

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for MUS 23A

ELEMENTARY VOICE I

Effective: Fall 2010

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>
Lab Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	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 knowledge of the basic anatomy and physiology involved in tone production;
- B. demonstrate knowledge of the respiratory system and its contribution to singing;
- C. demonstrate an increased singing range;
- D. interpret music literature in English and Italian.

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. Dayme, Meribeth and Cynthia Vaughn *The Singing Book*. 2nd ed., W.W. Norton & Co., 2008.
- 2. Lynn, Theodore A. *Introductory Musicianship*. 7th ed., Wadsworth, 2006.
- 3. White, Gary *Music First!*. 6th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2010.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: