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

This is a performance class designed for students with little or no solo vocal experience. It will cover primarily the beginnings of a sound vocal technique, and will include opportunities to experience more traditional literature for voice.

Students will be required to sing a minimum of 3 times, solo, in front of the class, from memory! The following criteria will be used:

1. The first song will be the student’s choice, but if possible, please provide a copy of the song for the accompanist to play for you. Think of it as an audition for a role or part in a musical. What you should be able to show is how you produce your voice, how you deal with your nerves singing in front of a group of your peers, and how your enjoyment of singing still shines through despite the nervousness of the situation.

2. The instructor will choose the second song for each student, based on what the student has shown vocally in class in the first song. These songs are technique pieces and derive usually from various repertoire: Italian Art songs, Popular songs, musical comedy selections, or even from the classic Hawaiian genre.

3. The 3rd song will be the student’s choice, and it is recommended that this song come from the style of music that is of special interest to the individual student.

Of utmost importance will be for students to show that they are making an effort to apply some of the vocal concepts that we cover in class. Knowing that the acquisition of vocal technique is a slow process, the grading will be based more on the effort made by each student, NOT by whether or not the vocal concept is “in place” yet. Patience and perseverance are two qualities that should be embraced by everyone right at the outset of the class.

It will be up to the student to sing each choice song and be graded on it BEFORE s/he moves to the next choice. The total points to be earned will be 100 points per song; points are earned each time the student sings, with the most significant occasion being then the singer has learned the song well enough to present it as a “Finished Product”. It is possible to earn more than 100 points, depending on how well and how often the student sings; however, no song can total more than 125 points. To earn an “A” in this class, students will

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Note: examples of these songs are those written by composers such as Charles E. King, Queen Lili‘uokalani, Dave Nape, Mathew Kane, Dennis Kamakahi, Helen Desha Beamer, Helen Lindsey Parker, et al.
have to sing 3 songs, solo, from memory, earning at least 300 points (at least 100 points per song).

A great advantage of a Voice Class over private lessons is that the student potentially has repeated occasions to hear vocal instruction being directed at his or her peers, which often can help immeasurably in the understanding of a vocal concept that might apply to his or her own development as a singer. Taking notes in class, then, as you observe each other sing, can be of considerable significance for your own singing in the students quest for vocal excellence. Therefore,

**ATTENDANCE AT EVERY CLASS IS MANDATORY!**

There will be no such thing as an excused/unexcused absence. You are allowed 3 absences for any reason. After those three absences, your grade will be reduced by one entire letter per absence. Therefore, on absence number 4, your grade drops from an A to a B; on absence 5, from a B to a C; and, so forth.

Also, rehearsals and performances on the end of semester recital are mandatory. If you miss ANY of them, your grade will be reduced by a letter grade for each rehearsal/performance missed, regardless of reason.

Each student will be required to attend a recital, church service or concert attendance. At this concert, there must be a vocal soloist on the program, on whose vocal performance will be what your review is focused. A 2-page, double space, computer generated paper of your comments on the singer and his/her performance is due by Wednesday, November 26, 2014. Much of your grade for this paper will be based on how much you incorporate some of the vocal precepts that we cover in class.

Note: this syllabus may be altered or revised during the semester, but the students will be notified when and if it does get changed.

**GRADING & ASSESSMENT**

This semester we will be adopting a new strategy of teaching Vocal Development. The first 12 weeks of the semester will be divided into 6 units of 2 weeks apiece. They will be divided into the following areas:

- **Unit 1:** The Head (Voice, larynx, resonance, placement, mouth/throat/neck)
- **Unit 2:** The Body (sternum, pelvis, feet, knees, solar plexus, balance, shoulders)
- **Unit 3:** The Left Hemisphere of the Brain: Language (text, diction, vowels)
- **Unit 4:** The Right Hemisphere of the Brain: Music (notation, melody/harmony)
- **Unit 5:** What lies Behind (your influences, experience, previous training)
- **Unit 6:** What lies Ahead (The Audience, your future Goals, Focus)

Each unit will include a vocabulary list on subjects and concepts that students will have to define and understand before moving to the next unit. Each student will maintain a journal (a spiral notebook, College ruled works perfectly) in which you will take notes and enter ideas and concepts about his or her understanding of what their voices is doing. There will be a quiz at the end of each 2 week period. See dateline at the end of this syllabus to see when the quizzes occur.

Your grades will be earned according to the following guidelines:

**A. 250 points - classroom participation (showing up, speaking up, good attitude, making constructive comments to your peers, etc.)**

**B 250 points - Concert Review Paper**
C. **250 points** - quizzes and journal exercises

D. **250 points** – Solo singing, showing consistent effort to improve vocally, making sounds that are new to you. There are 2 categories: P/S (practice sessions), worth 100 pts total, and F/P (finished product), worth 150 pts, for a grand total of 250 points. The P/S’s can be divided up among the 3 songs (10 x 20 pts per session, for example), but the F/S’s are all worth a maximum of 100 points each.

900 – 1000 = A  
800 – 899 = B  
700 – 799 = C  
600 – 699 = D  
599 & less = F

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 at least 30 minutes daily outside of class.
3. Participation in the semester recital.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Demonstrate some of the basics of a sound vocal technique, such as physical alignment, breath support, breath control, lack of jaw tension, tone production, and the importance of well-chosen vowels in your work as a singer.
2. Apply basic concepts of music theory, such as melody, harmony and rhythm, phrasing, musicality, and pitch accuracy in performances.
3. Exhibit growing confidence in public performance based on repeated performance singing in front of a group of peers in class, culminating in possibility of earning a spot on a semester-end vocal recital.

**MUS 121:2 VOICE CLASS TIMELINE FALL 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1:</th>
<th>8/24</th>
<th>INTRO</th>
<th>8/26</th>
<th>INTRO</th>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 2:</td>
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<td><strong>UNIT 1</strong></td>
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<td>UNIT</td>
<td>DATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>UNIT 2</td>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>QUIZ</td>
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<td>WEEK 6</td>
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<td>WEEK 7</td>
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<td>WEEK 8</td>
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<td>QUIZ</td>
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<td>WEEK 14</td>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>PREP FOR HO'IKE</td>
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<td>PAPERS DUE!!!</td>
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<td>WEEK 15</td>
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<td>PREP IN PALIKŪ</td>
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<td>WEEK 16</td>
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<td>12/9-11</td>
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Revised August 31, 2015