

## Western Opera Class Outline 2023-2024

This class outline refers to Western University, Don Wright Faculty of Music, undergraduate courses: 2970, 3970, 4970, 2950. The early drop date for Opera Workshop is September 30, 2023.

**Note: Texting and use of electronic devices are not allowed during rehearsal.**

### Mandatory Course Information

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work ( $\geq 10\%$ ):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf)

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

**Academic Consideration for Missing Work ( $< 10\%$ ):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

**Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read

the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in Thames Hall room 2170. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

**Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information. <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

**Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

**Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments / lessons, or equivalent in applied studio courses) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

**NOTE: At the end of this document is a Netiquette statement. It is essential that we all take our online responsibilities seriously as stated.**

## **1. Course Description**

“Performing and technical aspects of the production of opera, including musical and dramatic interpretation, stage movement, techniques of stagecraft, lighting, scene construction, make-up, costumes.” From Western University Calendar. The Opera Class takes place, according to calendar. During production other times are also required in order to fully prepare for the performances. Rehearsals/coaching will also be called at other times as per the master schedule during the fall term leading up to the fall production There will also be music/dramatic coaching rehearsals on the second term repertoire scheduled during first term as well as during the week after first term classes end.If the participants are unable to attend these extra times (during production) due to a class or exam scheduling conflict we will adjust the schedule to accommodate the student. The venues and times for these rehearsals are listed in the MASTER SCHEDULE which is part of this document.

Participants must inform Professor Baerg if they are unable to participate in all of the times listed above and in the Master Schedule **within 1 week** after the role assignments for the year have been posted. It is essential that participants in UWOPERA are available for all of their calls.

All members of UWOPERA will be required to participate as assigned following acceptance into the course. This may include roles in the various productions, chorus assignments, extra character assignments, assistance in stage management, and the technical areas of production; costumes, makeup, hair styles, stage crew, or as production assistants.

Master of Music and Doctoral candidates are expected to display leadership and mentor/support the other members of the workshop.

All members of UWOPERA should note that casting is always subject to change if the singer is deemed to be unprepared or otherwise unsuitable for the role. These changes will be at the discretion of the producer, head coach, stage director, and music director. The student’s vocal teacher will be consulted.

All casting for all events will be posted as soon as possible after the final September Auditions

## **2. Class/Production Participant Responsibilities and Outcomes**

Opera is a collaborative art form and knowledge of how it is produced, in all its technical areas and at all levels, is invaluable to the aspiring performer. It is the student’s responsibility to take advantage of all the opportunities for increasing that knowledge as provided by the UWOPERA experience. This will enable the participant to create and express their character(s) in a manner

that communicates with their audience. It will also enable the student to learn to organize their time in a manner that enables this growth and presentation. The participants will also develop knowledge of the repertoire most suitable for them at each stage of their ongoing development.

Members of UWOPERA are expected to know words and music when they arrive for coaching. Preparing the music to this initial level is the personal responsibility of the student. Coaches are NOT expected to teach notes and rhythms to the singers but will correct inaccuracies and rehearse music for style, diction and memory. Understudies/covers should plan on attending all musical and staging rehearsals. Coaching and some staging will be offered to the understudies, as possible in the schedule, once those performing the roles have been prepared. Understudies have been asked to take over roles in past years and all current understudies should bear that in mind.

**Important Requirement:** All members of the opera workshop are required to provide a short 150 word biography and a head shot picture before October 2, 2023. This picture and bio will be used for the program and promotional purposes. Please send the picture and bio to the designated Opera Teaching Assistant. To protect your privacy if you prefer not to have your picture or bio displayed please let Prof Baerg know by October 2.

**N.B The following dates are mandatory for music memorization**

La Cenerentola- as stated in class

Albert Herring – as stated in class

Opera Gala – as stated in class

Members of UWOPERA are required to be on time for all coaching and to be available at least 10 minutes before their call for all staging and at least 15 minutes before all orchestra rehearsals. Costume fittings and makeup times will be posted and punctuality is required for these calls as well. If a student is unable to attend any of the above they must let the coach or the stage manager of the production know at least 12 hours IN ADVANCE of their absence. Sending an email or leaving a telephone message just prior to an absence does not constitute sufficient notice. All operatic production preparation requires a great deal of organization and we cannot afford to lose valuable coaching/preparation time. Students will be excused for reasons of illness, personal emergency, and religious accommodation in addition to other reasons as appropriate to the policies of Western University. If the reason for absence cannot be confirmed the role assignment may be altered at the discretion of the producer/director/music director. Please note that coaching missed for any reason will be made up only if scheduling allows and the missed

coaching in question will be offered to someone else.

All members of UWOPERA should be aware, and always remember, that our art form relies on the good will and volunteer effort of many to be a success. The collegial attitude and manner of participation should always reflect our gratefulness for their continuing assistance. This includes members of both our university and local communities. We are committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment for all students. If a member of UWOPERA is unable to take part in movement/choreography classes for reasons of a physical difficulty she/he should let the producer know as soon as possible. The director may request confirmation in accordance with Western University policy.

**Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

**3. Grading Scheme** The following will be considered when the final mark is awarded in this course: Punctual attendance at all scheduled calls, **10 %**. The level of the knowledge of the music when it is brought to musical or dramatic coaching as well as participation in production based assignments, **25%**. State of the memory of assigned music by the assigned date **30%**. Participation in the assigned performances. (if a performance is missed due to illness or other acceptable reason there will be no deduction in the overall mark) **30%**. Collegiality, as it affects the other members of the performing troupe and their ability to perform their responsibilities, is an important part of any collaborative artistic venture. **5%**

#### **4. Class Schedule Information**

The attached Master Schedule (which is part of this document) will be subject to change in emergency situations.. The weekly schedule will be sent, if possible, to all members of the company via email before 12:00 p.m Saturday for the following week. **It will also be posted on the OWL website. Finding out what is on the schedule is the students responsibility. You must check as often as necessary to keep track of, or send, messages.**

If a student is unable to come to a coaching due to illness the understudy will be considered first for the time slot and after that the time will be re-assigned at the discretion of the coaching staff and music director. Coaching missed without reasonable excuse or sufficient warning **will not be re-scheduled** and the music preparation will be the responsibility of the student.

All students who have been accepted into the course must immediately and carefully check the Master Schedule for potential class conflicts. If these conflicts will cause difficulty with the

fulfillment of your responsibilities listed above you must make the producer aware of these conflicts. **It is the student's responsibility to make these conflicts known well in advance** so that arrangements can be made to assist the students with requests for absence from the conflicting event/class and ensure their presence at UWOPERA rehearsals and performances. All members of UWOPERA must be available as called during the two weeks prior to all dress rehearsals and continuing through the performance period. Please note that all students will not be called to all of the scheduled rehearsals, but must be available if required. The master schedule covers all activities during the UWOPERA season.

## **NETIQUETTE**

### **1. Be accurate with factual information**

Misleading others is obviously a major breach of online etiquette. This is true even if it's unintentional. Check facts before providing information or giving advice. Provide sources.

### **2. Extend your good nature online**

The digital world is an increasingly important part of our lives. We should be our best selves there too. Do you think you're generally a good person? Are you pleasant, polite and well-mannered? Most people would answer "Yes" or "Most of the time". If someone says "Hello", you say "Hi" back. But what about online? Are you still that same considerate, nice person when you're in an online forum (including [social media](#))?

### **3. Use internet resources ethically**

Online study resources should be used to support learning, not replace it.

### **4. Promote healthy discussions**

To get the most out of online forums, a useful netiquette guideline is to promote healthy discussion. You can help your online community by posing questions, sharing experiences, providing positive feedback, asking follow-up questions, and referring to information sources. Being a positive contributor is better than being a critic, troll or other negative force.

### **5. Ignore inflammatory comments by trolls**

It's generally best to ignore trolls.

### **6. Respect others as equals**

Show a little respect and humility online. Think – that person who wrote the opinion you completely disagree with is a human being. They have feelings and experiences. They may believe passionately in what they're saying. And they may actually be right.

## **7. You're here to learn, not dictate**

While we all like to think that our opinion matters, you'll gain more from internet forums by approaching them as a learner. A more polite and effective path is to adopt a listening mode. Read posts carefully, ask questions, and write something only if it offers value to the discussion.

## **8. Remember, your words are permanent**

Be careful with what you post online. Once it's out there, you may not be able to get it back. Anything is possible with information that reaches the internet. It can go viral. It will be stored somewhere and may be findable through search. What you post can easily affect your relationships and career, if not now then possibly in the future. So always be at least a little cautious in your online interactions.

## **9. Pause before you post**

It's worth taking a moment to reflect before hitting the send button. When you're using a computer, you're normally clicking, and scrolling and typing all over the place. Most things are done quickly. Pause and reflect for a second. Are you truly comfortable with what you're sending?

## **10. Make your point in a nice way**

Write in a way to get the kind of reaction you want. A little thoughtfulness, strategy and netiquette can go a long way in online discussions. Your first draft of an online post is unlikely to be your best. Are you disagreeing with someone in a flippant way? Have you misinterpreted what they really meant? Writing in a constructive way is a great habit to get into. Your online communications will turn out much better.

## **11. Use anonymity responsibly**

While anonymity frees up online conversations, your ability to hide much of yourself shouldn't be misused. Good behaviour helps others, improves your online experience and ultimately will help you become a better communicator. Conversely, bad behaviour catches up with people eventually.

## **12. Write like you'd speak**

Write naturally as if you were talking to someone right in front of you. While it's helpful to put thought into what you write, you generally don't want the product to appear laboured. So try to sum up your thoughts in a fluent, natural way.

### **13. Good writing is good manners**

When posting text for others to see, try to write well. Good writing is, therefore, an essential part of netiquette.

### **14. Clarity is essential**

Clear writing is essential to convey proper meaning online. Unfortunately, short texts have their limitations. You need to be accurate and very clear to avoid misunderstandings when writing online.

### **Production Personnel 2023-24**

Coordinator of Western Opera: Professor T. Baerg [tbaerg@uwo.ca](mailto:tbaerg@uwo.ca)

Office telephone 519-661-2111 x 85388 Office MB 307

Music Director and Head Coach– Simone Luti [sluti@uwo.ca](mailto:sluti@uwo.ca)

Office telephone – 519-661-2111 x 83705

Opera Teaching Assistants

Anthony Rodrigues, [arodri69@uwo.ca](mailto:arodri69@uwo.ca)

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Autumn Zhao, [jzhao285@uwo.ca](mailto:jzhao285@uwo.ca)

Shuwei Zhang, [szhan855@uwo.ca](mailto:szhan855@uwo.ca)



Director: La Ceneretola Professor Ted Baerg

Music Director : Simone Luti

Director: Albert Herring– Robert McQueen

Music Director Opera Gala – Simone Luti

Director Opera Gala: Anthony Rodrigues, Professor Baerg

Coaching Staff: Head Coach: Simone Luti

Repetiteurs:

Sunhwa her, [sher3@uwo.ca](mailto:sher3@uwo.ca)

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Mijin Kim, [mkim753@uwo.ca](mailto:mkim753@uwo.ca)

Theodore Chow, [tchow72@uwo.ca](mailto:tchow72@uwo.ca)

Xi Li, [xli3268@uwo.ca](mailto:xli3268@uwo.ca)

Tigran Saakyan, [tsaakyan@uwo.ca](mailto:tsaakyan@uwo.ca)

Costume Design and/or Co-ordination – Rebecca Wolsley

Set Design - TBA

Lighting Design: - Bryan Hart

Theatre/Performance Location Coordinator: Louis D’Alton, Bryan Hart