

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## **MUS 119: Singer's Diction: German (CID# 5547)1 Credit Hour**

**Instructor:** Anne Heath-Welch  
Sam Houston State University  
Fall 2007

**Course Description:** This course is designed to familiarize singers with the accurate pronunciation of the German language as sung in lieder, choral repertoire, and opera

### **Course Objectives**

Each student will ultimately become independent in translating, pronouncing, and singing German 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 both song literature, operatic literature, and choral repertoire.

### **Course Activities**

To learn IPA through practical applications of worksheets, both in class and out.

To listen to a CD of German lieder and arias for correct pronunciation, and to apply the listening and IPA rules during class activities and homework.

To phonetically translate German lieder and arias, and to recite and sing these selections correctly during class time.

### **Prerequisites**

Italian Diction for Singers

**Required Text and Materials** Adams, David. *A Handbook of Diction for Singers: Italian, German, French*. New York:

Oxford University Press, 1999.

**Odom, William.** *German for Singer's*, 2nd edition. Schirmer **Patan, John Glenn.** *Gateway to German Lieder: An analogy of German Song.* Alfred **Traupman, John.** *Bantam New College German & English Dictionary.* Bantam CD player for textbook demo CD

## **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.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE!:** After 3 unexcused absences, the student's final grade will be dropped one grade level (example: from a B to a B-). Every 3 times a student is tardy to class 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 the correct paperwork to support your absence if this is the case.

## **Missed Homework and Exams**

No exams or quizzes 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), with the grade resulting 10 points lowered for each day late (weekends excluded).

If a student is absent on a day homework is due and has not missed more than 3 classes, then the homework must be turned in the very next class day with no penalty (the assignment must be dated correctly). After the third absence, 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.

## **In Class Performances**

Each student is required to sing during class one selection from the Gateway to German Lieder anthology required for this class. Only if the applied voice teacher requires a specific request will another selection be allowed by the instructor. However, I recommend that you discuss with your teacher your repertoire choice.

These performances must be memorized the first time through, then text can be used during working analysis.

If the song/aria chosen is not from the Gateway to German Lieder anthology, then a copy of the phonetic transcription and poetic and literal translation must be handed to each student and instructor before singing

The performance date for the In-Class performance will be on Friday, October 12 during class. A pianist will be provided who will play for the entire class. A date will be organized for you to rehearse with the pianist. This date is TBA and will be outside of class time. More details to follow on that. **HOWEVER**, it is **YOUR** responsibility to make sure that you rehearse with the accompanist prior to your in-class performance. You will also be responsible for paying for that rehearsal time. The cost of the pianist for the performance itself will be paid for by the school, we hope.

**VERY IMPORTANT!!** The repertoire choice for the mid-term and for the final must be turned in

to me by the 10<sup>th</sup> of September. At that time, you must give me a copy of your pieces which will then be put into a folder for the accompanist. There are to be no exceptions. If you do not have the music for me by that date, you will lose 8 points from your performance grade for each sung performance.

### **Student Group Presentation Day - Selected Recordings**

1. Each student will be assigned to a group which will together accomplish the following:

Choose a poem by a German poet

Choose 2 recordings of this poem

Recordings can be the same setting by different singers/pianists

• • Recordings can be the same poem set to different music (by same or different artists)

2. Present to the class in 5 - 7 minutes:

Both recordings

Phonetic transcription and translation

Basic information of the poet and

composer(s) chosen

Birth & death dates

Background personally &

educationally

Most popular genre of music

Names of the artists

Content analysis of the performers

composed • Interpretive analysis communicated through the diction

### **DGrading**

Quizzes = 10% Class participation (preparedness and discussion) = 10% Class performances = 10% (5% for in class performance; 5% for group presentation)

Homework = 20% Midterm = 20% Final = 30%

### **Quizzes & Exams**

**Quizzes:** 2 pop quizzes during the semester **Midterm: Wednesday, October 10th**, regular class time and will consist of: Written: IPA Rules and transcription and listening.

**Friday, October 12th**, In-Class performance **Final (2 sections):**

**Monday, December 3rd: Written test** Written test will cover: IPA rules (comprehensive) Written and listening requirements

**Wednesday, December 5th: Sung portion**

*Typed transcription and translation.* of the selection chosen for the final is due 4/18. After corrections are made, a copy must be presented to the entire class on 5/5, during the sung final.

The entire class will be present during the entire sung portion of the final on 5/5 as well as for the In-Class performance.

### **Instructor Information**

Anne Heath-Welch, Instructor Office:  
Practice Room, first floor (basement)  
Email: [anneheathwelch@hotmail.com](mailto:anneheathwelch@hotmail.com) Cell  
Phone: (832) 335-9108 Office  
Houappointment

### **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 I German & French*

**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. **ML2829.4 .G47 1996** *German Lieder in the Nineteenth Century.* 1996. Schirmer

Books.

ML2829.4 .G67 1993 *19th Century German Lied*. Gorrell, Lorraine. 1993. Amadeus Press.

### **Translation Website**

The Aria Database: [www.aria-database.com](http://www.aria-database.com)

Lied and Art Songs Texts: <http://www.recmusic.org/lieder/>

### **Diction Websites**

Download IPA Fonts for FREE at [www.sil.org/computing/fonts/Encore-ipa.html](http://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.

### **Proper 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 being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.*

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

The faculty handbook states that 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 Cen

### 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.

### Transcription/ Translation Example

You will type your transcriptions and translations, but if you have trouble getting the IPA, you may insert the IPA in black ink. A word for word translation, and poetic translation should also be included with your work. You can find poetic translations in a CD recording jacket and in are provided in this syllabus  
SAMPLE

**Tentative Course Calendar** August 22 Introduction to Diction/Go over syllabus/Review Texts  
24 Odom, Chapter 3, Describing Sounds: Articulatory Phonetics  
Chapter 4, Introduction to German Sounds  
29 Guest Lecturer, German Sounds  
31 Odom, Chapter 5, The Sounds of r, ch  
**September 5**  
*Title/Composer of German Selection for In-Class Perf. Due (Groups Assigned)*  
Odom, Chapter 6, Monophthongs: Part I, Section 1

7 Odom, Chapter 6, Section 2  
12 Odom, Chapter 6, Section 3 & 3a.  
14 Odom, Chapter 6, Sections 4 & 5.

19 Odom, Chapter 6, Section 6  
21 Odom, Chapter 7, Word Structure cont'd.  
26 Odom, Chapter 7, Word Structure cont'd.

28 Odom, Chapter 8, The Sounds of *b, d, g*  
**October 3** Odom, Chapter 8, Cont'd.

5 Review for Mid-Term (Chapters 3 – 8, Odom)  
10

**Mid-Term on Chapters 3 – 8, Odom 12 In Class**

**Performance** Monophthongs, Part II.  
19

*Title & Composer of German Selection for Final Exam Due*

Odom, Chapter 9, cont'd, Chapter 10, The Sounds of *s*  
24 Odom, Chapter 11, Diphthongs.  
26 Odom, Chapter 11, Diphthongs, cont'd

31 Odom, Chapter 12, The Sounds of *l, r*; Chapter 13, The Sounds of *h, j*  
**November 2** Odom, Chapter 14, The Sounds of *z, p, t, k, x, qu*; Sections 1-37  
Odom, Chapter 15, The Sounds of *c*, Chapter 16, Sounds of *w, v, f*.

9 Odom, Chapter 16, cont'd, Chapter 17, The Sounds of *m,n*.

**14 In-Class Projects (Group A) 16 In-Class  
Projects (Group B) 21 – 23 Thanksgiving  
Holiday!!**

28 Cold Reading – German Song Texts, IPA transcriptions 30 Review for Final  
Exams: In class drills **December 5 Final Written Exam: During Class 7 Sung  
Final**