

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for MUS 33

STUDY OF VOICE

Effective: Fall 2017

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 33 — STUDY OF VOICE — 1.00 units

Individual improvement of the technical facility, tone quality, and range of the singing voice in solo performances; designed to extend knowledge of the literature in general and help acquire a basic repertory. Required for voice majors.

1.00 Units Lecture

Prerequisite

MUS 23B - Elementary Voice II
 with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

Family: Music Voice

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	18.00
Total Hours:	18.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 4

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering the course a student should be able to:

A. MUS23B

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Build a basic foundation of voice production and an approach to widening their acquaintance with significant vocal literature
- B. Show improved technical facility, tone quality, and range
- C. Perform with musical sensitivity as a means for artistic expression
- D. Improve ability to bring song to life through acting

V. CONTENT:

- A. Principles of correct vocal production
 - 1. Tone quality
 - 2. Breath support
 - 3. Increasing the singable range
- B. Interpretive techniques
 - 1. Phrasing
 - 2. Diction
 - 3. Nuance of the text
 - 4. Stage presence
 - 5. Proper reading of the score
- C. In the course of two semesters, the following types of literature must be performed:
 - 1. Art song
 - 2. An aria from an opera, oratorio, or cantata
 - 3. A selection from a Broadway musical
 - 4. A folk song, spiritual, or other type of composition suitable for concert presentation
 - 5. One of the above songs must be in Italian and another in either France or German.
- D. Students will be responsible for learning something about the stylistic background and demands of each song, and, in the case of arias, etc., for explaining to the class the context out of which the song is taken.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. "Studio" approach to instruction
- B. Constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement
- C. Solo and unison performance of exercises and songs

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Use the I.P.A. (International phonetic alphabet) to determine the proper pronunciation of English or foreign language.
- B. Prepare and perform one song in a foreign language
 - 1. "Vittoria, Vittoria" by Carissimi
 - 2. "Caro Mio Ben" twenty found Italian songs and arias songbook
- C. Compare and contrast the frottola, "El Grillo", by Josquin des Prez with the madrigal, "In Pride of May", by Thomas Weelkes.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Other:
 - a. Written examinations on specific materials related to the course
 - 1. Identify the major organs used in tone production.
 - 2. Compare and contrast "Six Folk Songs" by Johannes Brahms with "Three Choral Songs" by L.A. Christiansen.
 - b. Satisfactory attendance and contribution to an atmosphere that "strives for excellence"
 - c. The student is required to prepare four songs and perform them for the class.
 - d. The student is required to perform two songs for jury or student/faculty recital.

B. **Frequency**

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

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Dayme, Meribeth and Cynthia Vaughn *The Singing Book*. 2nd ed., W.W. Norton & Co., 2008.
- 2. Hurwitz, Nathan. *Songwriters of the American Musical Theatre: A Style Guide for Singers*. 1st ed., Routledge, 2016.
- 3. Hoch, Matthew, Linda Lister, and Nicole Cabell. *Voice Secrets: 100 Performance Strategies for the Advanced Singer*. 1st ed., Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016.
- 4. Wormley, Gillian. *The A-Z of Vocal Technique: #technique tip of the day*. Kindle ed., Amazon Digital Services LLC, 2016.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Appropriate literature as recommended by the instructor