

University of North Texas

College of Music

MUAG 1224 Section 502: Voice Class for Music Majors

SPRING 2025 Course Syllabus

COM Rm. 320 Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:30-1:50 pm RM: 320

Instructor: Genevieve Cardos

Office: Bain Hall Rm 309

Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00 pm by Appointment

Contact: Genevievecardos@my.UNT.edu

Course Objective

To gain understanding of the basics of singing through various techniques including:

- Preparing your mind and body to sing and releasing any tension that hinders your performance
- Treating your body as an instrument, your own instrument, and using it to enable beautiful sound production
- Performing vocal exercises and warm ups to prepare your voice and all its organs to sing
- Practicing healthy breathing techniques to enable a fluid, free and resonant sound quality
- Working to produce strong onsets and offsets to enable singing with constancy of tone in a uniform manner through each phrase from start to finish
- Working on developing a healthy resonant voice quality that is free of tension and has a great vibrant quality
- Developing skills for articulation and diction, using IPA transcription and pronunciation
- Preparing to expressively tell the story behind each song using skills you have and those you will learn to make artistic choices that enable a memorable performance experience
- Understanding the vocal registers and voice classification, how they work for each voice type and what appropriate repertoire to choose for yourself or your student. Consider vocal performance as a medium of communication and deep self-expression
- Establishing a reasonable and healthy practice routine and enabling discipline to see it through

- Bringing awareness to yourself and your students of general physical, mental and emotional health, wellbeing and mindfulness to ensure a strong and health conscious performance lifestyle to enable longevity while finding joy and cultivating a passion for singing

Course Materials

Cantabile Voice Class: A Manual about Beautiful, Lyrical Singing for Voice Classes and Choral Singers. By Katherine Rundus, available at Pavane Publishing, distributed by Hal Leonard

Grading

- Attendance at class times is mandatory. You are allowed three unexcused absences. After three unexcused absences your final grade will be lowered by 2 points for each additional unexcused absence.
- Excused absences may be granted for university-sponsored commitments, religious observations, or serious emergencies. In order to receive an excused absence, you must document your absence with your instructor in advance.

Grading Evaluation

Class participation 15%

Class Performances 25%

Midterm 20%

Assignments/Quizzes 10%%

Final Exam 30%

Class Participation

When presenting in class, you are expected to create a positive and safe environment for your classmates by supporting their work and being an active member of the group.

In-Class Performances

- There will be three performances throughout the semester every student will perform three times in the class during this semester
- Performance dates TBA.
- You can choose the same song for all three performances or choose to do a different one. Memorization of the piece is encouraged but not required.
- During our Thursday voice labs, you will all have the opportunity to recite your texts, poetically, expressively and dramatically as the text and music dictates. Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone in order to express yourself through your music

Rubric:**You will always:**

1. inform the class the **title**, **composer** and **year of composition** and what the song is about.
2. You will have 5 minutes to perform your piece and five minutes for compliments and comments. Always always and always be respectful and appreciative of your colleagues effort to perform and use respectful commentary always.
3. **Genres**: Classical, Musical Theatre,
4. **Language**: English, Italian, French, Spanish

Third Performance

- You will inform the class the title, composer, year of composition and what the song is about before performing
- You will inform the class of the source of the poetry or text of the song. Who is it by?
- Finally, you will sing the song taking into consideration, the dramatic text recitation and singing techniques previously discussed in class

Performances

- Missed performance days will only be “made up” under emergency circumstances. All other reasons for missing your assigned singing day will result in 0% for the assignment.
- The instructor will provide guidance and support to students throughout the learning and performing process by offering vocal technique, performance, diction, and style instruction in both group and individual learning environments.

Class Readings and Performance Schedule

WEEK	DATE (TUES)	READINGS/ DISCUSSION	WEEK	DATE (THURS)	APPLIED THEORY AND PERFORMANCE LAB
WEEK 1	01/14	Introduction and course overview	WEEK 1	01/16	

WEEK 2	01/21	Anchor 1 TENSION AND RELEASE	WEEK 2	01/23	
WEEK 3	01/27	Anchor 2 ALIGNING YOUR INSTRUMENT	WEEK 3	01/30	
WEEK 4	02/04	Anchor 3 OPENING THE VOCAL TRACT	WEEK 4	02/06	
WEEK 5	02/11	Anchor 4 BREATHING FOR SINGING	WEEK 5	02/13	
WEEK 6	02/18	Anchor 5 STARTING AND STOPPING THE TONE	WEEK 6	02/20	
WEEK 7	02/25	Anchor 6 RESONANCE IN SINGING	WEEK 7	02/27	TBD
WEEK 8	03/04	Anchor 7 VOCAL REGISTERS	WEEK 8	03/06	
WEEK 9	03/11	SPRING BREAK	WEEK 9	03/13	SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10	03/18	Anchor 8/9. ARTICULATION AND DICTION	WEEK 10	03/20	
WEEK 11	03/25	Anchor 10. MUSICAL EXPRESSION: TELLING THE STORY	WEEK 11	03/27	TBD
WEEK 12	04/01	Anchor 11. ATTENTIVE AND DELIBERATE PRACTICE	WEEK 12	04/03	TBD
WEEK 13	04/08	Anchor 12. VOCAL HEALTH	WEEK 13	04/10	TBD
WEEK 14	04/15	Anchor 13	WEEK 14	04/17	TBD
WEEK 15	04/22	REVIEW	WEEK 15	04/24	TBD
WEEK 16	04/29	REVIEW	WEEK 16	05/01	LAST DAY OF CLASS
WEEK 17	05/06	FINALS	WEEK 17	05/08	FINALS

