

Course Outline
MUS 108/208/308/408 Applied Music (Voice)
May 20, 2011

Department: Music
Credit Hours: 1 or 2
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor required.
General Education: A music course, 1or 2 semester hours
Learning Outcomes: I. B. and IV.B.

I. Course Description

Applied music lessons are private lessons tailored to the individual student. This one-on-one approach realizes that while responding to standard technical instructions, each student comes with a unique vocal background that must be perceived and understood: each God-given vocal instrument has its own potentials, individual strengths and weaknesses, problems, and varying degrees of musical skills.

II. Purpose of the Course

To develop and train the student's voice for SOLO singing and PERFORMANCE, at the same time developing skills that may also benefit the choral singer.

III. Learning Outcomes and Objectives

This course incorporates Lourdes University Learning Outcomes:

I. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World

Students can: B. Use knowledge, theories, or methods appropriate to the arts to understand their context and significance.

IV. Personal and Social Responsibility

Students can: B. Demonstrate knowledge of the richness of human diversity.

IV. Program learning Outcomes: N/A

V. Course Objectives

1. To become familiar with basic voice production: how the voice works, breathing, correct tone placement, diction, phrasing, interpretation, and vocal health.
2. To become familiar with music reading skills: rhythm and meter, scales and intervals, and descriptive terminology appearing in the music.
3. To learn to sing several musical selections with accurate intonation and rhythm, correct breathing and diction, pleasing tone quality, expressive phrasing, and poised delivery, possibly for public performance.
4. To learn about posture and stage deportment, handling of nerves, and a bit about the music itself, as aids to performance and interpretation.
5. To become familiar with the pronunciation of and singing in languages other than English, proceeding from English to Italian and Latin first, then others.

VI. Bibliography

Required Text:

The Instructor will suggest one or more books for each student, usually beginning with FOUNDATIONS IN SINGING, by Van A. Christy, available in our Bookstore. It is the student's responsibility to obtain this music as soon as possible after the first lesson.

VII. Topical Outline

Because of the individual nature of Applied Voice, a usual schedule is not appropriate.

EACH WEEK OF CLASS: A private lesson will be given on days when the school is open:

A SAMPLE SEQUENCE OF TEACHING OVER TWO YEARS OF STUDY

1. MUS 108: Principal Text: FOUNDATIONS IN SINGING by Van A. Christy. Read and study one chapter per week: 12 chapters on the fundamentals of correct singing technique and music reading.

(May be taken for two terms; 1 or 2 credit hours.)

Perfect 2-4 selections each term from FOUNDATIONS.
Perfect a series of vocalizes and warm-up exercises.
Practice exercises and songs ½ to one hour DAILY.
Begin study of English and Italian diction for singing.
Prepare and perform 1-2 selections from memory each term for the end-of-term Jury-Recital.

2. MUS 208: Continue vocal exercises and warm-ups; add technical studies as needed.

(May be taken for two terms; 1 or 2 credit hours.)

Perfect 2-4 selections each term from FOUNDATIONS.
Continue daily practice of ½ to one hour DAILY.
Continue English and Italian diction; begin German diction.
Add 1-2 selections each term from 24 Italian Songs and Arias, or other comparable Italian song book.
Perform at least 2 selections each term for Jury-Recital.

3. MUS 308: Begin study of longer English and Italian art songs/arias, per voice type and maturity of voice.

Continue warm ups and technical studies.
Practice assigned material 1-2 hours DAILY.
Continue German diction; begin French diction.
Begin study of oratorio literature: Messiah, Elijah, Bach cantatas.
Begin study of short operatic arias: Mozart, Gluck, etc.
Begin study of German lieder: Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schumann.
Begin study of 19th-20th century French art songs.
Perform at least 3 selections each term on Jury-Recital.

4. MUS 408: Continue warm ups and technical exercises.
Continue 1-2 hours practice DAILY.
Continue English, Italian, German, French diction.
Introduce other languages as appropriate: Spanish, Portuguese, etc.
Continue study of German lieder: Brahms, Strauss, Wolf.
Begin study of standard operatic literature: Verdi, Puccini, Bizet, Menotti, Britten, etc.
Continue study of 20th century English art songs.
Compile repertoire list from previous/current semesters of student and prepare and present full or partial public solo recital with program notes or lecture.
Perform 3-4 selections each term on Jury-Recital.