**MUS 1113 Voice for Beginners**

***Description:***

This course is designed primarily for persons with little or no singing experience. This is an introductory level course designed to begin the development of vocal potential and to lay a foundation for proper vocal production. Materials studied may include vocal exercises, folk songs, English and Italian art songs, popular standards and musical theatre selections. Repertory will be assigned according to the student’s abilities. The course is heavily grounded in practical performance and theory is only to enhance the practice. Every student must participate in the Departmental Performances as part of course work.

***Objectives:***

1. To offer basic skills in the art of singing and vocal production
2. To offer knowledge in handling rehearsals
3. To equip students with aural and sight singing skills
4. To develop in students an understanding of the basic anatomy of the vocal apparatus and its function as it pertains to teaching

*Course Outline*

Topic 1: Introduction to Voice

* Handling and Care
* Handling Rehearsals

Topic 2: Body Posture: Mechanics of Respiration

* Anatomy of Good Posture
* Identification of Vocal Apparatus
* Exercises in Correct Stance

Topic 3: Fundamentals of Vocal Technique: Terms and Concepts, Posture, Breathing, and Relaxation

Topic 4: Vocalizes and Other Vocal Exercises: Legato Style

Topic 5: English And Italian Diction

Topic 6: Tone Quality, Vowel Production, Diphthongs, and Consonants

Topic 7: Register and Ranges, Resonance, and Vocal Health

Topic 8: Interpretation, Style, and Deportment

Topic 9: Ear Training and Sight Singing Skills

Topic 10: Assigned Repertory of English Art Songs, Folk Songs, Italian Songs, or Popular Songs

*Learning Outcomes*

1. Demonstration of the fundamentals of vocal technique, posture and breathing
2. Ability to apply good vowel production and diction
3. Ability to produce an open and focused tone quality and a relaxed legato line throughout the voice range
4. Ability to use the anatomy and musculature of the vocal apparatus and their function in singing
5. Ability to hear and write down (aural skills) simple melodies
6. Ability to sight sing simple melodies

*Methods of Teaching/Delivery*

Homework, lecture, demonstration, individual instruction, tutorial

*Modes of Assessment*

Course work

* Attendance and participation in class: 5%
* Weekly performance assessment: 20%
* Sight Singing: 5%
* Aural assignment: 5%
* Departmental Performances: 5%

Final examinations

* Practical:
  + Sight singing: 5%
  + Aural: 5%
  + Performance: 20%
* Written: 30%

*Selected Readings*

Carratello, John Dominick. 1998. *Singing for the Stars: A complete Training for Your Voice.* New York: Alfred Publishing.

Clifton Ware, *Adventures in Singing,* latest edition, McGraw Hill, New York, NY

(text and accompanying CD).

Paton, A. 2004.*Foundations in Singing/ Keyboard.*8th Edition. New York: Char McG.

Pattison, Pat. 1991. *Songwriting: Essential Guide to Lyric Form and Structure: Tools and Techniques for Writing Better Lyrics (Songwriting Guides*. Boston: Berklee Press.