

APPLIED VOICE

AMUS 1202, 2201, 3201, 3202, 4201, 4202, 4961, 4962

Spring 2021

Dr. Don Maxwell, Professor

Hardin N 101 ~ 397-4242

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Welcome to Spring Semester 2021

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 me and the other with me and your accompanist. The accompanist will be at your lesson time marked with an “S”. The ultimate objective is simple: to learn how to use your voice in the freest, most expressive manner possible regardless of whether you are group or solo singing. Since many of you may become teachers of singing by choice or circumstance, learning how your own voice works is crucial to understanding how to teach voice. 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.

IMPORTANT- In light of COVID-19 restrictions, the following precautions will be taken:
BE SURE YOU WEAR YOUR MASK AT ALL TIMES!

Although we are beginning the Spring 2021 semester face to face, MSU may require remote instruction at any time, should circumstances warrant it.

For current voice face to face lessons, I will be alternating teaching spaces between Akin Auditorium and Hardin 101. My teaching schedule shows which space you attend for each lesson (indicated by A or 101). For Akin, 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). If your lesson is in Hardin North 101, it is located right across from the entrance to Akin. Do not come early to either teaching space. The hallway will be congested with students and teachers heading for other classes, and you want to avoid as much contact as possible.

MUSIC ASSIGNMENTS-For new students, I will need to vocalize you before I can assign 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!

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Although we will be spending a good deal of time vocalizing in lessons, the main objective is to learn to communicate effectively to others through the singing of solo 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.

DEGREE RECITALS- For those who are performing Voice Recitals this semester, each program will be limited to 25 minutes of music. If you are a Music Education student, your recital will be 25 minute program. Vocal Performance majors will present a Junior recital 25 minutes in length and a Senior recital of two 25 minute programs to be separated by at least one-half hour.

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, when you will perform music you have learned during the Spring semester 2021. You are expected to attend all scheduled lessons. More than one unexcused absence will result in one grade reduction per additional unexcused 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 Feb 8 1st song
Week of March 1 2nd song
Week of March 22 3rd song
Week of April 12 4th song

(Opera ensembles WILL count as songs)

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.

GRADING POLICY –Grading is based upon 1) attendance, 2) memorization of music, and 3) the Voice Jury (Final Exam).

1).ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to be present for all lessons. In the event of illness or unavoidable delay, please call my cell phone (397-4242) BEFORE your scheduled lesson. Two unexcused absences will lower the final grade by one letter—four unexcused absences, two letter grades, Students with more than four unexcused absences will be dropped from the course by the instructor.

2). MEMORIZATION OF MUSIC: Four pieces of music will be assigned for the semester, In some cases, extended works count for more than one song. I will help you secure copies of assigned music.

3) THE VOICE JURY: The voice Jury is the Final Exam for this course. It is held at the end of the semester when you will perform the pieces you have learned for the semester in front of a panel of voice teaching instructors. The jury grade is 30% of your final grade.

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 need is urgent, please call my cell phone (940-867-8474) to arrange a mutually agreed upon time to meet.

COVID19 AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS: Although we are beginning the Spring 2021 semester face to face, MSU may require remote instruction at any time, should circumstances warrant. It. 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.

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](#)