

Topics in Vocal Literature: German Art Song
Spring 2026

MUAG 4250/5310

Instructor: Dr. Willem van Schalkwyk

MU 288

Credits: 2

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm or other times as arranged; by appointment

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Course Description

Rather than being a survey that tries to briefly mention the entire contents of the repertoire, this course will be an indepth examination of representative works by composers who have made significant contributions to the genre of the German *lied*. While a large focus will be on major composers, time will also be spent on lesser known individuals who have written works that ought to be more widely known.

Through score study, listening, lectures, reading, and class discussion, students will develop their understanding of each composer's writing for both the voice and the piano, as well as deepen their comprehension of the poetic contents of the texts. Through directed listening, students will also gain insight into the artistry of notable interpreters of the genre. This knowledge will ultimately be applied in their study of *lieder* to be performed in class, with the goal of achieving a higher level of interpretation.

Course Objectives

- Strong familiarity with a selection of *lieder*
- Knowledge of the important German literary movements and the individual poets whose contributions were set to music
- Understanding of each composer's stylistic traits – both for the voice and the piano – in order to achieve utmost stylistic and artistically informed performance
- Familiarity with a number of important interpreters of German *lied*

Course Materials

There is no required textbook; instructor will share reading materials, scores, and recordings electronically.

Assignments and Grading

- Class participation: 25% of final grade
 - A discerning ear and a facility in critical thinking are crucial foundations for any musician, and these will be developed through class discussion. Every student should participate regularly. Participation will constitute a significant portion of the final grade, and while attendance will not be taken, being absent automatically disadvantages any individual in this category.
 - Any reading assigned before class would be crucial to complete in order to effectively participate in class.

- Listening Exams: 25% of final grade
 - Each week, students will be assigned 15-20 minutes of repertoire for which they will listen to designated recordings – a different recording on each day for five days – to help internalize the sound of the music, as well as getting to know the voices of prominent interpreters. While listening it is advised to also follow along in the score. There will be two listening tests in the semester to evaluate both the retention of the repertoire, and the recognition of the voices of 14 notable singers. Just like practicing your instrument or singing, it is crucial to do it in small amounts daily, rather than trying to do it all at once right before the test.

- Presentation: 25% of final grade
 - Each student will give a 15-minute presentation on one of the 14 abovementioned singers during the semester. We will assign singers to each student at the beginning of the semester.

- Class performances at the end of the semester: 25% of final grade
 - Each undergraduate student will perform 2 selections from memory, while graduate students will perform 3 selections from memory.
 - Repertoire should be chosen in consultation with applied teacher and class instructor.
 - A couple of class meetings will be replaced with individual coachings with singers help prepare them for these performances.

Schedule Outline

January 12 (M)

- Introduction and context

January 14 (W)

- German language and literature

January 16 (F)

- Loewe

January 19 (M) – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO CLASS

January 21 (W)

- Beethoven

January 23 (F) – No class, individual coachings

January 26 (M)

- Schubert

January 28 (W)

- Schubert

January 30 (F)

- Schubert

February 2 (M)

- Schubert

February 4 (W)

- Schubert

February 6 (F)

- SINGER PRESENTATIONS
Fritz Wunderlich – RAMERO VARGAS
Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau – PEPPER VISSER

February 9 (M)

- Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn

February 11 (W)

- Schumann

February 13 (F)

- Schumann

February 16 (M)

- SINGER PRESENTATIONS
Matthias Goerne – SOOYEON KIM
Christian Gerhaher – RUHA LEE
Brigitte Fassbaender – RACHEL CUNNINGHAM

February 18 (W)

- Schumann

February 20 (F)

- Clara Schumann

February 23 (M)

- Brahms

February 25 (W)

- Brahms

February 27 (F)

- SINGER PRESENTATIONS
 - Christa Ludwig – YAXUAN LI
 - Jessye Norman – CHRISTEN CALDWELL
 - Jonas Kaufmann – ABIGAIL BAHNG

March 2 (M)

- Brahms

March 4 (W)

- Brahms

March 6 (F)

- SINGER PRESENTATIONS
 - Thomas Quasthoff – MADISON FROST
 - Diana Damrau – JULIANA CARDEN

March 9-13 – Spring Break – NO CLASS

March 16 (M)

- Liszt

March 18 (W)

- Liszt

March 20 (F)

- LISTENING EXAM #1

March 23 (M)

- Strauss

March 25 (W)

- Strauss

March 27 (F)

- Strauss

March 30 (M)

- Strauss

April 1 (W)

- Strauss

April 3 (F) – No class, individual coachings

April 6 (M)

- Wolf

April 8 (W)

- Wolf

April 10 (F)

- Wolf

April 13 (M)

- SINGER PRESENTATIONS
 - Bryn Terfel – ETHAN MATOUS
 - Ian Bostridge – MASON CLARKSON
 - Anne Sofie von Otter – LAUREN ABELL

April 15 (W) – Guest Instructor: Dr. Elvia Puccinelli

April 17 (F) – Guest Instructor: Dr. Elvia Puccinelli

April 20 (M)

- Mahler

April 22 (W)

- Gustav and Alma Mahler

April 24 (F)

- LISTENING EXAM #2

April 27 (M)

- CLASS PERFORMANCES

April 29 (W)

- CLASS PERFORMANCES

May 1 (F) – Reading day – NO CLASS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that

students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Spring Academic Calendar Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

Semester Calendar, Spring 2026

See: [Spring Semester Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/spring-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2026

See above

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music

scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>