

Vocal Arts Area



College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Music

Handbook

Membership in a voice studio is a privilege, not a right. We expect that students will always comport themselves in a professional manner.

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Faculty

Prof. Sabina Balsamo (soprano) - Lecturer
Applied Voice

Dr. Erik Erlandson (baritone) - Lecturer
Applied Voice, Diction, Vocal Pedagogy

Prof. O'Neil Jones (baritone) - Visiting Assistant Professor
Associate Director of Choral Activities, PSM Voice

Dr. Brian C. Murray (baritone) - Assistant Professor, Vocal Arts Area Coordinator
Director of Choral Activities

Dr. Magdalena Wór (mezzo-soprano) - Visiting Assistant Professor
Applied Voice, Opera Theatre

Attendance

- Attendance is required at all studio classes, departmental recitals, voice faculty recitals, and other area-sponsored events.

Course Enrollment

- Please ensure you enroll in the correct section for your applied voice lessons.
- Please confirm that you are correctly registered early as the ADD deadline occurs quickly at the beginning of the semester.

Applied Lessons

- 13 Lessons per semester
- 30 minutes (1 credit)
- 1 hour (2 credits)

Missing Lessons

- If you must miss a lesson, your teacher should be notified by text, phone, or e-mail with at least 24 hours' notice. If this notice is not provided, your teacher is not obligated to make up your missed lesson, unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as an official University Excused Absence. Students should arrange make-up lessons owed as quickly as possible; failure to communicate with the teacher about make-up lessons in a timely manner may result in forfeiture of those lessons.
- If your instructor cancels your lesson, they will communicate with you to establish a make-up lesson time.

Levels

- Students may repeat up to four semesters of voice for each level.
- Non-majors may only register for Voice II (MUSC 2270) and Voice III (MUSC 3270).
- Voice I (MUSC 1270) - no jury requirement; non-majors only
- Voice II (MUSC 2270) - first year majors or scholarship recipients start here
- Voice III (MUSC 3270) - sophomores
- Voice IV (MUSC 4270) - juniors; passed the sophomore barrier
- Voice V (MUSC 5270) - seniors
- Voice VI (MUSC 5870) - graduate students only

Repertoire Requirements

- Repertoire selection is at the discretion of the instructor.
- **Minor in Music, Non-Majors, & Scholarship Recipients**
 - Voice II (MUSC 2270) - Students will prepare **three** songs.
 - Voice III (MUSC 3270) - Students will prepare **four** songs.
 - Voice IV (MUSC 4270) - Students will prepare **five** songs.
 - Voice V (MUSC 5270) - Students will prepare **six** songs.
- **Bachelor of Music in Music Education & Bachelor of Arts in Music**
 - Voice II (MUSC 2270) - Students will prepare **three** songs.
 - Voice III (MUSC 3270) - Students will prepare **five** songs.
 - Voice IV (MUSC 4270) - Students will prepare **six** songs.
 - Voice V (MUSC 5270) - Students will prepare **seven** songs.
- **Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance**
 - Voice II (MUSC 2270) - Students will prepare **five** songs.
 - Voice III (MUSC 3270) - Students will prepare **six** songs.
 - Voice IV (MUSC 4270) - Students must prepare **seven** songs.
 - Voice V (MUSC 5270) - Students will prepare **seven** songs.
- **Graduate Students in Vocal Performance**
 - Voice V (MUSC 5270) - Students will prepare **seven** songs.
 - Voice VI (MUSC 6270) - Students will prepare **eight** songs.
- **Other Graduate Music Majors**
 - Repertoire will include **six** songs in at least three languages per semester, under the discretion of the instructor.

Collaborators

- Music
 - Ask your collaborator how they would like their music prepared (single-sided, double-sided, .pdf). If they would like paper copies, please ask them how they would like the pages to be hole punched.
 - Check with your professor to see if the music you found is in the correct key.
 - Be sure the copies/scans are legible.
 - All staves visible.
 - All bar lines are visible.
 - All words and notes are visible.
- Communicating
 - Please communicate details via UW email (not text).
 - Please copy your professor on this correspondence.
- Scheduling Rehearsals
 - Provide at least one weeks' notice.
 - Inform the collaborative pianist of the repertoire for that session.
- Preparation
 - It is your responsibility to learn your music (pitches, rhythm, meaning, pronunciation), your collaborative pianist will not teach you your music.
- Performances (Studio Class, Convocation, Juries, etc.)
 - Please inform your collaborative pianist at least one week in advance of all performances. Additionally, please indicate which repertoire you will sing.

Studio Class

- Wednesdays, 12:00PM-1:00PM
- During this group class, members of each instructor's voice studio will perform their repertoire for one another for feedback.
- Required for all music majors. All students taking applied voice are encouraged to attend.

Convocation

- Performance requirements during convocation are at the discretion of the voice instructor.

Juries

- All students enrolled in Voice II-VI will perform a jury, which serves as the final exam for applied lessons.
- Exceptions for the jury requirement:
 - semester in which the student completes a degree recital.
 - semester in which the student successfully petitions to use a significant concert solo to substitute for the jury.
 - successful placement in the NATS competition.
- Jury Performance Requirements
 - Jury selections will be performed from memory (except oratorio selections).
 - At the discretion of the vocal instructor, jury repertoire may be repeated from a previous semester. (Suggested guideline: no more than two selections should be repeated).
 - At the discretion of the vocal instructor, an opera or oratorio aria, or an art song that is unusually long (more than 5-6 minutes), *may* count as two selections toward the jury repertoire requirement.
 - Undergraduate Voice II-Voice V students will sing **two** selections out of the assigned semester repertoire.
 - Undergraduate Voice III Barrier Semester students will sing **three** selections out of the assigned semester repertoire.
 - Graduate Voice Performance students will sing **three** selections out of the assigned semester repertoire.
 - Other Graduate students will sing **two** selections out of the assigned semester repertoire.

Sign-Ups

- Students must confirm time availability with their collaborative pianists prior to signing up for a jury time.

Sophomore Barrier

- This examination takes place in the spring semester of the second year of study for undergraduates. Transfer students complete this examination in their first semester of study at the University of Wyoming. Students must pass this barrier to take Voice IV.
- Students may attempt the sophomore barrier twice.

Components

- Voice Jury
 - Students will sing three selections (one of their choice and two selected by the faculty).

- Musical Skills
 - Scales (performed on solfege)
 - Major
 - Natural Minor
 - Chromatic
 - Rhythm Reading
 - Melody Reading
 - Error Detection
 - Play & Sing
 - Play the piano to one voice line while singing another voice line for a hymn. The play and sing example will be sent out 3-4 weeks in advance of the musical skills assessment.
 - Perform a Melody
 - Learn a short melody and memorize it for performance.
 - Interview
 - Respond appropriately to questions about your vocal development, techniques for overcoming challenges, composer and lyricist background information, etc.

Masterclasses

- Each year, the Vocal Arts Area hosts guest artists that offer masterclasses during their residency. Participation in these masterclasses is at the discretion of the instructors.

Competitions

Jacoby Competition

- The Dorothy Jacoby Biannual Concerto Competition recognizes talent in the Department of Music at the University of Wyoming. The initial audition takes place with piano accompaniment. Musicians selected via adjudication to serve as finalists perform with the UW Symphony Orchestra to vie for a significant cash prize. The concert is named after Dorothy Jacoby, a founding member of the UW Symphony Association and a longtime supporter of classical music in Laramie. Her sons, Peter and Michael, made a generous donation in honor of their late mother. That gift, along with contributions from many of Dorothy Jacoby's friends, created the endowment for the prize awarded at the performance.

CO-WY NATS (The National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Competition)

- If you place, you don't have to perform a jury that semester.
- If you need to complete your sophomore barrier, you only need to perform 1 song, skills, and the interview.

Recitals

Repertoire Requirements

- Performance Major
 - Junior Recital
 - Approximately 25 minutes of music
 - 3-4 different languages
 - 3 different time periods

- Senior Recital
 - Approximately 45-50 minutes of music
 - 3-4 different languages
 - 3 different time periods
- Music Education Major
 - Senior Recital
 - Approximately 20-25 minutes of music
 - 3-4 different languages
 - 3 different time periods

Recital Committee & Recital Previews

- To perform a recital, students must first be heard by the preview committee (instructor plus two Department of Music faculty members) in consultation with the applied instructor. Documentation of successfully completed previews should be placed in the student file, housed in the Shared Staff Center. Previews should be heard 2-4 weeks before the recital.
- Recitalists will present repertoire from their recital, singing one piece from each section

Scheduling a Recital

https://www.uwyo.edu/music/files/docs/forms/student_event_space_request_instructions.pdf

- Student Recital times are:
 - 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
 - 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
 - 5:00 p.m. Fridays
 - 11 a.m. Saturdays, but only if no other option is available.
 - In order for students to plan ahead, the hall may be reserved for a recital before the preview is played. However, the preview must be scheduled, and the committee set, before the hall may be reserved.
 - Reservations must be made through the department concert hall coordinator. Reservations are for specific times, and so must include move-in and set-up time. Should the event be canceled the department concert hall coordinator, must be notified immediately.
 - To avoid conflicts for students and audiences, no more than one major event (ensemble concerts, faculty recitals, Buchanan Center Special Events concerts) should be scheduled at the same time. Given that it is possible for students to have difficulty scheduling recitals, scheduling a recital against a major event held in another location is permissible if the recital performers are not involved in that event. Guest artists should be scheduled so as not to interfere or conflict with any Music Department event.
 - When available, a 15-minute set-up time will be added as part of every reservation.
 - The halls may not be reserved from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The stage techs use that time to clean and set up for that evening's events.
 - On Gala Holiday Concert weekends, the hall may not be reserved for recitals. The stage can then remain set up for the concert.
 - Recital previews are not allowed in either of the halls (lecture recitals do not require a preview).
 - Recitals and ensemble rehearsals can overlap as long as the students in the recital are not involved in the ensemble that is also rehearsing.
 - Student and faculty recitals will not be allowed to overlap other concerts.

Recital Course Numbers

- Junior Recital—Performance Majors (MUSC 3500-01) [0 Credit]
- Senior Recital—Performance Majors (MUSC 4590-01) [0 Credit]
- Senior Music Education Recital (MUSC 4155-01) [0 Credit]
- Graduate Recital (MUSC 5 680-01) [2 Credits]

Grading

- The grade for the recital is assigned by the applied instructor in consultation with the preview committee. It is the responsibility of the applied instructor to communicate the grade to the person charged with posting the grade—usually the Department Head. A copy of the recital program should be placed in the student file, housed in the Shared Staff Center.

Fee

- There is a recital fee which pays for recording and programs. More information can be found in the [Undergraduate Handbook](#).

Programs

- Concert programs are prepared by Eric Smith and Jack Chapman. Programs and stage tech forms must be submitted two weeks before the concert.

Changing Voice Studios

- Any student wishing to change studios must schedule a meeting with the Vocal Arts Area Coordinator to confirm the studio change and discuss possible alternative studios.

Scholarship Requirements

- If your total scholarship award from the Vocal Arts Area is at or above \$800.00 you are required to:
 - Enroll in applied voice lessons
 - Audition for Collegiate Chorale
 - Sing in two ensembles
- If your total scholarship award is less than \$800.00, you are required to:
 - Enroll in applied voice lessons
 - Audition for Collegiate Chorale
 - Sing in one ensemble

Other stipulations for continued eligibility for scholarship funds are:

- Regular attendance at rehearsals and performances in enrolled ensembles.
- Maintenance of minimum grade point average of 2.75.
- Full time student status (minimum of 12 enrolled semester hours).
- Enrollment in applied music lessons.
- Satisfactory progress in applied studies as determined by major instructor and faculty jury.

Vocal Arts Area Classes

- MUSC 1340: Public School Methods: Voice I (1 credit)
 - Fall Semesters
- MUSC 1400, 3400, 5800: Collegiate Chorale (1 credit)
 - Auditioned
- MUSC 1405, 3405, 5805: Singing Statesmen (1 credit)
 - Non-Auditioned
- MUSC 1407, 3407, 5807: Happy Jacks (1 credit)

- Auditioned
- MUSC 1415, 3415, 5815: Bel Canto (1 credit)
 - Non-Auditioned
- MUSC 1417, 3417, 5817: Laramie Civic Chorus (1 credit)
 - Non-Auditioned
- MUSC 1420, 5820: Opera Theatre (1 credit)
 - Non-Auditioned
- MUSC 2320: Diction for Singers I (2 credits)
 - Fall Semesters
- MUSC 2325: Diction for Singers II (2 credits)
 - Spring Semester of Odd Years
- MUSC 4634, 5635: Vocal Pedagogy (2 credits)
 - Spring Semesters of Even Years
- 7220 Blues (not for credit)
 - Student-led, auditioned

Scholarship & Acceptance Auditions

- All students applying for the Master of Music, Bachelor of Music- Performance, and Bachelor of Music Education will audition to be admitted to the program; the FAFSA is required for any named scholarships that list “need” as a requirement.
- Students applying for the Bachelor of Arts or as a Music Minor do not need to audition to be admitted, but must audition if they wish to be considered for a music scholarship.

Undergraduates:

- Students will perform two selections from memory. Both may be in English, but a song in a contrasting language is preferred. Selections should be from the classical vocal repertoire and can include aria, art song, folk song, and other classifications that are not of a "pop" style. Singers are encouraged to choose repertoire that most accurately shows the beauty and potential of the voice.

Graduates:

- Students will offer five selections (1 aria, 1 oratorio, 3 art songs) from memory in at least three of the following languages: English, Italian, French, German.

All:

- After the online audition application is completed, singers will be contacted to schedule an audition time. Vocal auditions will include a musical skills assessment. Singers will read both rhythm and melody at sight. Rhythms may include simple or compound meters, dotted and syncopated figures and ties. Melodies may include simple or compound meter, leaps from the tonic triad, IV, and V chords, syncopated figures, and may be in major or minor tonalities. Use of the solfege system is preferred. (If you would like help to prepare these skills, please contact Dr. Murray at bmurray7@uwyo.edu).