

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for MUS 23A

### ELEMENTARY VOICE I

Effective: Fall 2017

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 23A — ELEMENTARY VOICE I — 1.00 units

Group singing with emphasis on solo performance. Tone production, breathing, diction, and interpretation in regard to song literature.

1.00 Units Lab

#### **Strongly Recommended**

MUS 6 - Basic Music Skills

#### **Grading Methods:**

Letter or P/NP

#### **Discipline:**

**Family:** Music Voice

	<u>MIN</u>
<b>Lab Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

**Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:**

A. MUS6

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- A. Demonstrate through voice performance their knowledge of the basic anatomy and physiology involved in tone production
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of the respiratory system and its contribution to singing through vocal performance
- C. Demonstrate an increased singing range through vocal performance
- D. Interpret music literature in English and Italian through vocal performance

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. The instrument
  - 1. Pitch
  - 2. Duration
  - 3. Volume
  - 4. Timbre
- B. The human body – Physical principles involved in singing
  - 1. Posture
    - a. The legs
      - 1. the knees
      - 2. the feet
    - b. The torso
      - 1. the buttocks
      - 2. the ribs
      - 3. the shoulders
      - 4. the arms
    - c. The head and neck
  - 2. Respiratory system
    - a. the diaphragm
    - b. the ribs
    - c. the intercostals muscles
    - d. the glottis
  - 3. The larynx
    - a. the vocal folds (vocalis)

- b. the false vocal folds
    - c. the epiglottis
  - 4. The pharynx
    - a. the laryngopharynx
    - b. the oropharynx
    - c. the nasopharynx
  - 5. The mouth
    - a. the tongue
    - b. the soft palate
    - c. the hard palate
    - d. the teeth and lips
- C. Elements of Technique
  - 1. Diction
    - a. vowels
    - b. consonants
    - c. projection of vowels and consonants
    - d. the international phonetic alphabet
  - 2. Breathing
    - a. diaphragm
    - b. the intercostals
    - c. head, neck and torso anchoring
    - d. the pelvis
    - e. the valve (the glottis)
  - 3. Production of tone
    - a. thick folds (belting, opera)
    - b. thin folds (folk song, art song)
    - c. stiff folds (falsetto)
    - d. aryepiglottic sphincter (squillo)
    - e. soft palate
    - f. tongue compression and relaxation
  - 4. Amplitude
    - a. loudness
    - b. softness
    - c. projection
    - d. perception
- D. Theoretical elements
  - 1. Pulse and meter
  - 2. Intervals
  - 3. Scales
  - 4. Rhythm
  - 5. Texture
    - a. monophony
    - b. homophony
    - c. polyphony
  - 6. Form
- E. Expressive elements
  - 1. elementary phrasing
  - 2. legato
  - 3. staccato
  - 4. climax
  - 5. contrast
  - 6. mood
  - 7. musical content
  - 8. style
- F. Sightsinging
- G. Practice techniques

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture-demonstration of concepts
- B. Small group and whole class discussion
- C. Coaching
- D. Live presentations when feasible
- E. Films and recordings

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Read Chapter 6: "Function of the Epiglottic Sphincter."
- B. Practice the open and closed position of the soft palate.
- C. Prepare and perform "Vittoria, Vittoria" by Carissimi.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### A. **Methods**

##### B. **Frequency**

- 1. Daily critique of tone production
- 2. Midterm-written and prepare and perform one song
- 3. Final examination

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Liu, Min. *Vocal Superstar: How to Develop a High Status Voice*. Kindle ed., Amazon Digital Services LLC, 2016.
- 2. Bickel, Jan. *Vocal Technique: A Physiologic Approach, Second Edition*. 2nd ed., Plural Publishing, Inc, 2016.
- 3. Songer, Lorelee. *Songs of the Second Viennese School: A Performer's Guide to Selected Solo Vocal Works*. 1st ed., Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: