



Music 411/412/413/414 – Elementary Voice I, II, III, IV (2 Units)

Spring Semester-Even Year = Latin & Italian

Associate Degree Applicable: General Studies, Music for Transfer, Local GE Plan, CSU GE Plan, IGETC, Arts & Humanities

Transferable: UC, CSU, and most accredited four-year institutions (keep this syllabus)

Spring 2020: Mon & Wed – 3:30-5:00 PM

Instructor: Dr. Joshua R. Wentz

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Office Hours: Mon & Wed 2-3:30 pm & by appointment

Office Locations: AMP building 202-h

Course Description: An introduction to vocal technique and aesthetic interpretation/expression, including posture and alignment, breath management, phonation, resonance, and articulation.

Catalog Course Description: An introduction to vocal technique and aesthetic interpretation/expression, including posture and alignment, breath management, phonation, resonance, and articulation.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

The student will perform (at least one) assigned solo piece with accompaniment in front of a live audience.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe proper vocal technique and evaluate the technique of other singers.
2. Identify and interpret the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).
3. Assess the stage presence of other singers (and yourself).
4. Describe the techniques of repertoire mastery including memorization strategies and interpretation including popular songs, folk songs, and spirituals.
5. Employ proper vocal technique.
6. Use proper English (and foreign language) diction.
7. Demonstrate acceptable stage presence.
8. Perform appropriate repertoire.

Policies for Voice Classes: (as adapted from Los Angeles Mission College Catalog)

Attendance: Students who have pre-registered for a class and who do not attend the first meeting of the class forfeit their right to a place in the class. Students are expected to attend every meeting of all classes for which he or she is registered. A student will be permitted one week of absences (in most cases, this is ONLY two class sessions). I do not differentiate between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. You are allowed to miss two classes without penalty, regardless of the reason. Beyond that, you will lose half a letter grade per absence. Three tardies = one absence. It is the student’s responsibility to officially drop any class he/she does not continue to attend.

Cell Phones: I like cell phones. In fact, I have one. I encourage you to bring your phone to voice class and record *everything!!!* If you record the songs you’re assigned as you’re learning them, you’ll have a free, easy-to-use tool to listen to when you get home to help you learn your repertoire – Imagine that?! But while you’re recording, please turn them off or set to vibrate, as to not disrupt class. Do not text on your cell phone during class (or Snapchat) etc.

Break: Students are encouraged to take a break, not to exceed 10 minutes during the middle portion of the class. I **don’t usually give a formal break**, so take one when you need it.

Books

Required: None, though you will be assigned 2-5 songs that you will be responsible for acquiring. This might mean you would need to BUY the music, if you can’t find it online, in the library, or through Dr. J or Bob.

Always have the following to be fully prepared for class:

- Phone or recording device
- Printed music for any songs you’ve been assigned
- Headphones and listening device (phone, computer) to access recordings
- Lined Note Book (or loose paper) for notes and quizzes
- Proper attire (or costume pieces) for performances

Assessment

Performances: There will be at least 3 performances that you will perform throughout the semester, both in class and in the public. You will be graded on Accuracy, Memorization, Tempo, Dynamics, Technique, and Tone. You must attend each recital except in rare circumstances (serious illness, death in the family, religious holiday) with written documentation prior to the recital. Dress is concert attire, or costume, appropriate for a recital. The final will be recorded & family and friends are invited. A rubric is available on Canvas.

Exams: There will be several short written or performed technical quizzes throughout the semester. The final exam will be a written test scheduled on the LAMC Finals Schedule and will consist of a comprehensive understanding of materials covered throughout the semester from the textbook and from the professor.

IPA Asgnt: Use of International Phonetic Alphabet Each student will be assigned an English poem to transcribe into the International Phonetic Alphabet. Format: This paper may be typed or handwritten. The English should be written on one line, with the IPA written directly below it. A space should be skipped between each line of text. Paper is due at the beginning of class. Any papers not handed in after attendance is taken will count at ½ credit. Any papers handed in after class is dismissed will receive no credit.

SSB: Students are required to learn the Star-Spangled Banner during the course of the semester, to be performed in public as small groups or solos for LAMC Athletics games. Students will sign-up to sing at one event (or more) and those students will be required to show up before the event, warm-up, and sing the song *a cappella* in a public setting. Voice I students may elect to sing in a small group, but Voice II, III, and IV students should plan to sing as soloists.

Scale:

A = 3.8 - 4.0	C = 2.0 - 2.2	A = 100% - 90%
A- = 3.5 - 3.7	C- = 1.6 - 1.9	B = 89% - 80%
B+ = 3.2 - 3.4	D+ = 1.3 - 1.5	C = 79% - 70%
B = 2.9 - 3.1	D = 1.2 - .09	D = 69% - 60%
B- = 2.6 - 2.8	D- = 0.7 - 0.9	F = 59% - 0%
C+ = 2.3 - 2.5	F = 0.0 - 0.6	

Evaluation

Grading:	In-Class Performances =	20%	(200 points)	2 @ 100 each
	Final Recital / Jury =	25%	(250 points)	
	Final Exam =	20%	(200 points)	
	Star-Spangled Banner =	10%	(100 points)	
	IPA Assignment(s) =	15%	(150 points)	
	Quizzes / Homework =	10%	(100 points)	

Calendar

Spring 2020 LAMC Student Deadlines and College Holidays

- Classes begin: **February 10**
- Last day to add: Credit/Audit: **February 9**
- Last day to add a class with an Add Permission Code: **February 24**
- Last day to drop classes with a refund or without incurring fees: **February 23**
- Last day to drop classes with a "W" – A letter grade is required after this date – **May 10**
- Classes end: **June 1**
- FINAL EXAMS: **June 2 - 8**

Holidays (College CLOSED)

- President's Day – **February 14 & 17**
- Non-Instructional Days – **February 15 & 16**
- Cesar Chavez Day – **March 31**
- Spring Break – **April 6 – April 12**
- Non-Instructional Day – **April 13**
- Memorial Day – **May 25**

******This schedule is so darned incredibly subject to change******

Date	Scheduled activity	Practice Assignments
2/10	Intro to Class / Welcome / Nametags / Song Game	What are your music/voice goals
2/12	Movement, Support/Space, Vocalizing,	Record children's song into your phone for assessment; Choose a song for Recital 1
2/19	Body movement, posture, walking, performing; Group work – self/partner assessment – Children's song	Read "The Perceived Benefit of Singing" Assessment #1 DUE (Children's Song)
2/24	Short canons & Technical Quiz #1 practice; Discuss article	Prepare for Technical Quiz #1
2/26	Group singing, Sight-reading skills, Private coaching	Technical quiz #1 – Canons
3/2	Prepare for Recital #1 (Choice Song)	Assessment #2 DUE (Choice)
3/4	Recital #1 – Choice Song	Bring RECITAL RUBRIC
3/9	Group singing, Coaching, Star-Spangled Banner Rehearsing rep, scales and technical exercises	Record SSB in phone for Assessing Assign Italian opera pieces & 10 Rules
3/11	Introduction to Italian/Latin language, IPA, 7 Italian vowels, Italian Repertoire – mass, madrigal, opera, operetta, etc.	Assessment #2 DUE (SSB) Assign IPA Worksheet #1
3/16	Intro to IPA, Pure vowels, Open/Closed vowels Practice scales and arpeggios in group & as individuals	IPA Worksheet #1 DUE Record Italian song for Assessing
3/18	Continuation of IPA and Practice with writing symbols	Technical quiz #2 – Arpeggios Read opera article
3/23	Reading quiz, discuss article, private coaching	Italian Song Translation DUE
3/25	Continue coaching Italian rep, working vowels & lines Assign and go over IPA Worksheet #2	Italian Song IPA DUE Record Italian song in phone for assess
3/30	Prepare for Recital #2 (Italian art song)	IPA Worksheet #2 DUE Assessment #3 DUE (French)
4/1	Recital #2 – Italian Art Song	Bring RECITAL RUBRIC
4/13	Group singing; work canons, scales, and arpeggios Breathing, Appoggio, & Passaggio	Assign opera/operetta duets and arias Homework: Watch assigned show
4/15	Styles; Breath control (Inhalation/Exhalation); Review Perf.	Read acting/stage article
4/20	Discuss article; Character study; How to do a Character Analysis	Homework: Character Analysis
4/22	Coaching, Character studies, Staging/Blocking/Movement	Character Analysis DUE
4/27	Staging: Facial expression, hands, movement, and stage presence (focus on body freedom and movement)	Read FINAL article
4/29	Discuss article; Draw larynx and discuss anatomy & phys. Introduce Technical Quiz #3 – Major scales; Practice	
4/31	Catch-up; Coaching and Recital Prep; Groupwork	Technical quiz #3 – Major scales
5/4	Explore repertoire and styles: including popular songs, folk songs, spirituals	
5/6	Coaching and private rehearsals	
5/11	Partner work on Final Recital & Coachings	Technical Quiz #4 – Minor scales
5/13	TBD	Possible 12-2 pm Run Out Concert
5/18	Coaching and private rehearsals	
5/20	Coaching and private rehearsals	Assessment #4 DUE (Opera/Operetta)
5/25	Concert/Performance – LAMC Theater – 7 PM show	AMP Theater (Dress rehearsal at 3:30 pm)
5/27	Final Exam study/review	
6/8	Final Exam - (5:30 – 7:30 PM)	