Lesson Expectations

Scheduling: Lessons occur at your scheduled hour on Wednesdays and/or Fridays, September-April TBA. I spend the rest of the week performing and teaching in other cities, but am happy to receive emails or texts with any questions you might have. Lessons are **50 minutes** (:35 to :25), providing me a gap between students to make notes. Please wait outside the studio for your lesson; if I haven’t opened the door, knock, only if I’m over your start-time.

Cancellations: If I cancel a lesson, it will be rescheduled. If you miss, are late for, or cancel a lesson, under most circumstances, this lesson is not made up. If your lesson time is in direct conflict with a University event or performance, I require at least a week’s notice, in order to attempt to reschedule your lesson. Please make every effort to take care of these conflicts by **switching lessons with a colleague**.

Illness: If you are sick, please email me asap. This is a courtesy for my scheduling, and there is a possibility you may receive a partial makeup for this lesson IF you email and IF time permits.

Materials: Please bring to each lesson: music, pencils, water, staff paper for technical exercises, your updated repertoire catalogue, etc. **All music** should be properly translated and IPA’d before singing. **Notes and rhythms should be adequately prepared.** The better prepared a piece is, the more we’ll be able to accomplish. I encourage you to seek out repertoire in the major (or minor) languages (min. Eng, Fr, It, Ger), from a variety of eras, appropriate to your vocal ability and fach. We will also work together along with your pianist in choosing programmes and material for auditions, juries, recitals, etc.

Postings: I will keep you aware of upcoming auditions, juries, competitions, recitals and concerts as they pertain to Western and elsewhere. Please share with the studio if you are participating in a performance we may all attend.

Output: It is included in the DWFOM Handbook that song **minimums** for
undergraduate lessons are as follows:
Performance:
1st year: 16 songs
2nd: 22 songs
3rd: 40 min recital + 10 songs/arias
4th: 50 min recital + 12 songs/arias

All other voice majors:
1st year: 16 songs
2nd: 20 songs
3rd: 20 songs of increased length
4th: 20 songs of increased difficulty

Therefore you should aim to have a new piece prepared nearly every lesson, ie) always be starting a new piece, cleaning up a nearly new piece, and polishing/maintaining older pieces. Use time between semesters, reading weeks, and summers to increase your repertoire by choosing and listening to and preparing new works.

Practice Expectations
- Vocal practice is about quality not quantity. Do not push your instrument beyond a healthy capacity. Do try to sing everyday. However, practicing your music can take many alternate forms besides phonation; listening, memorising, translating, research, silent score-study, attending a concert, etc.
- Singing will take a variety of forms here at Western. Use choir and other ensembles as tools to learn new skills, but be aware of how much you are using your instrument, and in what ways your production differs in these forums.

Masterclass Expectations
- MC occurs weekly on WEDNESDAY, 12:30pm in MB 441. Schedule below.
- Attendance is mandatory, whether you’re singing or not. BE PROMPT.
- MC selections MUST be memorised. If you are not memorized, you will still sing, but using music affects your mark. Please prepare 1-2 selections/week.
- Dress professionally (ie, jury- or audition-wear) whenever possible (maybe once a month, every-other time you sing)
- Be prepared to give feedback to your colleagues. Your feedback frequency and efficacy is factored heavily into your MC grade.
- If you are sick or away, arrange to switch with a colleague singing another week so you don’t miss an opportunity to present pieces.

Performance Opportunities
- Whether or not you are cast in UWOpera, there are other performing opportunities in which to play roles including London Musical Theatre, the GS
Society of London, Theatre Western, etc.

- Summer programmes and apprenticeships are necessary and incomparable learning venues in the months away from University. Banff, Nuova, Halifax Summer Opera, SOLT, Cowtown Opera Programme, VOSI, St. Andrews, Contemporary Opera Lab, Avalon, Orford, Tafelmusik, Haliburton, VSO, COAA are a few Canadian options. See me for more US and International options.
- Competitions are great ways to be heard by professionals and receive useful feedback, not to mention prize money and castings. NATS is an accessible, annual competition for all levels, and occurs this year on **Nov 17-18 at Laurier**. Please apply (through me)! FYI: Classical on 17th, MT on 18th
- Studio Recitals will occur in **December 5 @ 5:30 and February 27 @ 6pm in Studio 242**. We will try for a more formally organised “Cabaret” this year as part of our studio work, TBA April. Invite your family and friends to all three!
- Don’t underestimate other performing opportunities here at school as well; choral solos, recordings, ensembles, small groups, vocal rep, masterclasses, vocal fridays, etc. Investigate ways to present a partial or full recital on or off campus with a colleague.

**Collaborative Pianists**

- Time with your collaborative pianist is paramount. Use it wisely and come as prepared as you possibly can to both coachings and lessons. The advice of your professional coach is integral to your vocal education. It is neither their job, nor mine, to teach you notes and rhythms. Songs should be fully translated, prepared and practiced before attending coachings or lessons.
- Our professional pianist is **CHARMAINE FOPOUSSI**, charmaine.fopoussi@gmail.com

**Coursework**

- Most coursework can be emailed to me on or before the due date at 10pm, or brought physically to lesson. I prefer to receive Rep Lists and Promo Packages in physical copies so we can review them - you need these printed for producers later in the year anyway - all other reports, email is fine.
- **Repertoire List: DUE September 19**
  You and I (and potential producers) need a complete repertoire list. I would like to see a running list of repertoire learned, on 3 sheets, Opera, Oratorio and Art Song (x 4+ languages). You can create a table or grouping as you like, but ideally we want to see on each page, piece listed under French, German, Italian and English. These are songs that are a) fully learned and b) presentable (in your current fach, etc.) c) of appropriate difficulty, etc. It’s a
‘living doc’ to be added to each year; a cumulative list of your work. Freshmen please include all repertoire learnt in the previous year and/or repertoire at an RCM Level 8+ - You should also prepare a “wish-list” of rep for this year.

- **Promotional Package: DUE October 3**
  As you audition for programmes or professional organizations, you need at minimum: an organised voice CV, biography, repertoire list and headshot. Some of you will also need monologues, so this could be a time to find one and begin working on it. Please bring me a sample package to review together.

- **Concert Review: DUE November 21**
  Review any vocal concert you attend at the faculty - 2 pg min.

- **Book Report: DUE January 23**
  Review a book of interest regarding vocal pedagogy, acting, movement, health, biography, education, etc. Minimum 850 words. If you’re stumped - I have books!

- **Jury Notes: DUE March 20**
  Prepare notes on each submission of your jury. Include at least: composer dates and details, historical period/significance, a poetic or preferably wd-4-wd translation, a “plot summary,” musical challenges and highlights, unique score markings, etc. These have proved extremely helpful when preparing for juries.

- **Concert Cards: DUE March 27**
  All students must attend a minimum of 12 concerts per year (excluding concerts you participate in, but including up to 2 non-UWO events). Voice students are expected to attend a minimum of 10 vocal events, but you can count 1 non-voice concert per semester (but go to more!) Concert cards must be signed by a faculty member or accompanied by concert programmes. This requirement is factored into your MC grade.

- **Performance-Major Recitals:** You are required to attend our studio’s performance recitals - this year’s will include Shirleen, Laura and Alyssa, TBA

- **Vocal Fridays** is a series held in TC 101 on Fridays at 1:30. These speakers and topics are highly relevant to your degree and often also include performance opportunities - make every effort to attend.

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**Evaluation**

- Studio course grade breakdown
  
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Work</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jury</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masterclass and Recitals</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Important Dates

- **September 7:** Lessons commence (September 5* by request)
- **September 10-11:** UWOPERA Auditions (Nozze, Gala, Turn of the Screw)
- **October 8-12:** Fall Reading Week (No MC or lessons)
- **November 9-10:** TBC - COAA Auditions at UWO
- **November 17-18:** NATS at Laurier (applications due Oct 5th)
- **December 5:** Baroque Studio Recital, 242, 5:30 pm
- **December 11:** 3-4th year performance juries, VKH
- **January 9:** Lessons recommence
- **January 20:** Faculty Concert Series - Bethany Horst, 3pm, VKF
- **February 27:** MT Studio Recital, 242, 6pm
- **April 10-13:** Year-end juries
- **April 14-15:** Perf. Auditions

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Code of Student Conduct:
  - [http://www.uwo.ca/police/resources/code_of_student_conduct.html](http://www.uwo.ca/police/resources/code_of_student_conduct.html)
- Policy on Accommodation for Illness:
  - [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)
- Statement on Mental Health:
  - [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth)
- Statement on Scholastic Offences:
  - [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)
- **Withdrawal:** Music 1920, 1925, 2920, 2921, 2925, 3920, 3921, 3922, 3924y, 3925, 3926, 3929, 4920, 4921, 4922, 4923, 4924y, 4925, 4926, 4927, 4928, 4929 are exempt from the Senate policy stating that “At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade”
  - [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf)