Course Description

Applied Voice is the study of singing at varied levels of musical and technical difficulty in the private studio setting. The student receives highly individualized instruction based on inherent, native vocal ability and degree concentration. Basic principles of singing such as breathing, tone production, legato singing, resonance, and synthesis of breath and sound are taught in a sequential approach that is reinforced with exploration of exercises, vocalises, and appropriate solo and chamber repertoire for the singer.

Course Topical Outline

The minimum course requirements for a typical semester of applied voice study:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>NUMBER OF SONGS STUDIED PER SEMESTER</th>
<th>NUMBER OF SONGS PREPARED FOR JURY</th>
<th>NUMBER OF LESSONS WEEKLY</th>
<th>RECITAL CLASS PERFORMANCE</th>
<th>ATTEND MASTER CLASSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUA 222</td>
<td>4 + 1 chamber piece*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUA 322</td>
<td>5 + 1 chamber piece*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUA 423</td>
<td>6 + 1 chamber piece*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUA 522</td>
<td>8 + 1 chamber piece*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>mandatory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chamber pieces will be selected and/or added at the discretion of the instructor; however, the chamber piece must be part of required repertoire at the barrier exam.

Students enrolled in voice are responsible for furnishing an appropriate accompanist as needed. The applied teacher will work with the student on securing an accompanist.

Course Goals and Objectives

The goal of applied voice study at USA is to supply each student with the tools and process required to master the fundamentals of vocal artistry and technique. It is only upon such a firm foundation that an advanced singing career can be built. Whether the student’s interest is classical or commercial singing, the basic elements of vocal education are constant. Through the experience of standard song, oratorio, opera, concert, chamber music, and music theater repertoire, a singer’s skills and range of expression is developed. It is our aim, therefore, to be specific in applying the
standards, practices, and expectations for a career in singing. **Recital Class is held every week on Monday from 2:30 – 3:45 PM in the Laidlaw Performing Arts Center Recital Hall.** Attendance at Recital Class is mandatory for all music majors at the 222, 322 and 423 levels, and it is strongly recommended that all vocal area students attend whenever possible.

**Course Pre-Requisites**

All students enrolled in applied voice will have successfully auditioned for the vocal area faculty for study at the 200 level. Students enrolled in 300 level and above must have successfully completed required semesters of 200 level study and passed the vocal barrier exam.

**Course Materials**

It is expected that a student enrolled in applied voice are in the process of preparing for a professional career as a musician; therefore, the acquirement of vocal literature in building one’s personal music library for future use is also expected. It is the student’s responsibility to purchase assigned music once repertoire is assigned by the teacher. The teacher will guide the student in how and where to purchased required collections and materials.

- **Repertoire Requirements**

Under their teacher’s supervision, each student will choose an appropriate number of songs to learn for their level during the semester. Literature must be chosen according to the **USA Vocal Area Guidelines**, including:
  - Sacred or oratorio (in English or Latin)
  - Early Italian (music written before 1800)
  - French mélodie (Romantic period)
  - German lied (Romantic period)
  - 20th century English art song
  - Chamber Music with at least one instrument other than piano
  - Music Theater, Opera, and Operetta

Upper level Voice Majors (300 and above) are expected to study song cycles, operatic arias and other concert works. The teacher will assist the student in exploration and expansion of vocal repertoire.

**Attendance Policy**

Regular studio contact is imperative for successful assimilation of both technique and repertoire. Singing is a physical act that requires supervised and consistent training; therefore, excessive absences impede the student’s ability to grasp concepts and achieve artistic confidence. Prior notification of any absence is required by leaving a
message 24 hours in advance, by phone or email. One unexcused absence will result in the automatic lowering of the student’s semester grade by one grade point. Two unexcused absences will result in the student being dropped from applied study.

- **Studio Master Class**

  Studio Master Class is a monthly group meeting of applied voice students in which performance issues and techniques are addressed. Studio Master Class will meet on the SECOND THURSDAY of each month. **Attendance at all studio and unified area master classes is mandatory for those studying at the 200 level and above.** Jury and barrier examination preparation is a specific focus, as well as other performance issues. There is no additional fee for Studio Class or Unified Master Class. Other workshops will be offered for the entire Vocal Area throughout the year.

- **Accompanist for Lessons**

  Having an accompanist at voice lessons maximizes the ability of the professor to concentrate on all aspects of a student’s vocal growth and progress. It also strengthens the student’s collaborative musicianship. Students will be provided an accompanist for their jury and/or recital by the university; however, payment for an accompanist at weekly lessons is the responsibility of the student. The department now requires the weekly accompaniment fee to be paid in the Music Office. This fee must be paid on or before Friday, October 3, or a hold will be placed on future student registration.

**Fall 2014 Semester**

Some measure of flexibility will be factored into the studio schedule to allow for weather emergencies, etc. Since all students do not progress at the same rate, this schedule and other requirements such as assignments and performances may be modified as circumstances dictate. Appropriate advance notice will be given in writing during class in an effort to conform to the spirit of policy statement 6.3.1 of the University of South Alabama Faculty Handbook. Regular attendance will insure that students are informed as to any changes made in the semester schedule or other course requirements. In the event that your teacher must miss a lesson, it will be rescheduled at the convenience of the student and the teacher. **All missed lessons due to teacher absences will be made up – preferably, in advance of the absence when possible. Lessons missed due to unexcused absence on the part of the student will not be made up. Regardless of holiday occurrence in the university calendar of classes, each student will receive 14 lessons during the semester. Therefore, some lesson times must be adjusted during the semester to accommodate such schedule variations.**

As it is certain that we can only begin to be artists after the music is memorized and we are away from the page, the following schedule of assignments should help any voice student to feel secure with the literature well before jury time.
Timetable for vocal applied studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of August 25, 2014</th>
<th>Syllabus Distribution and Semester Planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of September 2, 2014</td>
<td>All literature chosen and approved, request for accompanists submitted to Dr. Arakawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 20, 2014</td>
<td>Alabama NATS Fall Workshop with Don Simonson, Huntingdon College, Montgomery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 3, 2014</td>
<td>Auditions for USA Opera Theatre Spring Production: Mozart’s <em>Abduction from the Seraglio</em>, LPAC Recital Hall 2-5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6-7, 2014</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 10, 2014</td>
<td>Thomas Rowell, Faculty Voice Recital, 7:30 p.m. LPAC Recital Hall: <em>An Evening of British Music</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13/14, 2014</td>
<td>Fall Choral Concert: University Chorale and USA Concert Choir, LPAC Recital Hall, 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 24 and 26, 2014</td>
<td>Mobile Opera production of Massenet’s <em>Werther</em>, Mobile Civic Center Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of November 3, 2014</td>
<td><em>ALL REPERTOIRE MEMORIZED</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21 and 23, 2014</td>
<td>USA Opera Theatre Gala Scenes Concert, LPAC Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2, 2014</td>
<td>Holiday Concert: University Chorale and USA Concert Choir, LPAC Recital Hall, 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4, 2014</td>
<td>USA President’s Holiday Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 8, 2014</td>
<td>Voice Juries, LPAC Recital Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Criteria**

Each lesson will be graded on a scale of 0 – 5 (0 being lowest, 5 being highest) and grading will reflect preparation and improvement in eight areas of development as listed in the rubric below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation</th>
<th>Intonation</th>
<th>Musical Accuracy</th>
<th>Breath Management</th>
<th>Diction</th>
<th>Dynamic Expression</th>
<th>Interpretation &amp; Musicality</th>
<th>Sight Reading</th>
<th>INITIAL AVERAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Assignments for successive lessons will be made at each lesson, and the student is expected to prepare repertoire, exercises and vocalises accordingly. The average of each category will be lesson grade, and the student will be made aware of the lesson grade at the end of each lesson. The lesson grades are averaged at the end of the semester prior to applied voice juries to determine the studio grade.

The final grade for applied voice is determined as follows:

Studio grade = 2/3 of final grade
Jury grade = 1/3 of final grade
Letter grades will be assigned percentages for averaging in this manner:

- A  4.0 – 5.0
- B  3.0 – 3.9
- C  2.0 – 2.9
- D  1.0 – 1.9
- F  0 – 0.9

**Office Hours**

A minimum of 6 (six) hours per week are available for student consultation. Please consult the schedule on the office door for available times.

**Academic Disruption Policy**

The University of South Alabama’s policy regarding Academic Disruption is found in *The Lowdown*, the student handbook:

[http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicdisruption.shtml](http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicdisruption.shtml):

Disruptive academic behavior is defined as individual or group conduct that interrupts or interferes with any educational activity or environment, infringes upon the rights and privileges of others, results in or threatens the destruction of property and/or is otherwise prejudicial to the maintenance of order in an academic environment.

Students are expected to maintain cordiality, courteousness and respectful treatment of faculty members and fellow students.

**Student Academic Conduct Policy**

The University of South Alabama’s policy regarding Student Academic Conduct is found in *The Lowdown*, the student handbook:

[http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicconductpolicy.shtml](http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicconductpolicy.shtml):

*The University of South Alabama is a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of the individual are sustained. The University is committed to supporting the exercise of any right guaranteed to individuals by the Constitution and the Code of Alabama and to educating students relative to their responsibilities.*

Students who fail to comply with the standards of academic integrity as set forth by the University will be penalized through lowered grading initially and any infraction will be communicated to the department chair. Further infractions will result in academic misconduct proceedings at the college level.
**Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) will certify a disability and advise your faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor/professor and provide certification from the Office of Special Student Services. OSSS is located at 5828 Old Shell Road at Jaguar Drive, (251-460-7212).

**JagAlert Early Alert Program**

All 100-200 level classes at USA are required to participate in the JagAlert Early Alert Program. This academic aid is a mechanism for faculty to identify students who are struggling with course requirements and attendance in the first half of the semester and to enable communication between the student and professor to provide opportunities for success in course work.

**Maintenance of Hearing, Vocal, and Musculoskeletal Health and Injury Prevention**

Hearing, vocal, and musculoskeletal health, as well as injury prevention is important for all musicians but especially for student musicians. If you have concerns regarding your hearing, vocal, or musculoskeletal health or for injury prevention, please discuss your concerns with your applied professor, area coordinator, ensemble director, or department chair.

More information on hearing health can be found at:
[http://nasm.arts-accredit.org/site/docs/PAMA-NASM_Advisories/3a_NASM_PAMA-Student_Orientation_Script-Standard.pdf](http://nasm.arts-accredit.org/site/docs/PAMA-NASM_Advisories/3a_NASM_PAMA-Student_Orientation_Script-Standard.pdf);

or from the University of South Alabama Speech Pathology and Audiology Department at:
[http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/speechandhearing/contactus.html](http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/speechandhearing/contactus.html)

More information on vocal health can obtained from your applied professor or the University of South Alabama Speech Pathology and Audiology Department at:
[http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/speechandhearing/contactus.html](http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/speechandhearing/contactus.html)

More information on musculoskeletal health and injury prevention can be obtained from your applied professor or the University of South Alabama Physical Therapy Department at:
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