

University of North Florida Department of Music
Course Syllabus

Course: Opera Workshop (UNF Opera Ensemble)
Course Number: MUO 3503
CRN: 81716
Term: Spring 2009 (January 5th – April 17th)
Professor: Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki – Ensemble Director
Semester Hours: 1 Semester hour per course
Room: Building 45 / Fine Arts Center Room 1404
Rehearsal Time: Monday & Wednesday - 2:30 – 4:20
Studio Tel: (904) 620-3852
E-mail: k.biernacki@unf.edu
Web Site: www.unfopera.com
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 or by appointment

OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of Opera Workshop (UNF Opera Ensemble) is to provide the students with the opportunity to study, develop, and improve their dramatic skills outside of their voice studios and gain valuable stage experience through performances of fully staged operatic works. As a result of their stage experience students will have a greater understanding of what it means to be a part of complete operatic conception. This experience should also help the students better understand the development of performance practice as it relates to other historical, theoretical, and compositional music studies. It is also hoped that a sense of responsibility for preservation and growth of music as theater will result from involvement in this ensemble.

REPERTOIRE:

Spring 2009 *Hansel & Gretel* by Engelbert Humoerdink sung in English - piano accompaniment and obbligato instruments only.

CASTING:

Casting of individual roles and/or chorus parts is a sole responsibility of the Ensemble Director. Individual casting will be announced after scrupulous audition process which is usually scheduled for the first week of classes. For more information please check UNF Voice & Opera Board.

Pleas note: Casting is always subject to change. Individual casting can be changed at any time due to lack of preparation, schedule conflicts, unsuitability of the role, or any other reason deemed appropriate by the Ensemble Director.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE AND SCHEDULE CONFLICTS:

Each student is required to attend all music/staging rehearsals. Attendance is mandatory therefore students are required to arrive on time, warmed up and ready to begin the rehearsal. If the student is unable to attend a scheduled rehearsal, the student must contact the professor at least 24 hours prior to rehearsal time. In case of emergency or illness on the day of scheduled rehearsal 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. Unexcused absences, late arrivals, tardiness, and lack of preparation will not be tolerated and will adversely affect the student's grade.

ENSEMBLE EXPECTATIONS:

All voice students are expected to do the following:

- Practice assigned part or role five days per week. Individual practice sessions should also include work on dramatic development and characterization of assigned role.
- Attend all rehearsals and show up early.
- Prepare music to the best of their abilities including complete (and timely) memorization of assigned role.
- Regularly listen to recordings and watch videos of other singers performing assigned operatic role.
- Attend live performances of operas, 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.

GRADING POLICY & MARK BREAKDOWN:

UNF Department of Music Grading System

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = 59% or below

The final marks will be calculated according to quality of work each student presents throughout the semester. Special attention will be paid to role preparation, memorization, character development, attendance at music/staging rehearsals, as well as overall attitude and level of engagement throughout the entire process. The final grade will not be based upon the size of the assigned role, but rather by how well each individual singer fulfills his/her responsibilities as a singing actor.

Note: Students who receive a final grade lower than a ‘B’ in Opera Workshop 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”.

UNF OPERA ENSEMBLE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All students enrolled and cast in UNF Opera Ensemble (Opera Workshop) are required to check **Voice & Opera Board** (located on the second floor of Fine Arts Building right by Dr. Biernacki’s office) and **Blackboard** 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>).