

COURSE SYLLABUS
CID#5545
MUS 117: SINGER'S DICTION: ENGLISH/ITALIAN
1 HR CREDIT
Fall 2007

Instructor: Mary Kay Lake
Sam Houston State University
Room MUS 218

Course Description

- This course is designed to familiarize singers with the accurate pronunciation of the English and Italian languages as sung in solo vocal repertoire (recital literature and opera) and
- choral music.

Course Objectives

- Each student will ultimately become independent in translating, pronouncing, and singing English and Italian texts by properly using the International Phonetic Alphabet as a guide.
- To learn and employ the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) by confidently and accurately identifying the correct phonetic symbol for the given text and articulating the correct sound for the phonetic symbol.
- To successfully apply the knowledge of the IPA symbols in written, spoken, and sung exercises.
- To understand and apply the rules for using IPA in song literature, operatic literature, and choral repertoire.

Course Activities

- Learn IPA through practical applications of worksheets, in and out of class.
- Listen to a CD of both English and Italian songs and arias for correct pronunciation and to apply the listening and IPA rules during class activities and homework. Five copies of the CD will be in the listening lab in the music library for students.
- Phonetically translate or transcribe both English and Italian song and to recite and sing the selections during class time.

Prerequisites

- None

Required Text and Materials

- Webster. *Webster's New World Italian Dictionary Concise*. MacMillian-Schirmer.
- Wall, Joan. *International Phonetic Alphabet for Singers*. Dallas: Pst, Inc. 1990.

- Adams, David. *A Handbook of Diction for Singers: Italian, German, French*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- *24 Italian Songs and Arias of the 17th & 18th Centuries, Medium High OR Medium Low*. New York/London: G. Schirmer Inc., 1948
- Small, handheld mirror
- Tape recorder and cassette tapes, if necessary

Attendance Policy

- Mandatory attendance is required for this course due to the nature of the content. Students must be present to hear the sounds that are represented by the symbols in IPA in order to apply them correctly.
- After 3 absences (excused or not), the student's final grade will be dropped one grade level (example: from a B to a B-).
- Every 3 "tardies" will equal one absence.
- If you are going to be absent due to illness or family emergency, please email me **before** you miss class. Bring a physician's note to class, and then I will consider clearing the absence off your record.
- School related absences will not affect your grade. Be sure to obtain documentation to support your absence.

Missed Homework and Exams

- No exams will be made up unless there is a medical emergency the day of the exam. A physician's note is required.
- Homework will be due at the beginning of every class. It will be accepted up to one week late (including at the end of class when it is due), resulting in a 10 point deduction in your grade for each day late.
- If a student is absent on a day homework is due and **has not** missed more than 3 classes, the homework must be turned in the very next class day *with no penalty* (the assignment must be dated correctly). After 3 absences, the homework must be turned into my box before the beginning of class when the homework is due. Otherwise, it will be graded as the second bulletin states above.
- If a student is absent for the scheduled In-Class Performance, he/she must communicate with the Instructor 24 hours in advance via email (mus_mkl@shsu.edu).
 - Illness is the only excused absence for this grade, and the student will have no grade penalty.
 - If the student is absent due to any other reason (besides university sponsored activities accompanied by a note from the sponsor) a deduction of 20% automatically applies for the performance grade.
 - The performance will be rescheduled for the end of the semester, unless it can be coincided during a class time due to another absence.
 - If a student fails to notify the instructor about an absence for the In-Class Performance, the result will be a zero for that performance grade.

Grading

- Quizzes = 10%
- Class participation (preparation and discussion)= 10%
- Class performances = 10%
- Homework = 20%
- Midterm = 20%
- Final = 30%

Quizzes & Exam

- Quizzes
 - Two pop quizzes during the semester
- Midterm
 - October 3, regular class time
 - English portion: Will consist of written and listening requirements
 - Will cover IPA rules
- Final (2 sections)
 - Section One: 12/05, during class time. If not enough time applies due to number of students in the course, an extra time will be allotted, TBA.
 - Sung portion only (Italian) will be performed by memory
 - Each student is required to wear appropriate recital performance clothes
 - Your teacher will assign an Italian song/aria for you to perform for your final. You must submit this song on 10/03. 6 lines of text must be included in the selection.
 - Typed transcription and translation of the selection chosen for the final is due 11/21. After corrections are made, a copy must be presented to the entire class on 12/05.
 - The entire class will be present during the entire sung portion of the final.
 - A collaborative artist is REQUIRED for the final. Please plan ahead of time so the needs of both parties are met. A collaborator may be provided with a minimal fee for the student; however, if one is not available, the student must hire another collaborator for the final. The instructor will keep the students updated about this situation!
 - Section Two: During Final Exam Week.
 - Written test will cover IPA rules (comprehensive)
 - English and Italian diction are covered on the exam
Spoken Italian is a component of this section of the exam

Special Assignment: In-Class Performances

- Each student will participate in one In-Class Performance during the semester.

- Some students will sing in English, and some in Italian.
- Each selection must be **memorized** for the In-Class Performance.
- Each student will rehearse, in class, the Italian song selected for the final at the end of the semester. These performances are working rehearsals and memorization is not required. (Note: memorization is required for Section One of the Final, however.)
- See Missed Homework/Exams above for policy for being absent for the assigned In-Class Performance.

Instructor Information

Mary Kay Lake, Instructor
 Office: SOM, Rm 327
 Email: mus_mkl@shsu.edu
 Phone: 936-294-1395
 Office Hours: By appointment

Additional References

Texts

- **MT883.C63 1964**
Coffin, Berton. *Phonetic readings of songs and arias.*
- **ML54.6.C7 W7 P2 (reference section)**
Schoep, Arthur and Coffin, Berton. *Word-By Word Translations of Songs and Arias: Part II Italian*
- **ML54.6 .M42**
Masters of the Italian Art Song: Word-by- Word and Poetic Translations of the Complete Songs for Voice and Piano. 1990. Includes: Bellini, Donaudy, Donizetti, Puccini, Rossini, Tosti, Verdi.
- **ML54.6 .M5 R5 1973 *The Ring of Words: An Anthology of Song Texts.* 1963.**
Includes: German, French, Italian, Russian, Scandinavian, and Spanish.

Translation/Transcription Websites

- The Aria Database: www.aria-database.com
- Lied and Art Songs Texts: www.recmusic.org/lieder/
- IPASource.com = www.ipasource.com

Diction Websites

- Download IPA Fonts for FREE at
www.sil.org/computing/fonts/Encore-ipa.html
 They have fonts for both PC's and MAC'S
 SIL IPA93 FONTS

- The International Phonetic Association
<http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/ipa.html>
This website has charts for the vowels and consonants that are very helpful and informative.

Academic Policy

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom Demeanor

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of disruption. *Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave the class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.*

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Faculty handbook states the Americans with Disabilities Act: According to University policy requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

A student desiring to absent him/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holiday shall present to each instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day. This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments are to be completed.

Visitors in the Classroom

The faculty handbook states that unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.