



MUSC 305: Voice Performance

Course Syllabus Spring Semester 2027

Instructor: TBA

Credits: 1 or 2 credits

Contact Hours: 15 or 30

Prerequisites: No formal prerequisite. Students are placed at an appropriate level based on an initial assessment of their previous experience, vocal development, and individual goals. Exercises, repertoire, and assignments are adapted throughout the semester according to each student's progress.

Class Meeting Days & Time: TBD; individually scheduled

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Type: Independent Study Course / Individual Instruction

Course Location: La Banda degli Unisoni, Umbra Institute partner music school

Course Fee: Additional course fee applies; see current program fee schedule.

Course Format and Credit Options

Voice Performance is an independent course based entirely on individual instruction. Each student works one-on-one with a dedicated instructor, allowing lessons, exercises, repertoire, and performance goals to be tailored to the student's level and academic needs.

Students may enroll in either the **1-credit or 2-credit option**:

- **1 credit / 15 contact hours:** approximately one individual one-hour lesson per week throughout the semester.
- **2 credits / 30 contact hours:** approximately two individual one-hour lessons per week or, when pedagogically appropriate and agreed upon with the instructor, one longer individual lesson per week.

The precise lesson schedule may vary slightly according to the academic calendar, instructor availability, performance preparation, and the individual student's program. In all cases, the total number of contact hours will correspond to the credit option selected.

Lessons are held at La Banda degli Unisoni, the Umbra Institute's partner music school located directly across from the Umbra Institute building in the historic center of Perugia. The course is conducted under the academic supervision of the Umbra Institute academic team.

Course Description

Voice Performance is open to singers at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels who wish to develop their vocal technique, musicianship, interpretative skills, and confidence in performance.

Students may focus on opera, chamber, or modern/jazz singing, according to their background, interests, and academic objectives. Following an initial assessment, the instructor develops an individualized program that takes into consideration the student's vocal level, previous training, selected musical genre, and goals for the semester.

Through individual instruction and regular practice, students work on areas including breathing and vocal technique, musical interpretation, repertoire development, diction and pronunciation, sight-reading and musicianship, memorization, improvisation where appropriate, and stage presence.

Because this is an individualized course, the sequence, pace, repertoire, and emphasis of instruction may vary from student to student. The weekly schedule below therefore provides a general framework that will be adapted by the instructor to each student's needs and progress.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate improved breathing, posture, and vocal technique appropriate to their level.
- Apply healthy and effective vocal techniques to selected repertoire.
- Develop or expand a vocal repertoire appropriate to their voice, experience, and selected musical track.
- Demonstrate greater awareness of musical interpretation, phrasing, dynamics, and stylistic conventions.
- Perform Italian-language repertoire with increased attention to diction and pronunciation, when applicable.
- Improve music-reading and musicianship skills appropriate to their level.
- Apply memorization and preparation strategies to vocal performance.
- Demonstrate increased confidence, expression, and stage presence in performance.
- Apply improvisational techniques when appropriate to the student's selected track and repertoire.
- Prepare and perform selected repertoire in a final public recital or performance.

Course Materials

Handouts, scores, exercises, and other instructional materials will be provided or assigned by the instructor according to the student's individualized program and selected repertoire.

Students may be asked to obtain specific scores or other materials when appropriate to their individual course of study.

Assessment

Attendance	10%
Preparation and Homework	50%
Final Recital	40%

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)

Please note: decimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

Attendance (10%)

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

Preparation and Homework (50%)

Students are expected to practice regularly between lessons and complete exercises, repertoire preparation, listening assignments, memorization, or other work assigned by the instructor.

Students should demonstrate consistent engagement and progress from one lesson to the next. Assessment will take into consideration preparation, responsiveness to instructor feedback, technical development, musical development, and the student's ability to apply concepts introduced during individual lessons.

The amount and complexity of assigned work will vary according to the student's level and whether the student is enrolled in the 1- or 2-credit version of the course. Students enrolled for 2 credits will be expected to demonstrate a proportionately greater level of engagement, repertoire development, and preparation consistent with the additional contact hours.

Final Recital/Performance (40%)

At the end of the semester, students will present selected repertoire developed during the course in a public performance. Depending on the student's individualized program, the final performance may be presented as a solo or ensemble performance.

The repertoire and performance requirements will be determined by the instructor according to the student's level, selected track, and progress during the semester.

Students will be evaluated on preparation, technical development, musical accuracy, interpretation, stylistic awareness, stage presence, and their ability to apply the skills developed throughout the course.

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.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected and mandatory for classroom times and co-curricular activities. All students are allowed 1 “sick day” (i.e. unexcused absence), which does not need to be justified. It is the student’s responsibility to keep it in case of real necessity. i.e., sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class. More than 1 absence will affect your final grade by 2% per absence up to a maximum of 10%.

Excessive unexcused absences may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. 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.

Legitimate reasons for an excused absence or tardiness includes: death in immediate family, religious observances, illness or injury, local inclement weather, medical appointments that cannot be rescheduled

Absences relating to illness may be excused by the Director but only if a medical certification is provided.

Students who request an approved absence to observe a religious holiday must submit a formal request to the Institute’s Director within one week after the add/drop period when course schedules, including any field trips, are finalized. No exceptions will be made after this deadline.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, 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.

Tardiness Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes punctually. Any student arriving up to 15 minutes late or leaving up to 15 minutes earlier than the scheduled class end time will be marked as tardy. Each incident of tardiness (late arrivals to or early departures from class) is 0.5% off the final grade. However, should a student arrive more than 15 minutes late or depart more than 15 minutes before the conclusion of the class, it will be recorded as an absence.

Students are also expected to remain in class during the time of instruction except for a reasonable amount of time to use the restroom. Students who leave class and do not return during the class session will receive an unexcused absence or late penalty.

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.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Because Voice Performance is an individualized course, the following schedule serves as a **general pedagogical framework**. Specific exercises, repertoire, assignments, and the pace at which topics are introduced will be adapted to each student's level, selected track, and progress.

WEEK 1 — ASSESSMENT AND INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Initial vocal and musical assessment; identification of individual strengths and areas for development; review of fundamental vocal techniques; discussion of goals and possible repertoire.

WEEK 2 — FOUNDATIONS OF VOCAL TECHNIQUE

Review and refinement of posture, breathing, vocal production, resonance, and other foundational techniques appropriate to the student's level.

WEEK 3 — BREATH AND VOCAL SUPPORT

Reinforcement of breathing and support techniques through targeted vocal exercises and application to selected musical material.

WEEK 4 — REPERTOIRE SELECTION AND TECHNICAL APPLICATION

Selection or refinement of semester repertoire. Application of technical concepts to selected songs or arias.

WEEK 5 — LISTENING AND PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Analysis of selected performances by established singers, with attention to interpretation, technique, phrasing, diction, stylistic choices, and stage presence.

WEEK 6 — INTERPRETATION AND PHRASING

Development of musical interpretation, phrasing, dynamics, expression, and stylistic awareness through individual repertoire.

Semester Break

WEEK 7 — TECHNIQUE AND MUSICAL STYLE

Continued technical work on selected repertoire. Exploration and comparison of musical styles, composers, periods, or performance traditions relevant to the student's selected track.)

WEEK 8 — REPERTOIRE DEVELOPMENT

Development of solo repertoire representing appropriate styles, composers, or periods. Continued work on technical and interpretative challenges.

Syllabi available for download from the Umbra Institute website only with the purpose of informing students and advisers about course content. **All rights are reserved.**

WEEK 9 — MEMORIZATION AND PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

Introduction and application of effective memorization strategies. Work on confidence, stage awareness, communication, and performance preparation.

WEEK 10 — STAGE PRESENCE AND PERFORMANCE PRACTICE

Continued memorization and performance work, with emphasis on stage presence, expression, communication with an audience, and management of performance-related challenges.

WEEK 11 — MUSICAL AND PERFORMANCE CONSOLIDATION

Consolidation of vocal technique, musical expression, interpretation, and stage presence. Refinement of repertoire selected for the final performance.

WEEK 12 — FINAL PREPARATION AND PERFORMANCE

Final coaching and rehearsal of selected repertoire. Public final recital/performance and instructor assessment.