WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Performance class designed for students with little or no vocal experience. Deals with vocal production and literature for voice. Student will complete the basic level modules 1-10 of MusicLab Melody. Recital or concert attendance required. Repeatable up to 4 credits; 2 credits applicable toward A.A. degree. (3 hrs. lect/studio) WCC: DA

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times

1. Attendance at a vocal recital or concert. Performer must be doing solo work, not as part of a group. Printed program or ticket stub required with critique.
2. Practice vocal exercises and songs 30 – 45 minutes daily outside of class. These will be taken from your books and Smart Music assignments.
3. Participation in the semester recital.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic vocal techniques of physical alignment, breath support, breath control, and tone production.
2. Apply basic concepts of rhythm and pitch accuracy in performances.
3. Employ basic concepts of sight reading in learning music for performance.
4. Exhibit growing confidence in public performance.
COURSE CONTENT

**Concepts or Topics**
- Body balance / posture
- Breath support
- Breath control
- Soft palate arch
- Pitch notation
- Rhythmic notation
- Vocalise (vocal exercise)
- Resonance
- Projection
- Inner smile

**Skills or Competencies**
1. Sing the correct pitches of vocal exercises and songs
2. Learn and perform the correct rhythm of the song text
3. Sing vocal exercises correctly.
4. Prepare five songs for performance.
5. Sing five songs for a grade.
6. Participate in the semester recital.

COURSE TASKS

**Basics:**
- Learn proper vocal technique (breath control, tonal production, dynamic range) through the practice of specific vocalises.
- Be aware of any habits that do not support physically efficient singing.

**Vocal Technique:**
- Learn techniques for different styles of singing.
- Learn to use dynamic levels.

**Music Theory:**
- Learn musical elements that support improvement in sight-reading.
- Develop basic sight-reading ability through continual practice, both in class and outside class.
- Complete 10 modules of MusicLab Melody, Basic level.
- Work with other computer programs suggested by instructor to acquire basic knowledge of music theory. (optional)

**Evaluation:**
- Participate in the evaluation of your own performances and those of other students in the class.
- Attend one vocal concert by a well-known vocalist (NOT a band, nightclub show, or in-the-park fundraiser) and write a critique of the singers performance (see Writing Your Critique), page 5).
  DUE DATE: 10 calendar days after performance and no later than December 1, 2010. Two points will be deducted for each day the paper is late.
Performance:
• Develop poise and confidence by performing five songs in English and other languages in class videotaping sessions. Make your list early and perform them in order of difficulty.
• Participate in Fall Music Showcase TBA, 2010.

Smart Music (as assigned):
• You will need to purchase a subscription to Smart Music for your home computer or laptop. Vocal exercises, some songs and possibly quizzes will be sent to you as assignments. This program allows you to adjust pitch, tempo and other elements for the accompaniment. You will email completed assignments to me for grading.
• You can email your practice sessions for me for review and suggestions. I will demonstrate this in class.

Extra Credit:
• Register for MUS 114, College Chorus, attend rehearsals and sing in scheduled performances (1-2 per semester). This will support your vocal training and give you practice in sight reading. Music is provided for rehearsals and concerts. (50 pts)
• View and write a summary of any or all three videos in The Human Voice video series. (10 pts.each). Completed summaries are due no later than December 1, 2010.

Assessment Tasks and Grading

Evaluation
Students will be evaluated on the basis of their development in the following areas:
• Posture
• Breath support and control
• Intonation
• Correct voice placement (focus)
• Flexibility and expansion of vocal range
• Diction
• Memorization

Evaluation Criteria

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Five (5) songs performed in class by memory (using evaluation criteria above)</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. One (1) written exam (singer’s anatomy, technique, and basic theory)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>3. One Written critique of a performance by a well-known singer</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>4. Completion of Smart Music Assignments</td>
<td>100</td>
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5. Journal 75
6. Participation in end-of-semester recital 50
7. Attendance (See attendance policy) _____
TOTAL 875

Grades will be assigned both on the basis of the number of points attained, the number of unexcused absences, on the progress you have made vocally, and on your attitude. Your assessment of your progress is welcomed by the instructor.

Grades will be assigned in the following manner:

A  788-875 points and no more than 2 unexcused absences
B  700-787 points and no more than 4 unexcused absences
C  613-699 points and no more than 6 unexcused absences
D  525-612 points and no more than 8 unexcused absences
F  Less than 525 points and/or more than 8 unexcused absences
C/NC  See WCC catalog for information related to this option.
I  Incomplete. See WCC catalog for information related to this option.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Textbook and Materials

Required:

- Meribeth Bunch & Cynthia Vaughn: *The Singing Book, 2nd edition* (includes 2 CD’s)
- **Smart Music Student** Subscription ($30). Do NOT buy the CD; just download the program to your computer.

Optional:

Elosie Ristad: *A Soprano on Her Head*

Recommended equipment for practice: Cassette tape or digital recorder, full-length mirror, hand mirror, and pen-light flashlight.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Instruction will be through lecture, demonstration, performance by students (master class approach in which instructor critiques performance for rest of class), and use of AV materials when available.

- Being in class is vital to your success. Developing proper vocal habits and sounds requires close observation by and feedback from your teacher. You will receive 2 points for each class attended I point for an excused absence, and I point if you are tardy, but no more than 25 minutes late. Refer to the Student Conduct Code in the WCC College Catalog for additional information about attendance policies.

- You, the student, will be expected to:
  1. Practice at least 3-4 hours a week outside of class. I recommend 30 minutes daily.
  2. Attend ALL class sessions.
  3. Be on time for classes.
4. ALL assignments, singing or written, are due on the date assigned and may not be accepted at a later date.
5. When ill, call in BEFORE class (either office or leave a message with the switchboard) or send an e-mail. After-the-fact excuses will not result in an excused absence.
6. Take advantage of the opportunity to hear well-known vocalists in performance either live or on the radio or TV.
7. This course outline and other important documents may be found on the Laulima site. Here is a link to getting started on Laulima:
   http://windward.hawaii.edu/technology/Laulima.html

- **Writing Your Critique**

  1. Format
     A. As with all college-level work, your critique is expected to be typewritten, double-spaced on one side of the page.
     B. On the first page in the upper right or left hand corner, place your name, the date submitted, the name of the recital or concert, and the name(s) of the principals in the concert.
     C. Start with a thesis statement, such as “Tonight, I heard a voice that embodied all the qualities of a great singer” or “Ms. X is a terrible singer.” Then follow that statement with supporting evidence.

  2. Criteria--Use the same criteria by which your singing is being measured (see E above).
     - Posture
     - Breath support and control
     - Intonation
     - Correct voice placement (focus)
     - Flexibility and expansion of vocal range
     - Diction
     - Memorization

  3. The evaluation must be turned in NO LATER THAN 10 calendar days following the performance. No reports will be accepted after November 30, 2009.

- **Your Voice Journal**

  Keep a daily journal, preferably in a loose leaf notebook. As noted earlier, your journal should include notes from class lectures and reading from your textbook, practice, performance, changes, new ideas, sounds, experimenting with your speaking voice, etc. Be sure to note the date on which the journal is written, how long you practiced and what you practiced.

  NOTE: Singing with the radio (at home or in your car) or jamming with your friends, and sing at church ARE NOT practice; they are performance. Practice needs to be done alone in a reasonably quiet space. You are encouraged to use our practice rooms in Hale Palanakila if you do not have an appropriate place at home.