

Prof. Christopher Michel  
Office/Class Room: Room 317  
Class time: TBA

Phone: (O) 294-1379 (H) 714-6390  
e-mail: mus\_ccm@shsu.edu

## **Syllabus for Voice Spring 2008**

VOI 501X42 CID 3275

1hr-4hr credits

### **TEXT**

All music can be checked out from the library or bought. You should purchase at least one book a semester.

Penders 1-800-952-7526

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Voice meets three times a week – one private 50-minute session, once on Monday at noon, and Thursday from 3:30-5:00. This course is designed for persons who demonstrate a working knowledge of music skills and have deemed voice as their primary instrument.

### **COURSE GOALS**

Each student will refine the principals of posture, breath management, and healthy tone production for the singing voice.

Each student will learn elements of good musicianship, including phrasing, dynamics, intonation, and rhythmic accuracy.

Each student will learn techniques for preparing a song for performance, with more attention to diction, background and style, performance poise, and interpretation.

Each student will learn about the function and care of the voice and about his or her own vocal potential.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Each student will implement the course goals listed above in the preparation and delivery of the appropriate number of pieces stipulated by your level of study (requirements for each level of study are listed below).

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Kindly telephone me and let me know 24 hrs. in advance if you cannot make it to your lesson due to illness or family obligations. I will try and give you the same courtesy. If I miss a lesson, I will make sure to give you the opportunity to make it up. **If you miss a lesson, do not expect to receive a makeup lesson unless I have time. However, if you do not give appropriate notice or excuse, do expect to receive an F as your grade for that particular lesson.** You do not get to makeup a math class –the same applies here. If I know not to expect you I can make appropriate arrangements. This is a general rule; from time to time we all incur extenuating circumstances, including myself. This is understandable and negotiable at times. Please note that your vocal health is your responsibility.

Therefore, late study nights, or party nights, or game nights cannot get in the way of your lesson time or progress. Learn how to negotiate this now!

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING CONFERENCE**

All students are strongly encouraged to attend the National Association of Teachers of Singing Texoma Regional and District Conference and Auditions in order to further knowledge and experience regarding vocal music performance. Students in attendance will give verbal reports or performances to the class regarding their experiences. The final jury will include performances of the music presented at the conference.

### **COLLABRATIVE ARTIST**

Each student is responsible for hiring a pianist for the semester. This is equivalent to the purchase of a textbook in any other class and is **non-negotiable**. Each student should find a pianist who is available for the last half of your lesson in addition to a rehearsal time scheduled between the two of you.

Respect your pianist! **If you are going to miss a lesson or practice time it is your responsibility to notify them. If you do not give proper lead-time you will be charged.**

NOTE: Each student will pay me \$15.00 for the Studio Pianist (Prof. Jay Whatley). This is due before your first performance in studio.

### **PRACTICE PROCEDURES**

As with any skill whether it is a sport, typing, driving a car etc., there is a right and wrong way to maneuver the particular skill you are trying to achieve. You are trying to learn the proper way to sing. Therefore, you must attempt to do as I instruct to the best of your ability. This requires 30 min. of vocal exercise a day. If I have assigned a piece or any other activity this is to be done in addition to the 30 min. assigned for vocal exercises. Consistency is a must! If you are not consistent you are wasting our time. My part of the bargain is to be clear with my ideas, interested in your progress, creative in approaches to your problems and your repertoire, and involved in your success. I expect you to do your half of the bargain. If we both do our very best, good success and growth will be the only possible outcome.

Experiment with making new and different sounds and ask me questions!!!!!! This is your time and I want it to be as profitable as possible. Drain me of all you can. No question is stupid. It is the best way to learn. If you have questions during practice time, jot it down in your notebook and ask me in your next lesson.

Please know why you are doing each exercise and its purpose. Practice each exercise in an active frame of mind. Constantly question yourself and try new things. This whole process is an exploration of your mind, body, and soul.

**Minimum required practice time for an applied voice course depends upon the number of hours credit.**

**3 or 4 hours credit: 10 hours of individual practice each week.**

**2 hours credit: 8 hours of individual practice each week.**

**1 hour credit: 5 hours of individual practice each week.**

## ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

You will keep a Voice Notebook:

### **Contents:**

#### 1) **Music**

2) **Translations/background info.** Poetry must be memorized and recited prior to working on the music in your lesson. Translations/IPA should be completed prior to the first lesson on a given piece. Research the necessary info. Have this prepared for your first lesson. I will make copies of the information to be shared with the class when sung in studio.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE pieces: Everyone will have at least one piece that is in a foreign language. For every piece that is not in English, you will be required to make an English translation. This means finding the appropriate dictionary and translating the song word for word. After you have done this, find a sound recording of the piece and check your translation against the one provided in the CD jacket. You can also refer to a published translation to check your work. These can be found in the library. (For information on specific books—see the vocal handbook appendices)

ARIAS: for every aria you sing, you will be expected to research the opera or oratorio from which it comes. Information that you will be required to find is: background on the story line/libretto; understanding of your character and what s/he experiences in the opera/oratorio; in what part of the opera/oratorio your aria takes place, etc.

3) **Lesson Journal**-Bring a cassette tape or **CD-R for music** to each lesson. You are required to write your thoughts, attitudes, and opinions on a sheet of paper each week reflecting upon the tape of your lesson. Often times you can better understand a point I make or a sound you make better after listening to the recording.

4) **Practice Journal**-Keep a log of time spent practicing. Within this log notate exercises worked on, questions that arise, music/issues tackled. Remember the practice time requirements discussed previously.

5) **Listening Journal**- Each student will listen to recording of assigned literature and type a report on each piece studied using the format designated at the end of this syllabus. You will also turn in your own list of repertoire to be studied in the Fall that has been researched this semester as a part of your listening assignment.

6) **Notes**- Keep all handouts from studio for future reference.

## FORUMS and STUDIOS.

**Forum** is held each Monday at noon. This offers each voice student the opportunity for solo performance before his/her peers and faculty. We hope to have other enriching opportunities incorporated into this venue. Majors and vocal concentrates are **required** to attend all scheduled vocal forums and to perform on one forum each semester.

**Studio** is held each Thursday from 3:30-5:00. This class may run over a bit- please make arrangements accordingly. Each person who is taking voice is required to attend this performance

class. For each class missed (**Forum and/or Studio**) without a proper excuse, an F will be entered into the average of studio grades acquired.

**Each student is expected to attend all faculty or guest recitals and recitals given by studio members.** For each faculty or guest recital missed without a proper excuse, an F will be entered into the average of studio grades acquired.

### **REPERTOIRE AND JURY REQUIREMENTS**

Repertoire varies each semester according to the educational needs of each student. The general guideline for freshmen includes 18th and 19th century Italian songs and possibly arias, English and American songs from the 19th and 20th century, with possibly a German song from the standard repertoire if the student is vocally ready. Sophomores continue with Italian and English songs, definitely add German songs, and may learn some of the easier French mélodies or bergerettes. Junior and senior students continue learning music chosen in conjunction with their teachers which suits the vocal and educational needs of each student. Since each student has different educational needs, operatic arias are assigned when the student is vocally ready.

### **GRADUATE LEVEL VOCAL REQUIREMENTS**

*Students cannot enroll for upper level voice (301X) until they have passed the Sophomore Proficiency*

#### **VOCAL PERFORMANCE MAJORS:**

Semesters 1, 2, 3, and 4: VOI 501X for 2 credit hours

12 songs (or 30 minutes) of memorized repertoire each semester

9 of these songs prepared for the jury

1 song of student's choice performed for the jury

1 song of the jury's choice performed for the jury

Graduate recital, students enroll in MUS 417 1 credit hour and VOI 501 2 credit hours during the semester in which the recital is to be presented. Vocal performance majors must present a junior and senior recital.

### **GRADING**

**PERFORMANCE**

**50% Studio**

**50% Jury**

**ALL OTHER MAJORS**

**66% Studio**

**33% Jury**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: For each section of your notebook missing or incomplete you will take a 5 point deduction from each lesson grade!**

### **STUDIO GRADE**

Lessons are graded based on the number of hours documented on your Practice Log.

8 hours practice required a week=12.5 points per hour of practice

10 hours practice required a week=10 points per hour of practice

The theory behind this grade equation is your preparation will directly reflect your product/progress.

Your notebook should be checked at each lesson. Each division of the notebook is worth 5 points.

These points will be deducted from your weekly lesson grade should your work need to be adjusted. If

you do not have practice logs, you will receive a 0 for the weekly grade. If you do not record your grade during your lesson time, you will receive a 0.

### **JURY GRADE**

Average of each professor's grade

### **OTHER NECESSARY INFORMATION**

*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 Policy: Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of religious holyday, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.*

*University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day (s) shall resent to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day (s). 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 absences (s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examination are to be completed.*

*Academic Honesty: Your policy must, at minimum, be compatible with stated university policy set forth in (§§5.3-5.32) of the Faculty Handbook (see italicized section below). The Faculty handbook sets forth in great detail examples and definitions of dishonest behavior; the faculty members' discretion in determining when dishonesty occurs and rendering penalties; procedures for discipline; and suggested wording for the individual professor's policy.*

*Proper Classroom Demeanor/Rules of Conduct: According to university policy and §5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that that is conducive to learning*

*" 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 distraction.*

*Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy."*