Voice Class Syllabus Fall 2006
Music 133 Basic Voice Techniques  James Tener, instructor
Classroom: Rm. 256, Music Building
Office: Rm. 53 Music Bldg.  Off: 294-6096  Cell Phone: 515-291-5494
jtener@iastate.edu  Office hours T,R: 10:30-11:00 a.m. or arranged.

**Required Text:** Broadway Deluxe (Available in the Music Office. Used books available from your teacher.)

**Goals:** The goal of this class is to help you become better singers through emphasis on technique development, singing the repertoire of musical theatre, and doing lots of singing. We will also work on selling a song and audition techniques. We will also work on some basic sight singing as a class and discuss some elementary music theory, as needed.

**Daily Routine:** Each day there will warm ups for the voices using exercises on the handout and sight singing exercises. Exercises will be combined with technique building. Through warm ups and song singing we will hope for vocal improvement. You will also have 4 private sessions with the teacher to focus on your voice alone. You must bring your book and your exercises to all classes and private sessions.

**Grading:** Grades will, by nature, be somewhat subjective. Your own personal progress as determined by class work, private studio lessons, song performances, attendance, class participation, and practice time as indicated by performance will be the criteria. All performances will be graded equally and weighted equally. There will be three graded performances. You will be allowed two absences. After that each absence will lower your grade by +/- (B+ becomes B-, etc.) Three tardies count as one absence. Be on time. Same rules for private sessions. Grades are determined by averaging the three graded performances and then subtracting any loss due to attendance problems. Grades for performances are determined by the quality of your performance based on your individual ability and the improvement you make between graded performances.

If you must be absent for a graded performance or an individual voice lesson you must call ahead or e-mail me in advance of the class. If this is not done, you will automatically lose one grade level for the performance. If you are not prepared to perform on your scheduled date you will automatically lose one grade when you finally complete the missed performance. You will be shown the grade that you will be given after each performance. You will then be given the option of redoing your performance in the same class period or in the class period set aside for redoing performances. You will be graded on your best work. Extra grade credit will be given for memorization. Your grade will improve by +. A pianist will be present for your graded performances.

After the second graded performance you will be apprised of your grade in the class to that point. In this way you can determine the amount of work you need to do to get the grade you desire.

The following schedule will be followed as closely as possible. If a change needs to be made in the scheduling of lessons or performances, we will make that change as a class.

**Daily Schedule**

Class 1: Breathing, warming up, posture. Introductions, experiences in singing.
Class 2: Breathing, posture. **Bring a song to sing for the class.**
Class 3 & 4: Private sessions of 30 minutes each in my studio for individual evaluation.
Please plan to arrive early and knock at the time you were given.

Class 5: Breathing continued
Choose a song from the book for your first performance. Start to learn.

Class 6: Breathing continued. How to learn a song. Rhythms, words, notes.
Singing the songs together and separately.

Class 7 & 8: Private individual sessions

Class 9: Release of tension.
Singing songs together as a class.

Class 10: Release of tension continued.
Sing songs together as class.

Class 11&12: **Students sing the songs individually. Graded performance.**
Can use music. Class makes written comments on prepared comment sheet. Comments collected after performance. Also class comments accepted during the period. Half the class performs today, half next period.


Class 14: Resonance and Placement.

Class 15 & 16: Private individual sessions

Class 17: Learning new songs. Class members teach their songs to the class. Test runs of second performances.

Class 18: Learning new songs. Class members teach their songs to the class. Test runs of second performances.

Class 19&20: **Class Performance. Second graded performance. Words can be used but not music.**

Class 21: Improvisation techniques in musical theatre songs.
New songs assigned. Class members may have personal choice of songs from the Broadway Deluxe Album. If other songs are selected, the student must provide copies of the song to each of his/her classmates.

Class 22: More on improvisational techniques in musical theatre songs.

Class 23 & 24: Private individual sessions

Class 25: Teaching songs. Students will teach their songs to the class. Application of improvisational techniques to student songs.

Class 26: Teaching songs. Students will teach their songs to the class. Application of improvisational techniques to student songs.

Class 27&28: Test runs of final performance. (opt: replace with private sessions)

Class 29&30: **Final performances. Words, not music, may be used. Graded. Try some improvisations.**

**Students with Special Needs:**
Please address any special needs or special accommodations with the instructor at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs so that we can work together to support your learning. Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you feel you have a disability that requires accommodation you need to obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disability Resource Office (294-6624) located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.