Vocal Studies Handbook 2017-2018
For Applied Voice Students
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Department of Music
Vocal Division

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ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK
This handbook serves as the general syllabus for all courses and sections of studio voice. Any requirements in the syllabi for individual teachers are in addition to those found in this document. This document is subject to revision; therefore the policies contained herein are considered applicable for the academic year. This document should in no way be construed to supersede Texas A&M University-Commerce or Department of Music policies.

Lessons
Students are required to schedule lessons no later than the first full week of classes, or risk being dropped from lessons for the semester. The Voice Department has established THIRTEEN as the normal number of lesson per semester, and TEN as the minimum number of lessons a student must attend to receive a passing grade. Therefore, students who have missed more than three lessons, either excused or unexcused, will be in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade for the semester.

Course Numbers for Applied Instruction
MUS 152/352/552 (2 credit hours) Vocal Music Majors
MUS 151/351/551 (1 credit hour) Music Minors and secondary instrument
MUS 149 (1 credit hour) all other students

Make-up Lesson Policy
If students must miss lessons for any reason, the teacher should be notified by phone, email, or by a note in the teacher’s mailbox. The teacher will be diligent to make-up all lessons cancelled by the teacher, as well as lessons missed due to “University Excused Absences.” As stated above, it is the intent of the
department that each student receives THIRTEEN lessons each semester. Teachers are not required to make-up lessons missed by students or because of university holidays. Students should respond to offers of make-up lessons in a timely manner. If two lessons are missed without notification, the student will receive an email informing them that they are in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade for the semester. If an additional lesson is missed without notification, the student will be in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade for the semester.

**Teacher Assignments**
Teacher assignments will be made no later than the first week of classes and will be posted on the voice board. Students who wish to study with a particular teacher must contact Dr. Randall Hooper and the respective teacher.

**Voice Bulletin Boards**
Current information and announcements for voice students will be posted on the division bulletin board outside the Vocal Activities Office and on the Bulletin Board located adjacent the Choir Room. Voice students are responsible for information posted on these boards. Announcements of job openings, competitions, recitals, etc., will be posted on these boards. Please check these boards frequently.

**Studio Classes**
Studio classes are scheduled on Mondays from 5:00-6:00 pm and on Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 for each individual studio. While individual studio attendance policies may vary, students should not ask to be excused from these classes, as they are considered an essential component of voice training. Studio classes will meet in the choir room, 158 and the Recital Hall. Check the bulletin board for the studio Class Room rotation Schedule.

**Practice**
Voice students at all levels are expected to practice a minimum of three hours per week PER CREDIT HOUR of voice.

**Repertoire**
Repertoire requirements for the vocal majors (2sh) are as follows:
- **FIRST YEAR MUS 152-** Minimum of four selections, memorized each semester.
- **SECOND YEAR-PLUS MUS 152-** Minimum of five selections, memorized* each semester.
  (Except semester of JLPE, see further details under JLPE information)
- **MUS 352 and 552 –** Minimum of six selections, memorized* each semester.
- **VOICE MINORS/SECONDARY INSTRUMENT/NON-MAJORS 151, 351, 551 and 149 –** Minimum of three selections, memorized each semester.

Repertoire selections for First Year Voice Majors should be limited to Italian and English Art Songs and Arias. In the remaining years of study other languages may be added by the voice instructor. Opera Arias and Oratorio selections should be saved for students registered for MUS 352 and 552. Musical Selections can be considered through the consultation with your teacher. *One solo from a major choral/orchestral work (oratorio, mass, etc.) may be sung with the score. This selection should NOT be the student’s choice at the jury.*

Students who do not meet the repertoire requirements will have their semester grade lowered by two full letter grades (i.e. grade of “A” becomes a “C”).
Juries

All voice students are required to perform a jury at the end of the semester. The jury will be approximately 8 minutes in length. Students will sing one selection of their choice and at least one of the faculty’s choice. Students are allowed to record their juries, provided that doing so is not disruptive. Juries may also be recorded by the faculty for archival purposes. Juries are closed to the public, including family and friends.

Jury repertoire lists must reflect repertoire assigned and prepared that semester. The student’s voice teacher must approve the list and sign the jury form prior to the jury. Students whose repertoire list is not so certified will not be allowed to do their jury for the semester. Any falsification of the jury repertoire list is grounds for a failing grade (“F”) in voice for the semester.

Faculty members will write comments and give a grade based on the jury performance. The jury comment sheets must be distributed to students before the end of the semester. In the case of a “negative result” (such as failure of the jury or barrier exam) the teacher must retain the original comment sheets and have them placed in the student’s file in the Department of Music office. Copies may be given to Students.

The semester grade will be determined by the following formula: Jury Grade 40% + the teacher’s studio grade 50% + Required Attendance Grade 10%.

A grade of “X” (Incomplete) will only be given for verified medical reasons. Students should provide official documentation to their teacher. Make-up juries will be scheduled on a case by case basis by the Department Faculty. Juries will be held during exam week of each semester.

Junior Level Proficiency Exam

Every music student must pass the Junior Level Proficiency Exam and pass theory III and ear training III with a C or higher to be admitted into upper division applied voice (352) and upper division courses. The student must attempt the JLPE during their fourth semester of applied voice. All transfer students must attempt the JLPE during their second semester of applied voice. If this attempt fails, the student will have one more opportunity to pass the JLPE during following semester. If this attempt fails, the student will be directed to another field of study. The JLPE will take place during vocal juries each semester. After the JLPE has been passed, the student may move into upper division applied voice after he/she has passed theory III and ear training III with a grade of a C or higher.

For the vocal JLPE, students must successfully perform a varied and challenging repertoire that includes one piece from each of the following categories: an Italian art song, a German Lied, a French melodie, and an English art song. All four pieces will be performed to demonstrate mastery of all four languages and the ability to sing in various styles of music. All Literature must be performed by memory. In addition to the repertoire performance requirement, students must 1) demonstrate competency sight-singing using solfeg, the text, or a neutral syllable, 2) speak a sentence written from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to the chosen language (Italian, French, or German) and transliterate words from English into IPA. 3) learn on their own and expressively perform an assigned selection of literature. Students will be responsible for picking up their prepared piece two weeks before their JLPE from Dr. Jennifer Glidden.
How Jury Grades are assessed:
Each voice faculty member will assess the student in the following categories: Correct rhythm and pitch, Tone/Technique/Intonation, Diction, Musicianship/Interpretation/Artistry. Refer to the vocal jury grading rubric for more information about scoring of the jury grade.

Minimum undergraduate degree repertoire requirements
These requirements should be met by the end of voice study at Texas A&M University - Commerce. A complete repertoire list must be presented by all Voice Performance and Education Majors the last semester of voice study. This document must be in the student’s official file before graduation.

42 selections total: minimum of 6 pieces each in English, Italian, German, and French

Recital Requirements
Music majors must perform at least once in Convocation per semester, except first semester freshman. Voice majors, regardless of their degree program, must perform a junior (half) recital. Voice Performance majors, in addition, must perform a senior (full) recital. The junior (half) recital should be a minimum of 25 minutes of music. Junior Recitals must represent a minimum of three different languages in various styles and historical periods. The senior (full) recital should be a minimum of 50 minutes of music. It should represent a minimum of four different languages in various styles and historical periods. Any deviation from the requirements above (such as performing a single major song cycle) must be approved in advance by the voice faculty. No more than 25% of the program may be operatic arias and/or ensembles.

The Music Department mandates that the student register for 1 sh of MUS 352 Principal Applied Recital and 1 sh of MUS 352 Principal Applied for the semester that a required recital is to take place. If a student fails to complete the recital, he or she and his or her instructor must follow the procedure for receiving and removing an “X” Incomplete for the hour of MUS 352 Principal Applied Recital or receive a failing grade.

Recital Class MUS 100R Grade Policy

Recital/Convocation Attendance Policy
- 9 Wednesday meetings/recitals (EVERYTHING on Wed at 4:00 counts)
- 1 "Outside" evening performance*
- 7 Evening performances (can substitute an additional Outside)*
  *Turn in signed programs to the Music office to get credit

Scheduling a Recital and Recital Hearing
Students should pick-up and fill out a recital scheduling form in Nancy Melton’s office. Each Student should attach a sample program to the form for committee review. Each faculty committee member should review the attached recital program and then sign the Recital Scheduling form. The Committee should consist of Dr. Glidden, Dr. Johnson and the student’s applied voice teacher. The program’s content must be approved by the recital committee at least one month prior to the recital hearing. Students must schedule the recital hearing to occur no less than FOUR WEEKS before the scheduled recital. The
hearing will generally occur following Studio Class on Mondays or Convocation on Wednesdays and must be passed in order for the recital to be presented. Should a student not pass the hearing, the recital will need to be postponed until after the hearing is re-tried and passed. The recital hearing is graded “pass/fail” and the recital itself is graded by the voice teacher. The recital hearing may be attempted twice. If the hearing is failed on the second attempt, the student will not be permitted to perform the required recital.

**Recital Attendance**
All voice majors are REQUIRED to go to all voice faculty and student recitals. This attendance is 10% of the student’s semester grade.

**Collaborative Pianists**
Students are required to hire an accompanist. It is the student’s responsibility to pay their accompanist on time and communicate with the accompanist about lessons and rehearsals in a timely manner. The accompanist fee is the equivalent of purchasing a text book for an academic course. See the accompanist policy for more details.

**Purchasing Music**
Purchasing music for lessons is required and should be planned for each semester. Students should expect to purchase at least one or two new anthologies each semester. Specific music selections will be chosen by the student’s voice teacher.

**Main Stage Productions**
Each year the Vocal Division will produce a Main Stage production. All voice majors on scholarship are required to audition for the production. In addition, all Vocal Performance Majors are required to audition and participate in the production.

**Changing Voice Teacher**
The Department of Music recognizes the individual rights of all students to act independently in the pursuit of knowledge and to seek varying points of view. Students have the right to change teachers for the types of study listed above, but should follow the recommended procedure, i.e., the present teacher should be notified in a timely fashion, no later than the final day of the semester before the change is to occur. A student may notify his/her teacher solely in writing, if desired. Faculty are requested to wait until this notification has taken place before promising acceptance. It is understood that students shall suffer no negative repercussions as a result of changing teachers.

Faculty members are expected to respect extant major professor relationships and thus are not permitted to solicit a student directly or through any other person for the purpose of influencing a change of major professor. The relationship between teacher and student should be established, maintained, and terminated in a professional manner. Faculty members should respect the personal integrity and privacy of students at all times, while recognizing their responsibility to promote principles of ethical and professional conduct throughout the Department of Music community.