TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE
MUSIC DEPARTMENT
APPLIED MUSIC: VOICE

Instructor: Katie Jo Ross
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office #233—903.886.5295

Objective

Students will explore and experience the physical, mental, and kinesthetic aspects of singing, developing free vocal production as well as interpretive and communication skills.

Attendance

The voice department has established 13 as the normal number of lessons per semester, and 10 as the minimum a student must attend to receive a passing grade. Therefore, students who miss more than 3 lessons, either excused or unexcused, will be in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade for the semester.

Please be punctual, warmed up, and prepared. If you are ill or have a true emergency, please inform me as soon as you can and respond to offers of makeup lessons in a timely manner. If you have a conflict, please contact another student to see if you can switch lesson times with them. Lessons forgotten or missed without prior notice cannot be made up. I understand that illness happens and if you are truly sick I prefer you not come to your lesson, but if you are sick often I may ask you to provide some sort of proof of illness. If you must miss your lesson, please let me know as soon as possible, and no later than 8AM on the day of your lesson. Lessons will ONLY be made up for instructor absence or university-approved absences. Make ups may be offered for other reasons at the discretion of the instructor, but are not guaranteed.

Preparation

- When possible, find and listen to recordings of your music.
- Have all basic notes and rhythms ready at the **first lesson** after music is assigned.
- Please come to lessons warmed up and ready to go so we can spend the maximum amount of time on repertoire. It is also not a good idea to sing on a full stomach or when very hungry.
- You **must** rehearse your music before a piece is brought to a lesson. If the piece is clearly under-rehearsed we will move on, and if all pieces are under-rehearsed you will be asked to leave the lesson.
- All music must be memorized before Thanksgiving. Every piece not memorized by then will result in a loss of 5% from your final grade.

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.

Repertoire

Repertoire may include songs/arias in English, Italian, German, French, Latin, and Spanish, depending on the student's major, ability level, and other factors as assigned by the instructor.

Students enrolled in one credit hour will learn a minimum of three pieces for the semester.

Students enrolled in two credit hours will follow the repertoire requirements listed below:

Freshman are required to learn a minimum of FOUR pieces per semester

Sophomores are required to learn a minimum of FIVE pieces per semester

Junior/Seniors/Transfer Students are required to learn a minimum of SIX pieces per semester

Studio/Recital Attendance

Studio class meets Friday afternoons from 4-5 in the Choir Room. Attendance is mandatory and will factor into your semester grade. Students must perform a minimum of three times during the semester in Studio Class. All students, except first semester freshman, are required to perform at least once during the semester at the Departmental recital hour (Wednesdays at 4PM).

Juries

The jury grade accounts for **40%** of the final semester grade. Faculty members will write comments and give a grade based on the jury performance. The student will perform a final exam/ jury for the vocal faculty during final exam week. Two-credit-hour students will first perform from memory one song of their choice from their prepared repertoire list and then at least one additional selection chosen by the vocal faculty from the remaining prepared repertoire. The one credit hour student will perform a piece of his/her choice.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Applied Vocal Students will be required to take a Barrier Exam after 8 credits of voice has been completed. The Barrier Exam is generally taken during your spring semester of your Sophomore Year.

1) Accurately and expressively perform classic selections from the vocal Repertoire (min. 6 songs, Ita., Fr., Gr., and Eng. must be represented;
2) Accurately and expressively prepare and perform without the assistance of an applied instructor a selection from the standard vocal repertoire;
3) Demonstrate the capability of accurately pronouncing song texts in English, French, German, Italian and Latin using the International Phonetic Alphabet;
4) Demonstrate the capability of accurately singing at sight a classic selection from the vocal repertoire.

Junior/Senior Level Recitals

If you are seeking a BS or BM Degree, with or without certification, a Junior Level Joint Recital (25 minutes of music memorized) is required. The recital must represent at least three languages, time periods, and styles. (See Vocal Handbook for more information) After a full semester following the half recital, Vocal Performance majors are required to

present a full recital (at least 50 minutes of music). At least four languages, time periods, and styles are required and selections are chosen from the Standard Vocal Repertoire. No more than 25% of the recital can consist of Opera or Oratorio Arias.

University Accommodation Policy
Texas A&M University-Commerce is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations will be made in accordance with the law. To request ADA accommodations, please contact Dr. Chris White 903.886.5327 or the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Hallady Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886–5150.

University Behavior Policy
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)