

PA 353.01 Syllabus

This course offers one 40-min lesson of private instruction per week. The goal is the development of both fundamental and advanced vocal techniques. This course helps students build confidence in public presentation and carry their personal performance to a higher level while having fun. Students are free to choose repertoire from various genres, musical eras and composers.

Prerequisites: No course prerequisites

Audition: Acceptance requires a decent performance (singing in tune) during the audition. The date and place of the audition will be announced shortly after early registration. Students are expected to prepare 2 songs of their own choosing. Songs of contrasting nature would help bring forward different aspects of your voice (slow/fast etc.) and are advised.

Mode(s) of Instruction: traditional/face-to-face

Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives:

- 1) Develop competence and expressive capabilities on the vocal instrument: tone quality, intonation, rhythm, musicianship, articulation and proper use of supported breathing based on diaphragmatic breathing
- 2) Learn and use a vocabulary specific to music.
- 3) Further develop competencies in basic musicianship.
- 4) Further develop competencies in vocal technique.
- 5) Develop appreciation and skills needed to perform a variety of musical styles and genres.
- 6) Develop performance abilities and stage presence
- 7) Develop a personal repertoire of music from the standard literature of composers and titles

8-Week Curriculum Outline

- **Week 1: Foundations & Assessment**
 - **Focus:** Evaluation of vocal range, goals setting, and singer's posture.
 - **Technique:** Introduction to diaphragmatic breathing and gentle vocalises.
 - **Repertoire:** Selection of the first song
- **Week 2: Breath Management & Tone**
 - **Focus:** Activating breath support (appoggio) and initiating clear tone.
 - **Technique:** Exercises for consistent airflow and reducing jaw/tongue tension.
 - **Repertoire:** Rhythmic and lyrical analysis of the first song.
- **Week 3: Resonance & Vowels**
 - **Focus:** Placing the voice for resonance and shaping pure vowels.
 - **Technique:** Vocalizing on different vowel shapes (Ah, Eh, Ee, Oh, Oo).
 - **Repertoire:** Singing the first song with focus on vowel uniformity.
- **Week 4: Diction & Articulation**
 - **Focus:** Basics for clear consonants, how to tie vowels and consonants.
 - **Technique:** Tongue twisters and lip trills for flexibility.
 - **Repertoire:** Mid-semester review: First song memorization check.
- **Week 5: Register Transition (Mix)**
 - **Focus:** Exploring chest voice to head voice transition.
 - **Technique:** Vocal exercises to smooth the "break" or bridge.
 - **Repertoire:** Introduction of a second, contrasting song.
- **Week 6: Interpretation & Dynamics**
 - **Focus:** Expressive singing, using dynamic markings (loud/soft), and tempo.
 - **Technique:** Developing a "twang" or brightening the tone.
 - **Repertoire:** Artistic phrasing of the second song.
- **Week 7: Performance Prep & Vocal Health**
 - **Focus:** Maintaining vocal health and preparing for final performance.
 - **Technique:** Specialized warm-ups and cooldowns.
 - **Repertoire:** Memorization of both songs and focus on stage presence.
- **Week 8: Final Evaluation**
 - **Focus:** Performance of 1–2 prepared songs.
 - **Activity:** Final studio performance (including a self-critique and teacher evaluation of growth.)

If all students agree to it, the final performance can be in the form of a public concert. (To be determined by vote.)