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MUSC 305: Voice Performance

Course Syllabus Fall Semester 2022

Instructor: Selected Instructors at La Banda degli Unisoni music school

Credits: 1

Contact Hours: 15

Prerequisites: Students are assigned exercises and tasks of variable difficulty, based on a progressive skills evaluation before the arrival and during the semester.

Class Meeting Days & Time: One meeting per week, time TBD with the instructor

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: studentservices@umbra.org

Course Type: Classical voice performance course

Course Fee: None

Course Description

This course aims to develop students' necessary skills, knowledge and attitude in Classical Voice performance.

As a preliminary step, students will engage in an overview of the anatomy and physiology of the phonetic system and of the appropriate breathing and singing techniques.

Students will engage in the interpretation of selected songs in a variety of styles and genres, in particular in Italian style, and mastering the basics of lead-sheet preparation, transposition, interpretation, phrasing.

Students will also develop the technical skills necessary to approach improvisation.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Use the appropriate breathing and singing techniques
- Create/extend a repertoire
- Interpret Italian songs with correct pronunciation
- Reading notes
- Improvise

Course Materials

Handouts will be provided by the instructor.

Assessment

Attendance & Homework	10%
Homework	40%
Final Recital	40%

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Grading

Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to note the dates of exams and other assignments. No alternative exam dates will be offered and professors are not required to give partial credit for any late work (they do so at their discretion: the Institute’s default policy is no extensions and a zero for any work turned in late). Students who book travel when they have an exam or other assessment will have to change their plans or accept a zero. Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Attendance (10%)

Attendance is an important part of this course. You have one “sick day” per Institute policy. As long as you are at all the other meetings, you will receive the full 10% for this part of your grade. There are no make-ups offered for attendance.

Homework (40%)

Students will be assigned homework regularly. They should prepare all assigned materials for each lesson with a demonstrated improvement from the previous lesson. Students should allow themselves adequate time between their previous engagement and a lesson to warm up and concentrate on the music that they will be performing at the lesson.

Final Recital (40%)

The final recital will be a public event, held in front of the instructor or a commission of instructors. Students will play from a selection of music assignments based on various materials presented throughout the semester.

Extension & Submitting Late Work

Work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, not partial credit. Each student is allowed one extension of 24 hours over the entire semester. This can be used for any assignment but the final project. Students need to email the instructor before the deadline and inform the instructor of their use of the extension. Any work submitted after the 24-hour extension will be marked zero. As for all policies, exceptions can be made by the Director for students with special accommodations or in case of medical emergencies, etc.

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Attendance & Lateness Policy

Class attendance (in person) is mandatory. Students are allowed two “sick days,” which do not need to be justified. However, it is considered common courtesy to inform the instructor of your absence when possible. It is the students’ responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class). Each additional absence—even for another illness—will lower the students’ grade by half a letter grade (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B). Missing a co-curricular field trip also lowers a student’s final grade by half a letter grade. It is the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

If a student misses a class, it is ultimately their responsibility to find out what has been missed. Ideally, they should find out what they missed from a classmate. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies with a doctor’s certificate and approved by the Director, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Consistent lateness (or leaving class early) is a sign of disorganization and lack of respect both for your instructor and for your fellow students. Umbra instructors are empowered to count three late arrivals as the equivalent of an absence.

Academic Integrity

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that cell phones must be set on silent mode before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions for anything other than note-taking, unless there has been a specific academic accommodation.

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Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 1

Meeting 1: Singing techniques

WEEK 2

Meeting 1: Singing techniques

WEEK 3

Meeting 1: Standard classical repertoire

WEEK 4

Meeting 1: Italian classical standard and pronunciation

WEEK 5

Meeting 1: Improvise with vocal scat

WEEK 6

Meeting 1: Italian classical standard and pronunciation

Semester Break

WEEK 7

Meeting 1: Singing technique and improvisation

WEEK 8

Meeting 1: Singing technique and improvisation

WEEK 9

Meeting 1: Italian classical standard and pronunciation

WEEK 10

Meeting 1: Italian classical standard and pronunciation

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WEEK 11

Meeting 1: Review

WEEK 12

Meeting 1: Practice for final exhibition

WEEK 13

Final Exams and Special Academic Events Week

Appointments will be announced later in the term.