make sure the camera is completely steady and in horizontal position.
4. Position your camera about chest level and try to get your entire body in the shot (at least your upper body).

5. Look toward the camera as often as possible when you sing. This will help the viewers feel that you are singing to them.
6. Please record in a bright area and make sure that you appear clearly in the video. The clearer the image, the better!

Please note at the end of the semester, I expect you to have a high-quality video that you can submit for your academic/professional audition.

MEMORIZATION

All songs must be memorized by the time rehearsals begin. It is impossible to remember staging if you do not have pitches, rhythms, and diction memorized.

Not memorizing will equate to being unprepared and will affect your final grade.

Music: The student must legally acquire his or her own scores for the music assigned.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Mar 3):	Introduction, Syllabus, Fashions to Performance
Week 2 (Mar 10):	Audition Preparation 1, The Fach System
Week 3 (Mar 17):	Given Circumstances
Week 4 (Mar 24):	Creating Your Character (Your Final Performance Selection Due)
Week 5 (Mar 31):	<i>Mental Health Day (No Class)</i>
Week 6 (Apr 7):	Action vs Emotion
Week 7 (Apr 14):	Dramatic Analysis
Week 8 (Apr 21):	Audition Singing Technique
Week 9 (Apr 28):	Audition Preparation 2 (resume, headshot, five arias, websites, competitions), Duets
Week 10 (May 5):	<i>Mental Health Day (No Class)</i> (Dramatic Analysis Due)
Week 11 (May 12):	Workshop Solo Arias
Week 12 (May 19):	Workshop Solo Arias
Week 13 (May 26):	Workshop Solo Arias
Week 14 (Jun 2):	Final Rehearsal (Journal Due)
Week 15 (Jun 9):	Final Performance Submission

SAFETY GUIDELINES

During in-person classes, all individuals in the classroom must wear face coverings at all times. All individuals must adhere to the health and safety guidelines, even if they have been previously infected with COVID-19 or have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Students must have at least 6 feet of space between each other in the classroom. Classroom furniture will already be spaced and marked for proper distancing. Please note that the class instructor must dismiss the student from class if the safety guidelines are not followed.

RESOURCES AND REFERENCE

Scores

- PLNU Library/Worldcat (<https://pointloma.on.worldcat.org/discovery>)
- IMSLP - Offers free downloads of sheet music that is in the public domain.

Dictionaries

- WordReference - online dictionaries (<https://www.wordreference.com>)
- Florio 1611 Dictionary - online dictionary for old Italian language (<http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/florio/search/search.cgi>)

Translations/IPA

- LiederNet Archive - Offers poetic translations for most song texts (that are not under copyright) (<https://www.lieder.net>)
- Oxfordlieder - (<https://www.oxfordlieder.co.uk>)
- IPASource - Word-for-word translations, IPA transcriptions of song and aria texts (<https://www-ipasource-com.pointloma.idm.oclc.org>)

Libretti

- Libretti d'opera Italiani - Libretti for Italian Opera (<http://www.librettidopera.it>)

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.

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

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), 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. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.