



MUSC 142 VOICE CLASS FOR BEGINNERS

John Felice Rome Center

FALL 2024 SYLLABUS

Professor Delia Surratt

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Lesson Schedule Mondays

Lesson time 900 am-12:00PM

JOHN FELICE
ROME CENTER

Extra individual 20 min "homework "lesson* to be announced.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This is a core introductory course in singing open to any student who wants to understand how singing can become easy. It is open to both beginners and students with singing experience. No knowledge of music is necessary.

All fears in sound production are eliminated, including the fear of not being able to "carry a tune" through discovering how the human body works .

The speaking voice becomes warmer and more incisive. For Business majors this course is extremely important.

Under the guidance of the professor the class explores singing using the Italian musical repertory from the Art Song to Italian Pop music.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is structured in the following manner:

- 1) A basic understanding of the human body used as an instrument of sound production.
 - a) the important role of the brain,
 - b) breathing---the human body, used for singing and speaking, is a wind instrument.
 - c) the mouth and tongue positions.

2) Compositions to be studied:

All music used during the course except for the first song assigned, will be provided by the professor and will be exclusively Italian.

- a) Art songs to be studied from the following albums: Parisotti, "Arie Antiche" vol.1,2,3. Ed.Ricordi;
Knud Jeppesen, "La Flora" Arie Antiche vol. 1,2,3. Ed. Hansen.
- b) "Operetta in Europa" vol.1,2. Ed. Almanacco.

c) Operatic Arias by Monteverdi, Pergolesi, Paesello and Alessandro Scarlatti.

In addition to the above compositions, for advanced vocal students operatic arias by Donizetti, Rossini and Verdi will be studied.

d) Popular Music—Italian Pop music from the 30's, 40's 50's,60's,70's,80's, and 90's.

3) Study Method

The course also offers a methodic way to study vocal music:

a) The text---Translation, Italian diction for singing and an introduction to the "Vaccai" method of word division.

b) Physical coordination---Feeling how the body can make sound using the chosen pieces of music to employ the technical notions pointed out during the lessons. To memorize the quickly physically technical facts introduced during the course; students are advised to sing only under the guidance of the professor. Therefore, short individual "homework"* lessons will be given.

*Additional "homework" lessons are one on one individual 20 minute lessons given by the professor to guide the students in understanding and repeating the physical, technical facts introduced during the class time. Until the technique is understood physically, singing alone, without the professor's guidance, will impede progress.

c) Italian music---Part of the full cultural immersion at the Rome Center, the Italian language is perfect for singing because of its many vowels. The music will be chosen keeping in mind the students' personal goals and repertory preferences.

4) Advanced voice students----If the student is advanced in vocal study, the art of coloratura and embellishments will be introduced.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

a) Attendance is fundamental. No more than one absence will be permitted. Each additional absence will incur a 1% drop in the final grade. DO NOT ATTEND CLASS IF YOU ARE ILL. Provide a note from the nurse or doctor.

b) Homework: 1) home reviewing of the papers that the professor distributes in class.

2)attending the "homework" lessons.*

3)Listening to the audio clips given by the professor to learn the music without singing.

4)Practicing the exercises given to stimulate the imagination (brain training)

c) Listening assignments---Attending an opera or a vocal recital during the semester.

d) Healthy vocal cords---which means that the student has a natural voice that hasn't been misused to the point of having nodes on the vocal cords.

GRADING

The students will be judged by the following criterion: Attendance, homework assigned, midterm and final exams.

PERCENTAGE POINTS IN GRADING

- a) 30% participation ---the coordination of the technical notions learned while singing in class. The students will be judged by the correct usage of the technique learned.
- b) 15% homework --- attending the homework lessons*. Listening to the voice clips given by the professor to learn the music without singing. Practicing the exercises given to stimulate imagination. (Brain training)
- c) 20% midterm exam---singing an Italian Art Song
- d) 35% final exam---singing a second song chosen after the midterm from the repertory mentioned in the syllabus, plus a written exam on the technical facts learned during the course.

GRADING

94-100: A

90-93: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-73: C-

67-69: D+

60-66: D

59 or lower : F

SCHEDULE OF CLASS THEMES

- Sept.2 Introduction to the Art of Singing
- a) the human body as an instrument of sound.
 - b) an audition of each student's basic singing voice.
- Sept .9 Breathing---the fundamental basis for sound
- a) coordination of this natural function under the guidance of the professor using song.
- Sept. 16 The important role of the brain
- a) checking the breathing with the sound production of each student.
 - b) the importance of distance perception in making intense sound.
 - c)the students use these notions singing an art song under the guidance of the professor.
- Sept.23 How to study vocal music
- a) the Vaccai method of word division
 - b) student singing using the notions explored during the previous lessons
- Sept. 30 The positions of the mouth and tongue.
- a) mouth openings that change with the various areas of the vocal range.
 - b) the importance of a relaxed tongue
 - c) student singing exploring these technical notions.
- Oct. 7 of the technical notions with the Italian art songs chosen.
- Oct.11 ---Oct.20 Fall Break
- Oct.21 Rehearsal and midterm exam.
- Oct.28 Student singing-- reviewing the coordination of the technical notions explored in the previous lessons using new repertory. (Italian pop songs, operetta, opera arias etc.)
- Nov.4 Using the new repertory -----Student singing, reviewing the coordination of the technical notions explored in the previous lessons under the guidance of the professor
- Nov.11 Singing under the guidance of the professor.
- Nov.18 Singing under the guidance of the professor.

Nov.25 Singing under the guidance of the professor.

Dec.2 Review

Dec.9 Final exam