MUSIC 121/122B VOICE
2 UNITS
MON & WED 10:00 – 11:15am, Pālakila 211

INSTRUCTOR: CD Ka'ala Carmack
OFFICE: Pālakila 130
OFFICE HOURS: Mon & Wed: 8:30 – 9:30am; Tue & Thu: 10:00 – 11:00am
TELEPHONE: 236-9130
EMAIL: kaalac@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: SPRING 2017

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

CATALOGUE 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. It will be roughly divided into 2 areas: experiential (singing) and academic (talking about singing).

EXPERIENTIAL

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 each of you must 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

1 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.
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 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.

**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.

**COURSE CONTENT**

**ACADEMIC**

**Concert Review Paper**

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 within a week of the performance attended. Please attach a ticket stub to your paper, if available. 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.
Singing, as we will cover it in this semester, has three main components: Music, Message and Magic. The **Music** is represented by notated version of the song(s) you will sing, which require you as the singer to learn the piece as written, sing it in tune, in time, and honoring the pitches, rhythms, tempo markings, dynamics and rests indicated by the composer on the sheet. The **Message** relates to the text: what the meaning is, what language it’s in, what does it take to have excellent diction, proper phrasing, etc. The 3rd element is the **Magic** that which you as the singer will bring to the performance of the song; it cannot be just a reading of the piece. You need to make every effort to express yourself through the text and music so that it will be a meaningful experience for your as the performer and us as the audience.

**Concepts or Topics**

- Harmony
- Placement
- Resonance
- Mask
- Vowel accuracy
- Space
- Soft palate
- Sternum
- Diction
- Diphthong
- Legato
- Phrasing
- Focus
- Ensemble
- Rhythm/pulse
- Melody
- Intonation

**Skills or Competencies**

- Learn musical terminology and its proper use.
- Identify general characteristics from aural examples.
- Compare/contrast different musical styles.
- Critique live performances.
- Write a research paper on a musical topic (with approval from instructor).
- Present an oral report on a classical musician or an area of classical music that interests you (with approval of instructor).

**COURSE TASKS**

1. Actively participate in class discussions. Silence is not an option.
2. Cell phones need to remain in your bag. No texting or playing with phones during class.
3. Bring items for note-taking. If you will be using a laptop, please make sure you are using it only for note-taking. Respect other students and instructor by not doing other assignments or surfing the internet.
4. Attend at least 1 live concerts and submit within 1 week a 2-3 page computer-generated critique of the concert. A list of concert venue will be provided. Please choose events that you would not normally go to. If you have any doubts about a particular event, please consult the instructor.
5. **EXTRA CREDIT:** You may do extra credit work for this course. Before doing it, please consult with the instructor for approval.
ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Your grades will be earned according to the following guidelines:

A. **200 points** - classroom participation (showing up, speaking up, good attitude, making constructive comments to your peers, etc.)

B. **200 points** - Concert Review Paper

C. **200 points** - quizzes and journal exercises

D. **400 points** – Solo singing both in class and onstage for the Final Ho’ike. Students should show consistent efforts at improving vocally, making sounds that are unfamiliar to you. Each song will be worth 100 points, in a combination of practicing and performing. The final song will also be worth 100 points

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

LEARNING RESOURCES

NO TEXTBOOK FOR THIS CLASS.

Additional

**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. Please keep a log of practice times. There are practice rooms available in Hale Pālakila: Rooms 103, 105 and 107. The system to use the practice rooms requires each student to go to the front desk of the library, leave their student ID, then take the key to open up the practice room, use it, then return to the key and retrieve their ID card.


DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

*If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.*

Revised January 23, 2017