MUS 125 - Class Voice  
Fall 2023 | Monday & Wednesday @ 4:25 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.  
Simon Estes Music Hall - Room 125  
Dr. Jennifer Rodgers

COURSE OVERVIEW

*MUS 125 offers individual voice study in a communal master class setting designed to introduce collegiate level singing to voice non-majors and Performing Arts majors. Foundation of the singing voice will be introduced and applied, including posture, breath management, phonation, resonation, vowels and articulation, and registration. Repertoire and performance practice will be appropriate to both classical and CCM singing.*

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to:

- Work together to create a safe place for vocal exploration and personal development.
- Regularly attend and fully engage with the material as both observers and performers.
- Develop a personal practice schedule in between class sessions and keep a practice journal that will be submitted for a grade.
- Perform assigned repertoire (from memory, when applicable) in class once every two weeks and for a final performance at the end of the semester.
- Attend three vocal concerts and submit voice specific reflections for each.

OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Develop a core understanding and will be able to articulate the basic functions of the vocal instrument.
- Develop personal practice and utilize vocal exercises to further their vocal technique.
- Distinguish between classical and commercial and contemporary music (CCM) vocal postures and the appropriate use of each.
- Perform the required repertoire with musical and stylistic accuracy, as well as demonstrate development in vocal technique, breath management, historical context, and clarity of diction in the assigned languages.
- Build confidence in public performance and professional presentation.

GRADING

Know that participation and growth are the biggest part of the student’s grade, which will be determined by their performance in the following criteria:

- Participation (150 points) - active presence in classes, engaged observation and support of peers, and contribution to exercises and discussion.
Performance preparation and assessment (150 points) – readiness for in-class and final performances, application of skills learned, commitment to performance and expression.

Written assignments (150 points):
- Voice journal – Five separate entries assigned that should include reflection of individual’s performance, observations from master class sessions, and notes for application to future pieces.
- Voice concert reports – Three entries from vocal performances that you attend through the semester. Your observations should center around voice production and how it relates to what you are learning.
- Annotated score for Master Class #4 (foreign language) with translation and pronunciation notes.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
- Repertoire Reader (provided by professor)
- One student-selected song choice (approved by professor)
- Recorder or Recording app on cell phone

INCLUSION AND RESPECT
Our community grows richer by welcoming each and all of our differences and creating a space where every person can share their identities and be assured of respect, safety, and the invitation to be vulnerable and open with each other. Courtesy and mutual respect are expected at all times, and it is my very great hope that each of you will go well beyond that minimum and seek to understand and accept each other’s stories and experiences.

I am committed to fostering this inclusive space and addressing all barriers that would prevent students from fully investing in our work together. My door (virtual or physical) is open to all students should difficulty or discomfort arise. Among my commitments to you are those in regard to:

Gender Identity/Expression: Please know that class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me accordingly early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Free Expression
Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not
be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a
class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate
manner.

Disability and Accessibility: In addition to the ISU policies for accommodations and intolerance
of discrimination and harassment based on disability status (below and found at
www.sas.dso.iastate.edu), I wish to ensure that our performance and rehearsal spaces and
structures are accessible and comfortable for all who wish to sing.

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from
discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations
for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility
Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations
will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification
Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be
made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every
semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification
Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive
the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and
are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available
online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at
accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in
the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

Religious and Cultural Practice: Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and
practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the
community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious
observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable
accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The
instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when
possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss
the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible
time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office at 515-
294-1020 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 515-294-7612.

Contact Information for Academic Issues
If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email
academicissues@iastate.edu.