

Professor Chad Sonka
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Music Hall 2017

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PROFESSOR SONKA VOICE STUDIO SYLLABUS & POLICIES

Fall 2017 / Music 119A – 419A

Allow me to welcome you to my voice studio! It is my hope, above all, to cultivate in you a love for all styles of music and performance. To help achieve this, an open mind and communication are paramount in your success. Success, as always, is contingent upon your effort in and out of your private lessons. Each student will learn differently, so refrain from comparing yourself to others. The instructor and the student will discover a personalized learning path, as it pertains to the Western Classical Vocal Technique, together. Please, ask questions, think critically about your voice, and enjoy the power of sung word.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required at all:

- 1. Lessons 2. Seminars 3. Divisionals 4. General Recitals 5. 12 Additional Concerts*

Attendance is also required at all VOICE Faculty, Guest, and Senior Recitals. Consent for excused absences can only be given by the instructor. It is best to send all absence notifications to the instructor via email. If you are sick, or for some other reason, let Professor Sonka know by **10:00am** the day of your lesson. All lessons are logged and graded.

The instructor is only required to make-up lessons he has missed. Any lessons missed due to student absences, excused or unexcused, are not guaranteed to be made up and are subject to the instructor's approval.

Any unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one letter (A to A-, A- to B+, etc...)!

STUDIO SEMINAR

This is an important part of your vocal development. At weekly seminars (divisional & studio), attention will be devoted to listening, supporting, and thinking critically about you and your studio mates' performances.

Each student is required to perform in seminars and at least two divisionals.

REPERTOIRE

Repertoire will be assigned by the instructor. While the student is encouraged to make suggestions, all final decisions regarding repertoire will be made by the instructor. The songs will be selected from the classical and classical musical theatre library. It is in the student's best interest to keep a running library of the repertoire he/she has learned, as it will need to be presented at the time of his/her jury or final.

First-Year (119A): Three/Four songs per semester. No fewer than seven songs per year with a minimum of two different languages.

Sophomore (219A): Four/Five songs per semester. No fewer than nine songs per year with a minimum of three different languages. Continuation Exam.

Junior (319A): Seven songs per semester (including operatic/oratorio arias). No fewer than fourteen songs/arias per year in at least three different languages. Larger works explored – song cycles/cantatas.

Senior (419A): Preparation for senior recital. No fewer than fourteen songs/arias per year in at least three different languages. Larger works explored – song cycles/cantatas.

ASSIGNMENTS

In my studio, assignments, while few, are as follows:

Listening Assignments: At two points throughout the semester, the student will be expected to complete a listening assignment. Assignments will be emailed with ample time for completion. On it will be a link to a video/audio clip which the student will listen to and answer the questions that follow on the sheet. These may or may not be discussed in seminar class. Please email to instructor by **5:00pm** on the due date listed on the sheet. Those dates are listed below for your reference.

Listening #1: **October 23, 2017**

Listening #2: **December 2, 2017**

Repertoire Assignments: For each song that the instructor assigns the student, he/she will fill out a worksheet containing information about said song, e.g. historical context, translation, applicable IPA. **Repertoire sheets are due before the student performs the song.**

***Additional:* While it is already a part of the repertoire assignment, it is imperative that a song is translated if it is in a foreign language. Once you've translated the song, copy said translation directly into your music. The translation will be shared with the instructor before singing the song.**

Recitals: Students are required to attend every voice faculty, guest and senior recitals. Students will turn in recital reviews for all required recitals or concerts by the end of each semester. This should be done by email. Please include: concert title, when & where, and a paragraph description of what you heard.

ACCOMPANISTS

Each student is required to find his/her own accompanist to work with and compensate them accordingly. Once you've done this, coordinate a lesson time that works best for you, your pianist, and the instructor. Similarly, it is also your responsibility to schedule rehearsal time outside of your regular lesson. PLEASE, out of respect for your pianist, give them a copy of your repertoire ASAP. Sight-reading, from both the singer & pianist, will not be tolerated.

Accompanists should be available for lessons by the fourth week of classes.

EXAMINATIONS

The voice jury (each semester) will be in two parts, performed before the 'jury committee' (voice professors). Part one will be two songs from the repertoire for the semester. The student will choose the first song, and the committee will choose the second. Part two will consist of graded sigh singing and rhythmic examples.

Continuation Exam: The second semester of Music 219A is usually the time for the Continuation Exam. Information and training on the requirements, both vocal and academic, will be provided at a later date.

GRADING

Know that your participation and growth are the biggest part of the student's grade. The student's grade will be determined by your performance in the following four criteria...

1. Lessons: Attendance and Participation
2. Seminar: Attendance and Participation
3. Examinations
4. Assignments

OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of each level, students will:

Perform the required repertoire from memory with musical and stylistic accuracy, as well as demonstrate development in vocal technique, pedagogy, breath management, and clarity of diction in the assigned languages.

Please contact me privately if you have any special needs. Those seeking accommodation based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disabilities Resources Office, located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.