

Professor Chad Sonka  
e-mail: [ca\\_\sonka@iastate.edu](mailto:ca_\sonka@iastate.edu)  
Simon Estes Music Hall 207

Office: (515) 294-1634  
Cell: (319) 560-8314  
Office Hours: T, W, Th, F (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.) & by appointment

## PROFESSOR SONKA VOICE STUDIO SYLLABUS & POLICIES

Fall 2023 / Music 119A – 419A

Zoom Address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6043715727> or FaceTime with Cell # Above

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 to your success. Success, as always, is contingent upon your effort in and out of your private lessons. Each student learns 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.

### 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, history, and clarity of diction in the assigned languages.

### ATTENDANCE

*Attendance is required at all:*

1. Lessons/Coachings      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 only after consultation with the affected student(s) and instructor(s). 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, performance practice, and thinking critically about you and your studio mates' performances.

Each student is required to perform in **at least two** seminars and/or 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 canon. It is in the student's best interest to keep a running library of the repertoire they have learned, as it will need to be presented at the time of their jury or final.

Non-Majors (118A): Three/Four songs per semester. No fewer than six songs per year with a minimum of two different languages.

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.

**Each student is highly encouraged to record their lessons. No need to purchase an expensive device. More information regarding usage will be given during the first lesson.**

## **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 listening assignments. Assignments will be posted 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 will be discussed in seminar class. Please submit on Canvas by **11:59pm** on the due date listed on the sheet. Those dates are listed below for your reference.

Listening #1: **February 19, 2024**

Listening #2: **April 15, 2024**

*Repertoire Assignments*: It is expected that students translate their music and are able to put their songs/arias in historical context **More information regarding format and process will be given during lessons.**

*Recital Reviews*: Students are required to attend every voice faculty, guest and senior recitals. Students will turn in recital reviews (12) for all required recitals or concerts by the end of each semester – upload these to Canvas. Please include concert title, when & where, and a paragraph description of what you heard. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of your grade. **Those giving recitals this semester are exempt from this assignment.**

## **ACCOMPANISTS**

Each student is required to find their own accompanist 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 copies of your repertoire ASAP. Sight-reading, from both the singer & pianist, will not be tolerated.

## **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 sight singing and rhythmic examples.

*Continuation Exam*: In most cases, the second semester of Music 219A culminates with the Continuation Exam. Information and requirements can be obtained through me, Dr. Oakes, your advisor, and <https://www.music.iastate.edu/continuation-exam>.

## **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

## **RESOURCES**

---

### **Contact Information for Academic Issues**

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above statements, email [academicissues@iastate.edu](mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu).

### **Mental Health and Well-Being Resources**

Iowa State University is committed to proactively facilitating all students' well-being. Resources are available on the ISU Student Health and Wellness website (<https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu>).

### **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.

### **Public Health**

If you are not feeling well, you should stay home and focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work with your instructor to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, as consistent with the instructor's attendance policy.

You may choose to wear a face mask and/or receive the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters, as well as other vaccines such as influenza, but those options are not required. Thielen Student Health Center will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccinations free-of-charge to students. The university will continue to offer free masks and COVID-19 test kits during the fall 2022 semester. Other wellbeing resources for students are available at: <https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/wellbeing-resources/>

Public health information for the campus community continues to be available on Iowa State's public health website. All public health questions should be directed to [publichealthteam@iastate.edu](mailto:publichealthteam@iastate.edu).

### **Accessibility Statement**

Iowa State University is committed to advancing equity, access, and inclusion for students with disabilities. Promoting these values entails providing reasonable accommodations where barriers exist to students' full participation in higher education. Students in need of accommodations or who experience accessibility-related barriers to learning should work with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to identify resources and support available to them. Staff at SAS collaborate with students and campus partners to coordinate accommodations and to further the academic excellence of students with disabilities. Information about SAS is available online at [www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu), by email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto:accessibility@iastate.edu), or by phone at 515-294-7220.

### **Discrimination and Harassment**

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email [eooffice@iastate.edu](mailto:eooffice@iastate.edu).

### **Prep Week**

This class follows the Iowa State University Prep Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook.

### **Religious Accommodation**

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.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic misconduct (5.1 in the Student Code of Conduct). Students are responsible for adhering to university policy and the expectations in the course syllabus and on coursework and exams, and for following directions given by faculty, instructors, and Testing Center regulations related to coursework, assessments, and exams. Anyone suspected of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct in the Dean of Students Office. Information about academic integrity and the value of completing academic work honestly can be found in the Iowa State University Academic Integrity Tutorial.