

Teri Johnson Voice Studio Syllabus

MUAP 3269/3270 TX A&M- Central TX

Lessons: You will have one hour lesson once a week.

Studio Class: Tuesdays @ 12:30 706 or BST. We will meet for studio class (master class for those enrolled as music majors). You will be assigned a date to sing and will come prepared to work your song/songs in the class.

Dates: *Jan. 22, 29 (Anxiety workshop w/ D. Kirkland), Feb. 12, 19, 26. Mar. 5, 19, 26, Apr. 9, 16, 30*

Grades:

Remember you are NOT graded on your talent alone. You earn your grade based on the audible and visible result of your vocal progress, time in the practice room as well as your overall preparation, interest, attitude, and attendance within the studio. Technical and musical improvement will be carefully noted. Short and long term goals will be set by the student and the teacher at the beginning of the semester.

See attached rubric for grading system.

Required:

- 1. You MUST bring your music (copies and/or music books) PLUS a pencil to every lesson. You will not have a lesson if you do not have your music with you. (Keep copies in a small 3 ring binder that will serve as your required notebook for the semester)**
- 2. Be on time to your lesson. If you are running late- text or call me. (attendance discussed later in this hand-out)**
- 3. Practice!! This is essential for improvement.**
- 4. Recording your lessons is required for majors Use your phone or other digital device.**
- 5. Water. Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Have a bottle of water with you in lessons.**
- 6. Accompanist- Music majors MUST have an accompanist play for Mid-term Jury, Recital Performance and Final Jury. They should come to two lessons before each unless otherwise discussed. You MUST pay your accompanist. Plan your budget! No pay- no play!! There will be names/numbers available.**

Attendance:

Lesson attendance is mandatory unless you are ill or have a reasonable excuse. If you are sick and need to miss a lesson please notify me ASAP. Participation is vital to your progress! You are allowed 1 excused absence. Additional excused or any unexcused absences will affect your final grade. I will make up 1 lesson you miss per semester. If I miss a lesson- I will do my best to make it up as well.

Tardiness:

I will not wait more than 10 minutes for any student unless notified that you are going to be late. I don't expect you to wait longer than 10 minutes for me either. Please wait those 10 minutes however, because I may be delayed by a meeting or rehearsal.

Repertoire:

Each level of study has a determined number of required repertoire. Each student's individual abilities and level also will be considered when choosing songs for the semester. You may bring into lessons music that you are preparing for an audition, church solo, talent show, etc. I want you to be fabulous for whatever singing opportunities you may have!!

Practicing:

You should devote approximately 20-30 minutes up to 1.5 hrs. a day in a practice room. Warm up for 5-10 minutes (you can use exercises we have worked on in lessons) and then work your repertoire.

Learning your music is the first priority! I personally recommend learning in this order- 1. RHYTHM 2. PITCHES. These items will be checked in lessons when starting new repertoire. 3. LANGUAGE/WORDS should be approached as a spoken monologue then added to correct rhythm and pitch. You will find that this will help with memory work and expedite the overall learning process.

When you have the song comfortably learned, you can devote practice time to applying the technical aspects of singing we will be covering in your lessons.

Juries:

Juries are the Mid-term and Final for individual applied lessons. You will sing your 2 songs we have chosen for your Recital performance for the Mid-term jury and then at least one new song for Final jury. Music Majors are required to sing a jury; non-majors are not required to sing a jury. First semester freshmen perform on recital at the discretion of instructor.

Notebooks: Each MUSIC MAJOR is required to keep a notebook for Applied Voice. This is to be organized and tidy when submitted. Do NOT turn in notebooks with choir music, theory notes, grocery lists, or other useless paraphernalia included in it.

In it you will keep-

- 1. copies of your music unless you are using a music book or anthology.**
- 2. word-for-word translations of any repertoire in a foreign language. Information on the opera or musical plot, and context from which the song/aria may be excerpted.**
- 3. biographical paragraph or two about each composer and poet/librettist, if available.**
- 4. a journal/diary of your lessons AND practice times. Two one paragraph entries per week or use the practice timesheets that are available from Ms. Johnson. I will check in bi-weekly on journal entries. Freshmen have weekly practice hand-outs.**
- 5. Journal/list of recordings studied of your assigned songs (YouTube, Spotify, Naxos Library- at least one song of your repertoire should be found on Naxos.) Keep a list of what, where, and who. Comment on your impressions of singer's musicality, phrasing, voice quality and other choices. Discuss what you like or dislike.**
- 6. Text/character Analysis sheets for each song. (These will be handed out)**

Notebook is worth 100 points and contributes to your final grade. Throughout the semester there will be assigned due dates for each of these 6 sections. You will need to bring the assigned section to your lesson. The entire collected notebook will be due at my studio door or submitted electronically via email or D2L after you have sung your jury at the end of the semester. Failure to turn it in will affect your grade.

Grading Rubric: (and refer to grading breakdown on page 4)

Voice Work and Artistic Goals (25% of grade) lessons, progress, recital, juries

Prepare the required number of pieces decided upon for the semester.

Perform the required number of pieces for recital, studio class, and/or juries.

Work towards vocal and artistic goals set by student and teacher through the semester.

Make vocal progress by understanding and mastering certain vocal concepts necessary for student's improvement

Working to understand and communicate emotion and text interpretation

Commitment to growth in presentation and style appropriate for repertoire.

Attendance and preparation (25% of grade) lessons, daily prep, practice

Attend the required number of weekly lessons and studio classes.

On time to lessons prepared with music, pencil, water, recording device, etc.

Acquired accompanist (when needed for juries and recital)

Shows weekly improvement through practice room time and lesson assessment.

Keep up with practice and lesson journal and arrive at lessons with completed assignments for that week.

Voice Notebook (15%)

Complete all 6 of the required areas and turn in the day of Final Jury.

Grade Descriptions:

A= Student has excelled in all areas of study. Student arrived for lessons prepared. He or she performed exceptionally well in studio, juries and/or recital, incorporating all elements of vocal study that have been a focus in lessons. Student prepared and presented the appropriate number of songs assigned for the semester. He or she submitted a notebook fulfilling all the requirements at a standard or above standard level. He or she has shown development in artistic ability and sensibility throughout the semester and has achieved success at meeting short and long term goals set at the beginning of the semester. Attendance is unblemished and participation in preparation through practice time for lessons has been consistent each week. Student kept up with practice/lesson journal and came to lessons with notebook assignments completed.

B= Student was not always prepared. Arrived several times to lessons without music or pencil. Student performance throughout the semester was standard but vocal progress on required songs was lacking due to sub-standard practice time. He or she met most of the short and long goals. Notebook was submitted but incomplete or late. Attendance was good but not ideal. Lesson/practice journal and weekly notebook assignments were not always completed.

C= Student was not prepared for lessons. Arrived at lessons without music or pencil multiple times. Student did not perform or prepare up to the standard of the short or long term goals set at the beginning of the semester. He or she did not prepare the required number of pieces for juries and/or recital. Notebook was not submitted or was turned in incomplete. Attendance was below average. Weekly assignments were not complete.

D= Student performed poorly in all areas and did not demonstrate interest or initiative to improve or practice throughout the semester.

F= Student failed to meet any of the requirements for progress, effort or attendance.

Grading breakdown-

50%- lessons, daily prep, progress, practice

20%- Student recital performance

5%-mid-term jury

10%- Final jury

15%-Notebook