

POTTER VOICE STUDIO

APPLIED VOICE SYLLABUS

Course Numbers: MVV 1411 – 5451

Fall Semester, 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Voice lessons are designed to provide instruction in vocal technique, performance preparation, musical skills and music appreciation, and to foster independent and self-motivated learners.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Name:	Thomas Potter	Office Phone:	(407) 823-4680
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APPLIED VOICE LESSONS:

Depending on your degree path (and in some cases the seriousness with which you apply yourself to your study), you may be eligible for two, four, six, or eight semesters of applied voice lessons. *In every case, we have precious little time to prepare you for the next step in your vocal future.* It is my goal to help you achieve your highest potential during this brief time period. That is the concept which drives the ever-more-regimented program instituted in this studio.

Each student must attend our voice studio class from 11:30-12:20 each and every Wednesday, and will be assigned individual lesson times – Bachelor of Arts students will be assigned one 15 minute lesson allocated to performance skills (with an accompanist), and one 25 minute lesson dedicated to text and technique study (no accompanist). Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Music students will receive two 25-minute lessons each week. One of the two lessons will be with an accompanist, the other without. In the semester of a degree-required recital, students may opt to have an additional half-hour lesson with their accompanist, if schedules allow. Students who choose to exercise this option will be responsible for the additional pianist fees.

All assigned music must be learned outside your lesson time. *Lessons will not be used for note learning.* If you come to a lesson insufficiently prepared, you may be asked to spend that time in a practice room – the lesson time will not be made up.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

At your assigned lesson time, knock on the door, then enter – not waiting for a reply.

BE ON TIME, VOCALLY AND PHYSICALLY WARMED UP! The discipline of being punctual is a critical component in your preparation to enter the professional world (whether that world for you includes singing opera, teaching music/voice, or working at NASA, or at KFC!). In addition to the factor of professionalism, late arrival shortens your lesson and reduces your chance of progressing at an acceptable rate – for that reason, *any three tardy arrivals to lessons and/or studio classes will result in the lowering of your semester grade by one complete letter.* If you know you must be late for a lesson or studio class, please extend to me the courtesy of calling my office and telling me (or leaving a message) prior to the scheduled start time.

COME TO YOUR LESSONS AND OTHER ASSIGNED EVENTS! Students are allowed [*gifted*, really] one unexcused absence per semester from a lesson/class/required event without penalty. If you know you must miss a lesson or any other expected attendance event (see below) *for any reason*, complete an attendance form (found in a pouch on the wall next to my office door) and leave it in my faculty mailbox upstairs [CNH, Room 205], preferably 24 hours prior to the scheduled event/lesson/class. Failure to turn in an attendance form within one week after the event/lesson/class will forfeit your chance of that absence being excused. *A second unexcused absence per semester will result in the lowering of your semester grade by one complete letter. A third unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your semester grade by two complete letters.*

Any lessons I must miss due to circumstances or professional obligations will be made up. Unexcused absences and lessons missed due to university-recognized holidays and departmental events [auditions, ensemble tours, etc.] will not. Lessons missed due to student illness will also not be made up. Please note that you are always encouraged to quietly and respectfully visit others' lessons and that occasionally, visitors may sit in on your lessons, as well. See me about the possibility of using this and/or additional event attendance as "extra credit" toward the above attendance policy.

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PVS LESSON BOOK

The PVS Lesson Book is a three-ring binder in which you are to keep the following items at all times, separated by labeled section dividers or tabs:

- a printed copy of this syllabus
- a copy of each assigned music selection for the semester
- literal translations of each text (may be written on music copies or printed separately)
- a copy of each and every written assignment for the semester
- recital application form / program / program notes (when applicable)

Students are required to bring their PVS Lesson Book with them to all voice lessons and studio classes. Failure to do so may lower your grade for that lesson/class.

REPERTOIRE MINIMUMS [PER SEMESTER]:

YEAR	DEGREE(S)	# OF SELECTIONS	LANGUAGES REPRESENTED
MVV 1411	BA, BME, BM	4	2 Italian, 2 English
MVV 2421	BA	5	1 German, 1 French, 3 at teacher's discretion
	BME, BM	5	3 German, 2 at teacher's discretion
MVV 3431	BME, BM	6	3 French, 3 at teacher's discretion
MVV 4441	BM	7	All at teacher's discretion

COMPREHENSIVE MINIMUM REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor of Music (Voice Performance):

8 Italian; 8 German; 8 French; 1 Recitative; 3 Arias (Opera/Oratorio)

Bachelor of Music Education (Voice):

8 Italian; 8 German; 6 French; 1 Recitative; 1 Aria (Opera/Oratorio); and 1 Musical Theater Selection

RECITALS / RECITAL HEARINGS:

Junior recitals (BME and BM students – 30 minutes of music) and senior recitals (BM students – 45 minutes of music) should include various languages and represent several musical *genre*. Repertoire is at the discretion of the applied music teacher. A Recital Hearing of your complete recital material will be heard by a faculty committee *at least* two to three weeks (14-21 calendar days) prior to the scheduled recital date. All performers in the recital must participate in the recital hearing. The recital date will remain tentative until after this hearing, when the program will either be approved or not approved for presentation to the public. If you do not pass the hearing, you are allowed to re-apply for a second hearing. In the case of a second failed hearing, you will have to re-apply in the next semester.

It is the student's responsibility to follow the preparatory steps as listed in the ***PVS Recital Checklist***. These steps include obtaining an approved recital date, organizing program notes, filling out a ***Recital Hearing Approval Form***, and several other details. You are advised to start this process in the semester prior to your recital.

ASSIGNMENTS / ASSESSMENTS:

In addition to performance and repertoire expectations, this course involves completion of certain written assignments which relate to your better understanding of the study of vocal music, vocal pedagogy, and vocal performance:

Readings / Reaction Papers – Readings will be assigned throughout the semester consisting of either chapters from books on reserve for the course at the UCF library or articles posted on my bulletin board. After completing a reading assignment, you will compose a reaction paper, including (1) an overview of the material, (2) your interpretation of that material, and (3) a discussion of the relevance of the material to your studies. Papers must be emailed as a one to two page long Microsoft Word attachment no more than seven days after its assignment date. You may be required to orally present your paper in one of our studio classes. For this reason, you are to keep a printed copy of each such assignment in your PVS Lesson Book for the duration of the semester and to bring that lesson book with you to every studio class.

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Musical Terms – Musical terms are important keys to our understanding composers' intentions. You will be given a list of musical terms for which you are to memorize the literal and idiomatic translations provided. Our mid-term examinations will include a written quiz on these terms. A study guide is available through my Website at: www.ThomasPotterOnline.com

Scales and Intervals – Sight reading is an important skill that all voice majors need to acquire and improve as part of their applied study. For this reason, as part of the *PVS Jury* process (see below), you will be asked to identify and sing certain scales and intervals. The following chart illustrates the stages of responsibility:

SEMESTER OF STUDY	SCALES	INTERVALS
Voice I-A	Major	m2 M2 M3 P5 Octave
Voice I-B	add: Natural Minor	add: m3 P4 M6
Voice II-A	add: Melodic and Harmonic Minor	add: m7 M7
Voice II-B	add: Chromatic	add: A4 ["tri-tone"]
Voice III-A	add: Whole Tone	ALL
Voice III-B	add: Pentatonics (2)	ALL

Foreign Language Repertoire – A large percentage of the classical vocal music we sing is written in languages that we do not regularly use. You need, of course, to know every word that you are singing in order to effectively convey those individual words to your audience. You are expected to find/write literal word-for-word translations for each foreign language musical selection assigned you for the course. Send those translations to me as Microsoft Word attachments for my approval no more than fourteen days after each selection is assigned. Don't forget to translate each selection's title! Once approved, those word-for-word translations are also to be written in your music, above or below the text, even if the music edition you have includes an English version of the text. Since merely writing the translations is not enough to ensure that you *know and understand* every word you are singing, I will select key words from these translations from which I will compile an individually appropriate written examination (as a portion of your mid-term exam). Please note that the words I deem "key" may not be the main verbs or nouns that fall on the strong beats of the music. Often times the "smaller" words greatly affect the meaning of a phrase or entire poem.

English Language Repertoire – *Knowing and understanding* what you are singing is also crucial when singing in English. You are therefore expected to write summation sentences for each English language musical selection assigned. In most cases, it is appropriate to provide (1) an overall summation of the text's meaning/intent, (2) a explanation of the given circumstances and perspectives of the person(s) reciting the text [often including physical settings of the character(s) involved and motivations of the character(s)], and (3) text summations of each section of text, which make up the whole work. Please note that with many musical selections, you may need to think creatively and "filling in the blanks". Send the summations to me as Microsoft Word attachments no more than fourteen days after each selection is assigned. We will discuss your interpretations in your lessons. Don't forget to refer to how the selection's title contributes to your understanding of the piece.

MID-TERM AND END-OF SEMESTER JURIES:

The studio will hold its own *PVS Mid-Term Juries* during certain Wednesday studio class times near the mid-point of each semester. Repertoire for these juries will consist of two selections for the semester. Specific song selections will be determined in your regular lessons. *PVS Mid-term Juries* will also include a written examination, including the aforementioned Musical Terms and word-for-word translations of your assigned foreign language repertoire.

As we near the end of each semester, certain Wednesday studio class times will be set aside for *PVS Juries*, in preparation for the voice area juries. These juries will include the singing of scales and intervals as outlined above, and will otherwise be conducted in a similar manner as the voice area juries, with the student choosing a selection with which to begin, and Professor Potter choosing a second (and possibly third) selection.

At the end of each semester, each applied voice student will sing a voice area jury in front of the entire UCF voice faculty. Please dress in a professional manner for this important performance opportunity.

Note: Students who present recitals are **not** exempt from singing a jury in the recital semester.

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SEMESTER GRADES ARE DETERMINED ACCORDING TO:

○ LESSON AND STUDIO CLASS EVALUATIONS	30%
• On-time, vocally and physically warmed up	
• Positive and enthusiastic attitude during lessons	
• Demonstration of musical and vocal growth	
○ ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION AT VOICE RECITALS, ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EVENTS	10%
○ WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (INCLUDES WRITTEN MID-TERM TEST [SEPTEMBER 30, 2009])	15%
○ PVS MID-TERM JURY PERFORMANCES [OCTOBER 7 AND 14, 2009]	15%
○ PVS END OF SEMESTER STUDIO JURY PERFORMANCES [NOVEMBER 18 AND 25, 2009]	10%
○ END OF SEMESTER VOICE AREA JURY PERFORMANCE [SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009]	20%

COSTS PAGE: TIME/MONEY/FOCUS:

The study of music as a major at the college level is much more intense than singing in chorus and participation in annual solo and ensemble competitions, as it may have been in your High School experience. The music world is a very competitive one, and only those who are extremely talented and dedicated are successful in that world. In addition to considerable "extra" time commitments and dedication, there are additional monetary costs associated with serious study, ranging from the use of a pianist in lessons and in performances to the purchase of music and the purchase of tickets to events which will greatly enhance your preparation to enter the real world "on the other side of Alafaya Trail". The following is a list of "additional" costs (in terms of time, money, and focus) of which you should be aware as you enter into this studio:

TIME COMMITMENTS REQUIRED OF ALL PVS STUDENTS:

- Attendance of your weekly voice lessons
- Attendance and participation in our weekly Studio Class [Wednesdays from 11:30-12:20]
- Attendance of *all* Voice Forums (Tuesday and/or Thursday) featuring UCF Voice Students
- Attendance of *all* on-campus Events/Concerts featuring UCF Voice Faculty or Guest Lecturers in Voice
- Silent Practice [learning texts, studying music] – minimum 15 minutes, five days a week
- Vocal study [warm-ups and musical selections] – minimum 30 minutes, five days a week
- Maintain "PVS Lesson Book" (as outlined below) – brought to every lesson and Studio Class
- *Daily* check of email for studio announcements and possible schedule changes

Please see the **PVS Semester Calendar** for *additional time commitments required of all B.M. and B.M.E. students*. The Calendar is available through my Website at: **www.ThomasPotterOnline.com**

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU EXAMINE AND INCORPORATE EVENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- Bach Festival Society of Winter Park [<http://bachfestivalflorida.org>]
- Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra [<http://www.orlandophil.org>]

TEXTBOOKS/MUSIC – You may need to purchase up to three music books or anthologies each semester. These music books will supply most of the music to be studied in your lessons and take the place of textbook costs for other courses. See the "Required Music and Book Purchase" document appropriate to your study level for details.

ACCOMPANIST – We are indeed fortunate to have retained the services of studio pianist Lynn Peghiny this semester. You must provide Ms. Peghiny with copies of your music as it is assigned for the semester. Please prepare these copies *before* you mark them up with translations, IPA, vocal directions, pictures of reading glasses, etc. During semesters in which you do not sing a recital, Lynn will come to one 25 minute lesson each week. On semesters in which you sing a degree required recital, she may be able to come to two 25 minute lessons each week, up until the time of that recital (a third 25-minute "text and technique" lesson with me alone will be offered at no additional cost). You are expected to pay your pianist promptly for playing lessons, practices, forum performances, recitals, etc. – all according to terms you set up individually with her.

Note: Good accompanists are precious! Use their time wisely: be prepared musically (It is not their job to "teach you the notes" – do that on your own time.), inform them of schedule changes, and above all, always treat them with professional courtesy and respect.

Note: For additional policies relevant to applied voice study, refer to the **Voice Area Handbook**, available for download from:

www.music.ucf.edu/vocalarts