The following outlines information and requirements for the year. It is important that you read it, and keep it available for reference. Bring the attached exercise pages to your lessons.

APPLIED VOICE LESSONS:
The objective of voice lessons is to build vocal technique, gain interpretive knowledge of the expanse of vocal repertoire, and develop your performing abilities towards professional goals.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
**Repertoire:** Purchase vocal scores now, and budget for more. It’s a valuable lifelong investment. In our fine music library, there is a wealth of scores waiting to be opened by you. You are expected to independently seek out repertoire for yourself, but I will assist. Do not photocopy the works of living composers—purchase them.

**Repertoire Lists:** You need repertoire lists for your career. ALWAYS print 2 hard copies (dated). Update lists every 4 months. *You are required to turn in your updated All Repertoire List in the 2nd last week of each semester.*

**Metronome:** Use a metronome which gives both beats and pitches. An actual device, rather than a phone, is recommended.

**Tuning Fork:** Such a small and inexpensive immensely valuable tool.

**Mirror:** Use a mirror in practice to develop awareness of your body position, breath use, facial expressions, tongue position, etc. while singing.

**Shoes:** Wear footwear with a heel of 2” or less in lessons and masterclass performances.

**Recording device:** Bring a recording device, or an SD Card -suggested: SanDisk SASD32 GBB. I have a fine portable recording device and a video recorder you may borrow for recording.

**Pianist:** You must provide a pianist for your lessons, studio masterclasses, juries and recitals. Treat your pianist well. Have your music ready for them; clear copies, with title, composer, your name, and contact info clearly marked. Show up for your rehearsals knowing your music.

THE ACTION!

**Lessons:**
**PREPARATION:** Every song/aria you bring to a repertoire lesson must come with the texts written out separately; with word for word translation with the text and on your music, IPA on the music, and a text synopsis in your head or written out. You must be able to speak the text fluidly. Understand the text and the subtext. Write out two technique exercises for EACH song / aria. It is assumed you will have prepared all repertoire in advance, with or without your pianist.
Repertoire Plans:
Create a list of repertoire you propose to learn this year. This is called WORKING repertoire. Include at least one Canadian art song/aria

Undergraduate Performance majors:
2nd year: 17 songs in at least three languages, and at least 1 Mozart aria
3rd year: 3 oratorio arias, 2 recits, 1 Mozart aria, 2 opera arias, 15 or more songs (40 minute recital)
4th year: 3 opera arias with recits, 1 oratorio aria, 20 or more songs (50 minute recital)

Goal Sheets: Understanding your goals is important. Fill out the goal sheets at the end of this document, keep a copy for yourself, and bring a copy to me at the first lesson.

Juries/Recitals: You are responsible for knowing the requirements of your degree.

Personal Practice: Practice a bare minimum of 1 hour daily. Singing is an athletic activity. Stamina, musculature and coordination is built through regular, intelligent practice. Be sure to include daily warm-up and technique. Always look for a large room to practice in---empty classrooms, churches, dorm recreation rooms, etc. Also spend at least half an hour working on texts each day. Early morning is an excellent time for doing IPA and reading foreign texts aloud.

Studio Masterclass: The masterclass gives you a chance to perform repertoire for your peers, gain feedback, and hear new repertoire. Songs/arias must be memorized. Be prepared to provide the essential meaning of your song, and know the pertinent dramatic context for your aria. Information regarding the composer and the poet is also essential knowledge. Listen with intention to your colleagues' performances and be prepared to offer helpful suggestions and positive reinforcement.

Studio Concerts: We will present up to 4 concerts over two semesters, often theme-based.

Off Campus Performances: Find ways to give off-campus performances preceding your recital or jury. Contact seniors’ homes, schools, art galleries, churches… wherever you can find an audience! Plan to provide a printed program and printed or spoken translations of non-english songs. Perform for your future!

Concert Attendance: LOVE attending concerts! The Faculty of Music provides a Concert Card for Undergraduate students. Fill it in at each concert you attend. Off-campus events are encouraged. Show attendance at a total of at least 6 concerts in your 2nd last lesson of each semester. You are REQUIRED to attend concerts given by Western voice faculty.

London Opera Guild: http://londonoperaguild.ca
Become a student member of the Guild. This gives you access to a $20 bus transport to the Canadian Opera Company for selected performances, and access to important lectures and performances.

Guest Masterclass Attendance: The music student body supports the Faculty Gift Fund, which allows you to hear brilliant musicians perform and teach. I require your attendance at Voice Masterclasses at UWO. These are immense learning opportunities for you!

Voice Fridays Attendance: Fridays 1:30-2:30 TC 100
Voice Fridays is an essential opportunity for learning. Put it in your schedule.
GRADING
Progress, repertoire, technical growth, attendance and attitude in lessons and studio masterclasses all affect your grade. You are graded only on your own progress; not in comparison to others. Attendance at 6 (at least) concerts per semester (see detailed list) is required for UG, expected for grad students. Attendance at concerts wherein Voice Faculty perform is expected. Missing a guest Voice Masterclasses would be foolish.

OTHER NOTES
Tardiness: of more than 10 minutes will mean a cancelled lesson. If you are unable to attend your lesson or studio class, you must notify me as soon as possible in advance. If the same day, by telephone. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade point.

Sickness: If you have a cold, throat infection, flu or any contagious ailment, please STAY HOME, call in, and get well. Contact both me, and your pianist.

Make-up lessons: When I travel to perform, lessons will be made up in advance, or following the trip, adjusting schedules as comfortably as possible.

Reading: Read reference books and magazines about singing: Classical Singer, Opera Canada, Opera News… Read biographies of singers. Be aware of what is going on in the world of music; what is going on in the schools, which orchestras are presenting oratorios, which singers are making CD’s, and which opera companies are hiring young singers.

PERFORMANCE PRACTICE: These are suggested blogs
http://www.bulletproofmusician.com
www.musicpeakperformance.com
http://www.claudiafriedlander.com

Good Health
Your body is your instrument. Take care of it!!
*Wear the right clothing for the weather.
*Sleep is EXTREMELY important for the voice.
*Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeinated beverages; be aware of which foods negatively affect your voice; for some it is bananas – others oranges, for example.
*Regular exercise is basic to good health.
*Yoga is a valuable discipline for singers.
*Most important, if you do get sick – contact your pianist, teacher, other professors to give notice, and go to bed. DO NOT come to the University.

PREVENTION and REMEDIES
Sleep, Exercise and healthy food prevent illness. If you feel something coming on, especially in your throat, here are helpful tips:
ONION: Using a small pot with a lid on the stove, cook a finely-chopped medium-sized onion in about 1 cup of salted water until it is soft. This will take about 5 minutes. The onion becomes ‘sweet’. Eat the mixture. Onion is a rich source of Vitamin C and B, as well as several minerals
GARLIC: Before you go to bed, make a piece of toast, spread honey on it. Crush at least one large clove of garlic and spread on the honeyed toast. Be sure to brush your teeth in the morning! Garlic is an excellent source of manganese and a very good source of vitamin B6 and vitamin C. It is historically known for its “antibiotic” properties.
GARGLING: 1 c. of water as hot as you can stand it with 1 tsp. of salt in it will help a sore throat.
Sage is very good for sore throats. Create a tea of dried sage and drink it every few hours.

NETI POT: A neti pot or Neil Med nasal cleanser used during a cold will greatly decrease congestion. These are available at pharmacies and health food stores.

MULLEIN TEA: Excellent for easing congestion. Available at health food stores.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY on STUDENT HEALTH
As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/. Information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.

BUYING MUSIC
REMENYI MUSIC in Toronto is an excellent source for buying in person, or on the telephone. Tell them you are a student for a discount. 1-800-961-3949

Classical Vocal Repertoire-- http://classicalvocalrep.com/
an excellent source not only for both out-of-print and hard-to-find music but also for all of the standard scores and anthologies. email: ClasVocRep@aol.com/ tel: (800)298-7474 or (479)442.2595
Schubert line is not recommended.


IMSLP: A lot of music no longer under copyright can be found at the Petrucci Music Library: http://imslp.org

ART SONG TRANSLATION AND PRONUNCIATION SOURCES
ONLINE
http://www.lieder.net
this website provides text and translation for the largest part of the song repertoire. It can be used to print out the text for your songs to practice reading them, and for translations. Not all translations on this site are created by professionals, but most of them are good.

http://voice.music.unt.edu/diction/singers
this website offers an excellent listing of resources found in libraries.
Voice Reference Books in UWO Music Library: We have one of the most inclusive libraries in the country. The following is Recommended Reading. During the October Reading week, you should read one book, and write a book report of 1000

1st year
Vocal Wisdom Giovanni Battista Lamperti
Basics of Vocal Pedagogy Clifton Ware
'The Complete Singer Actor H Wesley Balk

2nd year
Singing and Imagination Thomas Hemsley
Power Performance for Singers Shirley Emmons
Great Singers on Great Singing J. Hines
The Inner Game of Music Barry Green

3rd year:
On the Art of Singing Richard Miller
Solutions for Singers R. Miller
'The Interpretation of French Song' P. Bernac Norton
Performing Power H. Wesley Balk
The Art of the Song Recital S. Emmons/Sontag

4th year
The Art of Auditioning A. Legge
Song Carol Kimball
Complete Preparation Dornemann/Ciaccia
The 19th Century Lied E. Gorrell

Masters and DMA
All of the above list.

Organizations, Competitions and Awards:
Learn about competitions, organizations, awards.
http://artsongfoundation.ca - offers awards, and a list of art song programs.
http://www.sparksandwirycries.com/ArtSongMagazine/Resources.aspx:
https://concoursmontreal.ca/en/
https://e-gre.ca
https://mozartproject.ca
http://www.ottawachoralsociety.com/new_discoveries
International Resource Centre for Performing Artists – sign up to be a member (no cost) to be invited to compete and learn. – FACEBOOK PAGE

Considerations:
Your studio grade will depend on your participation and growth. I do not wish to police your work.
The responsibility is yours to have a great year and to receive a top grade. Please set goals for yourself.
Challenge yourself. Life will come along and do it for you if you don’t.
Work continuously on your performing skills and communication skills.
It is my strongest desire to help you achieve your goals. Please feel free to discuss your interests and concerns with me at any time.

Please take a moment and ask yourself why you sing.
Always ask yourself this before you perform.

Always remember that while it is a difficult and sometimes frustrating process of continuous growth, it is wonderfully rewarding, and worth every second.