

FRENCH LYRIC DICTION – MUS 9597 y/a/b

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CLASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm, TC 100

PREREQUISITE

MUS 2942y (Italian/German lyric diction)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intensive study of French lyric diction and mélodie performance practice; including IPA assignments, tests, transcription and pronunciation practice, study of French composers of song, and performances of songs. The second semester involves application of lyric diction study in performances of works in French and English by Canadian composers and by contemporary French composers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

For the student to learn correct pronunciation of French in singing, to gain further facility in the use of IPA for the same purpose, and to build an understanding of the syntax and word stress of the French language and French poetry. Singers are to gain knowledge of composers of mélodies and learn the correct interpretive style for singing mélodies, employing it in performance.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

David Adams: A Handbook of Diction for Singers. Oxford Univ. Press. ISBN 978-0-19-532559-1

P. Bernac: The Interpretation of French Song. New York: Norton, 1976.

Strongly Recommended:

Graham Johnson, Richard Stokes: A French Song Companion. New York: Oxford U. Press 2000

French/English dictionary: Suggested title - Larousse Pocket French/English Dictionary.

Songbooks of Berlioz, Gounod, Massenet, Duparc, Chabrier, Chaminade, Chausson, Fauré, Debussy, Satie, Caplet, Roussel, Ravel, Poulenc, Hahn, Milhaud, Messiaen, Jolivet, Dutilleux, Papineau-Couture, Garant, Hétu

The Adams is required for every class in the first 7 weeks of first semester.

The Bernac is required for every class from Week 8 – 13.

COURSE PIANIST

Pianists are assigned to this course to accompany you. You must provide a hard copy of your chosen List A and B songs to them by SEPT. 25th. An emailed pdf is not acceptable. It is your responsibility to book a rehearsal to take place in the week preceding your class performances. If fail to do so, the pianist is not obliged to accompany you, and you must provide your own pianist. Note that the pianist for the course is not assigned to coach. It is your responsibility to know the text and the score when you arrive at your rehearsal. For the December **EXAM** performance, you must provide a copy of your song to the pianist by OCTOBER 23rd. You are invited to ask your studio pianist to play for you.

COMMUNICATION

Important class announcements and information may be sent to you by email. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly and respond as necessary.

OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE

Weeks 1 - 6:	Intensive study of Diction mastery
Week 7:	Written French Lyric Diction exam
Weeks 8 - 10:	Mélodie Performances (Round I)
Weeks 11 - 13:	Mélodie Performances (Round II)
Exam period	Final Exam Mélodie Performance

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be weekly IPA transcription and vocabulary assignments Week 1-7. The IPA and translation of each song you will perform will be handed in 2 weeks preceding your performances.

Song text will be spoken preceding the performance, and understanding of the word for word poetry is expected.

A song profile will also be required.

MIDTERM EXAM

This written exam will include IPA transcription, questions on vocabulary, and diction rules.

EVALUATION

IPA Assignments	20%
First Mélodie Performance *	15%
Second Mélodie Performance*	15%
Written Exam (Oct. 26 th)	20%
Final Exam Mélodie Performance*	20%
Attendance, Repertoire, Participation	10%

*includes recitation of song text, IPA and song profile.

ELECTRONICS

The in-class use of electronic devices is expressly prohibited. Students found using devices will be asked to leave the class.

IMPORTANT UWO POLICIES regarding ATTENDANCE and ASSIGNMENTS

Students are responsible for making up any missed assignments or missed class work as soon as possible. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing more than 30% of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation in the form of a completed and appropriately signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his /her academic responsibilities or the equivalent documentation for non-medical or compassionate grounds.

A student seeking academic consideration must communicate with their Professor no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic expectations they have missed during the absence. Documentation, if required, shall be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210).

Note that the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal may not be used for requesting academic relief for work worth more than 30% or for Final Exams scheduled during the official examination period. Students are directed to read the full Senate Policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

A pdf copy of a Senate approved Student Medical Certificate (SMC) may be downloaded here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

When students miss work worth less 30% or less of the total grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online absence report is submitted using the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal, or if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean deems that accommodation is warranted, then the missed assignment(s) may be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If the documentation is not submitted voluntarily the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at the following website https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students may be excused to observe a religious holy day of their faith without penalty provided they notify the Professor in advance. Students are responsible for material covered in their absence and each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work (in the case of this course, up to ten days).

If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let the Professor know during the first week of classes, and if you have not done so already, register as soon as possible with Accessible Education (formerly Services for Students with Disabilities). Learn more about the Student Success Centre services for accessible education at : <http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html>.

Plagiarism: Complete your assignments independently. Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else other than the TA or Professor is an example of plagiarism, which is a major academic offence. Furthermore, you won't learn anything!! Scholastic offences are taken seriously. The definition of such is found here:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf