

University of North Florida Department of Music
Applied Voice Syllabus

Course: Applied Voice
Course Numbers: MVV 1311
CRN: 10576
Term: Spring 2009 (January 5 – April 24)
Professor: Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki – Baritone – Head of Applied Voice
Semester Hours: 2 Semester hours per course
Office: Building 45 / Fine Arts Center Room 2308
Office Tel: (904) 620-3852
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Office Hours: 1:00 – 2:00 on Mondays & Wednesdays or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

The objective of applied voice lessons at the undergraduate level is to improve the student's level of proficiency as a singing musician including development of vocal technique, communication and performance skills, as well as expanding their knowledge of standard vocal repertoire, appropriate performance practices, and overall appreciation for the vocal arts.

ATTENDANCE AND LESSON CANCELLATIONS:

Each student is required to attend one 50 minute lesson per week (14 lessons per semester). Attendance is mandatory therefore students are required to arrive on time, warmed up and ready to begin the lesson. If the student is unable to attend a scheduled lesson time, the student must contact the professor at least 24 hours prior to the lesson time. In case of emergency or illness on the day of scheduled lesson the student is encouraged to call the professor's mobile telephone number after 7:00 AM, or by calling UNF Music Department Office at 620-2961. Lessons that have been properly cancelled will be made up at mutually convenient times. Unexcused absences, tardiness, and lack of preparation will not be tolerated and will adversely affect the student's grade. Performance Labs and Masterclass participation should also be treated as lessons when it comes to cancellation or postponements.

Note: Due to research, university service, and departmental responsibilities Dr. Biernacki will not be able to make up more than two lessons per semester. Students who are absent more than two times per term will not be allowed to make up their lessons.

PROFESSOR'S ABSENCE:

It is anticipated that the professor may miss a lesson anytime during the semester due to illness, performance, schedule conflicts, or departmental duties. Whenever possible, Dr. Biernacki will contact the student by telephone or email to postpone a scheduled lesson. A list of possible make up times will then be posted on the studio door (Room 2308) for the students to choose from, or a make up lesson will be promptly rescheduled to a mutually convenient time.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS:

Vocal repertoire will be assigned according to student's present vocal & linguistic abilities, graduation requirements, and personal musical interests. Repertoire selections will be chosen from the standard classical repertoire ranging in style from Baroque to 20th century. Vocal

selections will consist of opera, oratorio, art song, and concert repertoire intended to be sung in its original languages including English, German, Italian, Latin, and French. Students are also encouraged to explore and experiment with repertoire in other languages such as Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Czech. Furthermore, students are encouraged to select their own repertoire which then will be approved by their professor.

Minimum repertoire requirements for each term are listed below. Selections have to be fully prepared and possibly memorized.

MVV 1311	6 – 8 selections per term
MVV 2321	8 – 10 selections per term
MVV 3331	10 – 14 selections per term
MVV 4341	10 – 16 selections per term

Note: The UNF Vocal Department reserves the right to change any of the above requirements depending on the student's progress or personal circumstances.

STUDIO EXPECTATIONS:

All voice students are expected to do the following:

- Practice five days per week for at least one hour. Individual practice sessions should include work on development of vocal technique as well as repertoire.
- Diction sessions
- Provide translations of selections in foreign language such as German, Italian, French, Latin, Russian or Czech. There are numerous translation sources available in the Carpenter Library or on line. Students will be expected to utilize them on a regular basis.
- Prepare music to the best of their abilities including complete memorization of assigned repertoire.
- Record their voice lessons in audio or video format.
- Regularly listen to recordings and watch videos of other singers performing traditional vocal repertoire including opera, oratorio, art song, and concert repertoire. Some attention should also be paid to singers with voice types other than their own.
- Attend live performances of operas, concerts, and recitals.
- Read vocal literature including books (biographies), magazines, periodicals, and other publications (ex. electronic journals).
- Regularly visit Internet sites and on-line resources for singers.
- Take good care of their physical, mental health & fitness.

PERFORMANCE LABS & VOICE MASTERCLASSES:

Performance Laboratory is a forum in which students perform for UNF faculty and other music students. Students must enroll and successfully complete eight semesters of Performance Labs in order to satisfy their degree requirements. They are offered every Friday between 12:00 and 12:50 PM in Recital Hall (room 1200) with the exception for first Friday of each month. In addition to mandatory attendance, voice students are also required to perform at least once per semester. Repertoire selections performed at the lab must be memorized and approved by the voice teacher. Applications are available either from Dr. Nick Curry (nick.curry@unf.edu - room 2008) or from the front office.

In addition to Performance Labs UNF Voice Department will host regular Voice Masterclasses with visiting artists and professionals in the field. Such masterclasses provide the students with the opportunity to coach their repertoire in a Masterclass setting, get secondary opinions, and

experience different teaching approaches and methodologies from respected pedagogues and professionals. **Masterclass attendance and participation is MANDATORY!** Specific dates will be posted at a latter date. Please watch Voice & Opera Board for date announcements.

Every UNF Voice student is required to attend all of Performance Labs and UNF Voice Masterclasses each semester even if they are not performing. Voice students singing at Performance Labs are expected to dress appropriately including suits and/or ties for men, and performance dresses or gowns for women. Men are also encouraged to invest in a good pair of “leather sole” stage / dress shoes, which can be used for auditions and performance purposes only.

STUDIO PIANISTS:

The collaborative pianist for Dr. Biernacki’s studio is Ms. Denise Wright. Unless there is a compelling reason otherwise, Mrs. Clark should be engaged for lessons, rehearsals, recitals, masterclasses, and Performance Labs. She can be reached via the following contacts:

Home Tel: (904) 693-6942

Mobile Tel: (904) 316-9580

Email: N/A

Once the repertoire has been selected, the student is responsible for providing two studio binders containing photocopies of the repertoire for the whole semester. Binders have to be clearly marked with students first and last name. Repertoire scores must be properly photocopied including all notes on the page. Repertoire binders are meant to be kept in the applied voice studio and not taken out at every possible occasion.

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT FEE:

The fee for all studio accompaniment services for each student is \$300 per semester. The fee includes approximately 7 full repertoire lessons with a pianist (every second lesson), semester jury, Masterclasses, and Performance Labs. The piano accompaniment fee does not include additional rehearsal time, solo recitals, or engagements outside of UNF Department of Music. The student is responsible for all financial and scheduling arrangements with the collaborative pianist. The piano accompaniment fee has to be paid by **January 30th 2009** by check or cash payable directly to the pianist. Students who have not paid their pianist by the above due date will not be able to continue applied voice lessons.

JURIED EXAMINATIONS IN APPLIED VOICE:

All music majors must take a juried examination at the end of each semester on their primary instrument or voice. This jury is a performance-based final examination constituting 33% of the student’s final applied music grade. The material performed on the jury will reflect the student’s work during the semester as determined by the student’s applied professor. Procedures are as follows:

1. A jury panel will consist of at least three faculty members.
2. Each jury panelist will evaluate the student’s performance and calculate a grade. These grades will then be given to the student’s professor who will average jury grades before calculating the final grade.
3. Each juror’s sheet is to be reviewed with the student by the applied professor after completion of the jury.
4. Original jury sheets will be filed in the music office after semester juries are over. Copies of each jury sheet will also be distributed to each applied professor.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THE STUDENTS:

1. Students must sign up for a jury time. Available jury times will be posted in the door of Room 1404 (Choral Room) approximately one week before jury.
2. Jury attendance is mandatory. Students who do not show up for the semester jury will receive a failing grade in Applied Voice.
3. In case of emergency or illness students are required to notify their Applied Professors as soon as possible with hopes of making alternate jury examination arrangements. Such arrangements will be made only in case of true emergencies and serious illnesses with no exceptions.
4. Students should be prepared to sing earlier or later than their listed time.
5. The student must provide each jury panelist with a thoroughly completed **Applied Voice Jury Examination Sheet**. Forms are available in the music office. If the Jury Sheet needs to be photocopied, please make sure to photocopy both sides of the page.
6. All students are required to provide the jury panel with the original score or single photocopy of each selection listed on the jury sheet. All photocopied selections must be presented to the jury panel in a three-ring binder. All music must be properly photocopied in the standard 8 ½ by 11 format on white paper.
7. Students are expected to make sure that their pianists have all of their music to be performed as part of jury examination.
8. All selections (including oratorio) must be presented from memory with piano accompaniment.
9. Semi-formal attire (including appropriate footwear) is required.

JURY REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH YEAR OF APPLIED VOICE STUDY INCLUDE:

MVV 1311 (1st year) = 4 selections in contrasting languages and styles
 MVV 2321 (2nd year) = 5 selections in contrasting languages and styles
 MVV 3331 (3rd year) = 5 selections in contrasting languages and styles
 MVV 4341 (4th year) = 6 selections in contrasting languages and styles

JURY EXEMPTION:

Students who have successfully completed (or are in the process of preparing) a senior recital as part of their graduation requirements are exempt from the final voice jury. **No exemptions for students performing junior recitals!** For additional information regarding jury regulations and departmental requirements please refer to *UNF Music Student Handbook* under “Juried Examinations”.

GRADING POLICY & MARK BREAKDOWN:

The final mark for each term will be calculated as follows:

50% = Studio work and preparation for lessons
 30% = Term Jury
 10% = Performance Labs and Voice Masterclasses
 10% = Attitude

UNF Department of Music Grading System

A = 90 – 100%
 B = 80 – 89%
 C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%
F = 59% or below

Note: **Students who receive a final grade lower than a ‘B’ in Applied Voice will be put on academic Probation.** For additional information regarding academic probation and departmental rules please refer to *UNF Music Student Handbook* under “Academic Probation”.

OFFICE HOURS & APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Biernacki will be available for ‘office hours’ every Tuesday & Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00. If the office hours are not an option, students are also encouraged to book an appointment or stop by Dr. Biernacki’s studio. Asking questions and seeking advice is very strongly encouraged at any time.

APPLIED VOICE & STUDIO ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All voice students are required to check **Voice & Opera Board** (located on the second floor of Fine Arts Building right by Dr. Biernacki’s office) for important announcements on a daily basis. Students are also expected to read and respond to UNF emails. If students are not checking their UNF email accounts, they are expected to forward all UNF email correspondence to their primary (home) email accounts which they check few times a day.

STUDENTS WITH DISSABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who seek reasonable accommodations in the classroom or other aspects of performing their coursework must first register with the UNF Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in Building 10, Room 1201. DRC staff members work with students to obtain required documentation of disability and to identify appropriate accommodations as required by applicable disability laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After receiving all necessary documentation, the DRC staff determines whether a student qualifies for services with the DRC and if so, the accommodations the student will be provided. DRC staff then prepares a letter for the student to provide faculty advising them of approved accommodations. For further information, contact the DRC by phone (904) 620-2769, email (kwebb@unf.edu), or visit the DRC website (<http://www.unf.edu/dept/disabled-services>).

Have a Great Semester !!!

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