



Studio Policies and Syllabus for Applied Voice - Fall 2023

MUS 1111, 3111 **MUS 1211, 3211**
Credit: 1 **Credit: 2**

Lesson Time/Place: FAB 200A / TBD
Studio Time/Place: FAB 200 / F 4:00pm

Instructor:

Dr. Andrew Alegría
Office: FAB 200A
Phone: (432) 837-8216
Email: andrew.alegria@sulross.edu

Accompanist:

Ms. Beth Kerzee
Office: FAB 206C
Phone: 432-295-1947
Email: bethzee@gmail.com

Office Hours:

M/W/F 2:00 PM — 3:00 PM
or by appointment

Prerequisites: Audition

Course Description: The individual study of applied voice, vocal literature, musical styles, and performance. Each vocal student is expected to perform publicly twice within the semester.

Required Materials:

Bring to each lesson –

- * Three-ring binder (1 1/2 inch – 2 inches)
- * Music - as assigned
- * Pencil and eraser
- * Water in a closed container
- * Method of recording oneself, i.e. personal digital recorder, computer
- * Homework – as assigned
- * A music dictionary – online or book

Music Scores:

Music Majors (Performance, Education, and Business) must have:

- * *Twenty-Four Italian Songs and Arias*. New York, G. Schirmer, Inc., 1948.
- * Wall, Joan, Robert Caldwell, Tracy Gavilanes, and Sheila Allen. *Diction for Singers*. 2nd ed. Columbia: Redmond, WA, 2009.

Musical Theatre students must have:

- * TBD – based on each student's individual needs

All students are encouraged to become a member of <https://www.musicnotes.com/>

Course Learning Objectives

1. The student will understand basic anatomy of singing.
2. The student will scan the body for singing difficulties using body mapping.
3. The student will apply and demonstrate specific vocal exercises.
4. The student will integrate body mapping and voice to improve singing function.
5. The student will understand and analyze components of music using appropriate terminology.
6. The student will synthesize information about music and singing.
7. The student will sing in an expressive manner consistent with healthy use of the voice.
8. The student will assess singing of other singers as well as own singing.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- * SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
- * SLO 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes for recitals and performance pieces.
- * SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.

Marketable Skills:

The music student graduating with a BM in music (instrumental or vocal performance; instrumental or vocal education; or music business) should have the following Marketable Skills:

1. Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.
2. Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production.*
3. Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.*
4. Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting.
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with *

Course Outcomes and Assessments:

- This course will prepare the singer for participation in a group recital performance culminating at the end of the semester.
 - **Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023**
 - **Time: 6:30 pm Call / 7:30 pm Performance**
 - **Location: Studio Theatre**
- Music and Theatre majors will also participate in a final jury assessment less than the student has given a full recital.

General Remarks:

Because singing is a whole-body experience, sometimes ‘hands-on’ work or physical contact between the instructor and student is beneficial. My instruction is often streamlined with this teaching tool, and students often find it helpful in comprehending singing concepts. ‘Physical contact’ typically deals with elements of alignment, breathing, and phonation, and the instructor is to ask permission before engaging. The student should respond at the discretion of their comfort level – yes or no. It is important to remember that physical contact is one tool among many, used judiciously as needed and intended solely to hasten the singer’s technical progress. It is not, however, a required part of voice instruction. If there are any concerns, please address them directly. If you are uncomfortable speaking to Dr. Alegría directly, you should talk with the Visual and Performing Arts Chair, Marjie Scott, to schedule a meeting.

Expectations of voice students:

1. *Learning Music* — Songs are generally expected to be familiar (text, rhythms, and notes) within two to three weeks of being assigned (this may be adapted depending on the length and difficulty of work), learned well in four to five weeks, memorized, and performance-ready in six to seven weeks. By midterms, each student should be able to sing all their songs. As each week progresses, the student should be prepared to present their music preparation in the following lesson. If the assignment is not completed in this amount of time, the student may be dismissed from the lesson to complete the necessary work. A target date may be set between you and the instructor. Each piece selected for the student’s jury must be memorized.
2. *Performance Preparation* — **Repertoire History Sheets** are due by midterms **October 30 to November 03**. Each sheet will list the song title, composer, composer’s dates, date when the music was composed, and any additional information essential to the song (why the song was composed and/or for whom). For arias and musical theater songs, the sheet must also include the title of the opera/show, the character’s name, and a synopsis of the story where the music is sung.

3. *Textual translations* – Translations are due prior to midterms. Any texts in a foreign language need to be suitably translated so that you understand what you are singing about and why! Translations found in scores are often not word-for-word and hence lack validity when transferring meaning from the page to the body. There are excellent resources in the music library and online. (See Dr. Alegría for more information.) Copies of translations from a book must be written into the music for it to be helpful. Word-for-word translations are preferred.
4. *Practice* — You will enter practice times into your binder. Schedule solo practice times for one to two hours each day. Remember that practicing is not always about singing. Singing involves kinesthetic awareness and motor memory; thus, it is vital to develop a vocal technique to have regular practice times scheduled throughout the week. While beneficial, vocalizing in choir will not always engage the same skills necessary for solo performance and what we are developing in the applied lesson. However, it is encouraged that the student musician practices the choral repertoire within one’s personal rehearsal time to use techniques learned in the vocal lesson to the music.
5. *To aid in learning new music* — you are encouraged to make flashcards (index cards) of the text of your songs. Type or write out the text of each song on a separate sheet of paper. If the song is in a foreign language, make a literal (word-for-word) and a poetic translation. Make exercises of melodic patterns that recur in the music. You may be asked for them during a lesson.
6. *Library of Materials* — Building a library of vocal repertoire materials is essential to becoming a professional musician or teacher of music. Copyright infringement is vigorously discouraged. Students are expected to purchase music. A photocopy of all the music must be given to the accompanist as soon as possible. It is respectful of the accompanist’s professionalism to present the music for an upcoming lesson several days before that lesson so that they may practice it.
7. *Absence* — If you must cancel a lesson, 24-hour notice is required for both your instructor and accompanist. Given 24-hour notice, all efforts will be made to provide a make-up lesson (your accompanist’s schedule will be considered). If you give less than 24-hour notice, a make-up lesson is at the instructor’s discretion. The instructor will determine how many lessons may be re-scheduled. If too many lessons are postponed, the student may be asked to withdraw from the class.
8. *Midterm* — All students will have a midterm from **October 30 to November 03**. Your midterms will vary based on repertoire assignments. Still, they will generally require **ALL** of your assigned repertoire to be performed during your lesson time, regardless of whether your songs are memorized or unmemorized. This midterm will also include questions about your Repertoire History sheets.

9. *Studio Hour & Recital Hour Performances* — In this voice studio, you are required to attend the **Studio Hour and Recital Hour each week (Friday at 4:00 in FAB 200)**. If you are scheduled to perform, you must dress professionally, as if for an audition or performance. Music for your accompanist must be turned in by Wednesday of your performance week, or you will not be allowed to perform. You are required to participate in the end-of-semester studio recital as part of your final exam.
1. **Non-music and non-theatre majors** will have to perform as a soloist once in Studio Hour and/or participate in the final Studio Vocal Recital at the end of the semester.
 2. **Theater Majors** must perform as soloists twice in Studio Hour, once in a Recital Hour, Studio Vocal Recital, and Music Jury.
 3. **Music Majors** must perform as a soloist twice in Studio Hour, twice in a Recital Hour, Studio Vocal Recital, and Music Jury.
10. *Homework Assignments & Projects* – Students will have different assigned projects based on their progression and current needs. They may vary between music theory/sight singing exercises, listening projects, or repertoire projects. You will also be assigned various writing projects based on assigned readings throughout the semester. You have a Binder project requirement.
11. *Repertoire Requirements* —
- MUS 1111/3111: Three songs studied, all memorized.
Jury: Sing two memorized song
 - MUS 1211/3211: Four songs studied, all memorized.
Jury: Sing two to three memorized song

12. *Binder* – Your 3-ring binder should contain the following sections: Personal Performance Goals; Music and Repertoire History Sheets; Practice Journal; Listening Log; Repertoire List; Performance Reviews; and List of Referential Materials.

- *Performance Goals*: Goals are presented to the instructor during the third lesson of the semester. The performance goals should list your short and long-term goals. Short-term goals should include, but are not limited to: Why are you taking lessons? What do you want to learn this semester? Long-term goals should consist of, but are not limited to: What do you plan to do after college that will indicate you took voice lessons? (one page)
- *Music*: Xerox copies of your originals that you can mark as necessary. Music should be analyzed with basic theory (Music Majors only). If in a foreign language, music will be translated and include the International Phonetics Alphabet. (Music Majors only)
- *Repertoire History Sheets*: This is a short biography of the composer and the song's significance. If the song is from an opera or musical theatre, the assignment must include the character name, where the music is sung in the show/opera, and what is happening in the scene. (one page per song)
- *IPA Homework* (Music Majors only): Music majors must begin to learn IPA at the start of their education. From time to time, studio classes will have a section on IPA. The semester's language will be announced at the beginning of each semester. Homework will consist of both written and oral assignments.
- *Practice Journal*: Your journal is your documentation of your vocal journey. Use this to log practice times, exercises, repertoire you worked on, and questions that arose during your practice times. AHA! Moments, etc. This log is evaluated at the beginning of your lesson each week.
- *Listening Log*: You must have 30 Listening Logs within your primary vocal style. Each log must contain the following information: Song with source Information, Composer/Dates, Performer(s), and Comments. Comments are expected for all the entries. Comments may be a personal reflection or reaction to the music. All must be vocal performances. Examples must be from reputable singers in the industry who excel in their particular vocal style. (See Appendix 2)
- *Performance Programs*: You must attend as many live performances as an audience member – recital, concert, musical production, and/or a community event. Listening to other singers and actors use their voices in live performances is beneficial. If you are performing, please keep a copy of your performance in this section.

Assessment: Grading Weights and Scale:

Students who give consistent evidence of significant practicing of technique and skills, preparing lesson assignments, displaying a positive attitude, and demonstrating a level of expressiveness appropriate to the literature and personal development will receive an “excellent” grade (A). To be eligible for an “A” grade, the student must complete all assignments, attend all scheduled recital classes, **Fridays from 4:00 – 5:00 in FAB 200**, all lessons, recital hour performances, and a required number of musical events as determined by the faculty at the beginning of the semester.

- 60% of the semester grade is based on preparation for each lesson. At the end of each lesson, a grade is assigned in the following areas:
 - Lesson Preparation 20%– Assigned Homework, Practice Log, Attendance, General Improvement
 - Music Preparation 20%– Notes, Rhythms, Intervals exercises
 - Musical learning and skills (general musicianship)
 - Understanding of vocal technique
 - Performance Preparation 20% – Acting Exercise, Mono Ex., Translations, Physicalize, etc.
 - Attitude toward performance and aesthetic presentations
- 20% of the semester grade is based upon the completeness of the Binder. All areas must be adequately represented as directed in the rubric.
- 10% of the semester grade is based upon one’s growth in musical skill, aesthetic presentation, and stage presence displayed in the performances in master classes, recitals, mid-term, and the semester jury. Several members of the music faculty will evaluate the jury presentation.
- 10% of the semester grade is based upon one’s satisfactory completion of recital class requirements: **weekly attendance in class, performing the required times per semester, and concert attendance.**

Professional Communication Policy

- * All communication with me should be done either in person, text, or through email.
- * You are expected to check your SRSU email on a regular basis.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU’s Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Dr. Alegria's Vocal Studio Fall 2023

August 2023

Mon. 28 - First Day of Class

Thurs. 31 - Last Day to Change Classes

September 2023

Fri. 01 - **Music Major and Minor Meeting**

4:00 PM FAB 200 (choir room)

Mon. 04 - Labor Day (No Classes)

Tues. 05 - **Permian Basin Opera**

USO Hall in Marfa, TX - 7:00 PM

Fri. 08 - Vocal Studio Hour

Fri. 15 - Vocal Studio Hour

Fri. 22 - Vocal Studio Hour

Fri. 29 - **Recital Hour**

TBA - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

October 2023

Fri. 06 - Vocal Studio Hour **Canceled**

Fri. 13 - Vocal Studio Hour

Fri. 20 - Vocal Studio Hour **Canceled**

Fri. 27 - **Recital Hour**

TBA - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

November 2023

Fri. 03 - Vocal Studio Hour

Fri. 10 - Vocal Studio Hour **Canceled**

Wed. 15 - **Vocal Studio Recital - Recital Hearing**

Studio Theatre - 7:30 PM

Fri. 17 - **Instrumental Studio Recital - Recital Hearing**

Studio Theatre - 4:00 PM

Wed. 22 - Fri. 24 - Thanksgiving Break

December 2023

Fri. 01 - **Music Honor Recital**

Studio Theatre - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Thur. 07 - Dead Day

Wed. 13 - **Music Juries (Final Exam)**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Everyone will signup for a 15 min. time slot

Disclaimer

Due to weather or an egregious situation, scheduled dates for Vocal Studio Hour or Vocal Studio Recital may change.