

## **APPLIED VOICE**

AMUS 1201, 1202, 2201, 2202, 3201, 3202, 4201, 4202, 3862, 4962  
Fall 2020

**Dr. Don Maxwell, Professor**  
**Hardin N 101 ~ 397-4242**

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Welcome to Fall Semester 2020

The following information will explain the requirements for this course – individual voice instruction. Lessons are taught one-on-one, hence they are arranged at mutually acceptable times. You will receive two half-hour lessons per week- one lesson with an accompanist and me, and the other with only me. The ultimate objective is simple: to learn how to use your voice as a solo instrument in the freest, most expressive manner possible. Since many of you may become teachers of singing by choice or circumstance, the objective is the same. Voice training is a long, arduous process fraught with difficulties. However, amazing progress can be made if we work together to understand the natural physical laws which govern vocalization.

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**IMPORTANT-** In light of COVID-19 restrictions, the following precautions will be taken:

Enter and leave my teaching space (Akin Auditorium, NOT Hardin North 101( which is my office space) only at your appointed lesson times and follow these directions carefully. **BE SURE YOU WEAR YOUR MASK AT ALL TIMES!** Enter the North entrance to the Hardin Administration Building (next to the scene dock) and proceed straight ahead to the entrance of Akin Auditorium. **DO NOT ENTER BACKSTAGE.** Enter the Hall and take the left ramp onto the stage and proceed along the lip of the stage until I direct you to where you should stand. At the conclusion of your lesson, exit the building by the door facing North (to your left as you are standing on stage). You will not be able stay to listen to other students.

**MUSIC ASSIGNMENTS-**For new students, I will need vocalize you before I can pick appropriate music. For returning students, your accompanist already has much of your music. Additional assignments will be made as needed. Thank you for your cooperation and stay safe!

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Although we will be spending a good deal of time vocalizing in lessons, the objective is to learn to communicate effectively to others through the singing of vocal literature. It is therefore mandatory that you quickly learn the material assigned. Your homework will consist of memorizing music, not vocalizing. All vocalizing will take place during scheduled lessons.

**REPERTOIRE:** Four pieces of music will be assigned for the semester. In some cases extended works may count for more than one song. I will help you secure copies of assigned music.

**GRADING POLICY:** Grading is based upon 1) attendance 2) memorization of music and 3) the Voice Jury (Final Exam). The Voice Jury is held at the end of the semester, where you will perform music you have learned during the Fall 2020. You are expected to attend all scheduled lessons. More than one unexcused absence will result in one grade reduction per unexcused lesson.

If you are sick or have an unavoidable conflict, please let me know by phone (940) 397-4242) before your lesson.

During the weeks listed below, you will be graded on a new song; if it is MEMORIZED and well sung, you get an A. If not, your grade will be anywhere from B to F, depending on my assessment of where you are on the piece. It should be obvious if you get even one F, you cannot possibly get an A for the semester.

Week of Sept. 28 1st song  
Week of Oct. 19 2nd song  
Week of Nov. 2 3rd song  
Week of Nov. 23 4th song

**UPPER-LEVEL:** Voice majors may not begin junior-level courses (3000) until they have passed the Sophomore Barrier. At the conclusion of the 4th semester of study, the student must meet specific requirements in order to proceed to upper-level (see student handbook).

In the process of learning how to sing, we will address topics of vital importance to singers and prospective teachers of singing-- the physiological vocal mechanism, mental vocal control, resonance, the breathing process as it pertains to singing, voice change at puberty, and good vocal health habits.

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE BRING A FLASH OR THUMB DRIVE TO YOUR LESSONS! MAKE SURE YOU TAPE YOUR NAME ON IT SO YOU DON'T GET THE WRONG ONE BACK. PIANO ACCOMPANIMENTS WILL BE RECORDED EARLY IN THE SEMESTER SO THAT YOU CAN USE THEM FOR YOUR PRACTICE TIME.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to be present for all lessons. In the event of illness or unavoidable delay, please call my cell phone (867-8474) before your scheduled lesson. Two unexcused absences will lower the final grade by one letter— four unexcused absences, two letter grades, A student with excessive absences may be dropped from the course by the instructor.

**OFFICE HOURS:** If you need to talk to me for any reason out of class, please refer to the available office hours posted on my door, Hardin North 101, which is located just

across from the Akin Auditorium entrance. If the posted times are not convenient for you, or the need is urgent, please call my cell phone (940-867-8474) to arrange a mutually agreed upon time.

COVID19 AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS: Although we are beginning the Fall 2020 semester face to face, MSU may require remote instruction at any time, should circumstances warrant. It. VOICE LESSONS WILL BE GOING REMOTE THE WEEK AFTER THANKSGIVING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FALL SEMESTER. Remote lessons will be taught via cell phone using Zoom.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Dean of Students' Office.

DISRUPTION OF TEACHING: Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other university activities authorized to be held or conducted on the premises of Midwestern State University. Such activity includes classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program.

INSTRUCTOR DROP: An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct.

OFFICE HOURS: If for any reason you need to talk to me out of class, please refer to the available office hours posted on my office door, Hardin North 101, which is located just across from the Akin Auditorium entrance. If the hours listed are not convenient for you, please call my cell phone (940-867-8474).

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values and the professor considers the classroom to be a place where students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students be able to consider the classroom a safe environment.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information that needs sharing, or if you need special accommodations in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Federal privacy law prohibits me from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in

almost all cases I will not discuss your academic progress or other matters with your parents. Please do not have them call me. Regardless of these important legal considerations, it is my general policy to communicate with the students, not their parents even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [Campus Carry Policy](#)