Musical Theatre Voice VI-TPP4271C
Fall Semester/2015, University of Central Florida, 2 credit hours
Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00-2:20, Lessons as Scheduled
Room: T115 (Studio 3)
Instructor: Tara Snyder, MFA, CMT, AC
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Office Hours: By Appointment/As Posted

“All of our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”
-Walt Disney- Cartoonist/Entrepreneur/CEO

”Once the amateur's naive approach and humble willingness to learn fades away, the creative spirit . . . dies with it.
Every professional should remain always in his heart an amateur.”
-Alfred Eisenstaedt- Photographer

Introduction
It’s opening night. You anxiously wait in the wings. You know every note of the score, every line of text, every movement & dance. You have been dreaming of this night for, well, forever. The blinding spotlight awaits your silhouette. It’s show time for your dream role!

During this semester you will explore a personal dream role. The role should be one you could reasonably play in a professional setting within the next five to ten years. In addition to this major project, you will continue to develop your vocal & acting skills through personalized repertoire selection within the lesson setting. Professional skill building including (but not limited to) audition preparation, network development and constructive peer critiques will continue to be emphasized in both individual and group settings. Use of the Estill Voice Training Systems® principles will be expected in all written and performance work. A weekly master class will, primarily, provide the opportunity for dream role rehearsals. While this may be one of the final courses in your training as young musical theatre professionals, you should remember to grasp every training opportunity with open hands, minds and hearts! The desire to learn, grow and succeed knows no bounds.

Course Goals
This semester’s work will provide each student with a more individualized approach to building his/her repertoire book. Lessons will be held in pairs or small groups, assigned by the professor. The dream role repertoire will be selected by the student, with final approval from the professor, before work proceeds on the project. Additional repertoire will be selected collaboratively and will focus on several categories of songs within the musical theatre canon. Our Estill foundation will allow us to utilize both Compulsory Figures and their resulting Voice qualities combined with textual and musical analysis to create emotionally compelling characters. Throughout this course you will participate in both lessons and master classes, utilizing multiple learning methodologies. These activities will help you to accomplish several goals:

▪ To review the Estill Voice Training Systems® application of both technical and artistic principles in the context of singing.
▪ To examine one’s self and one’s skills through an industry professional’s lens.
▪ To explore different musical styles as influenced by specific selected composers, time periods and type-appropriate dream role selections.
▪ To refine & demonstrate successful audition preparation & performance skills.
▪ To begin developing a network of industry professionals.
▪ To utilize the master class format for rehearsal, performance and discussion opportunities.
▪ To develop a solid understanding of the craft of creating a major dream role.
Course Goals Continued

- To assist other students in the creation of their dream role performances.
- To continue building the student’s repertoire/audition book.
- To write about essential character/show analysis elements (i.e. subtext, artistry, performance history, etc.)
- To strengthen individual powers of observation, concentration, and imagination.
- To develop a comprehensive awareness of the performances of peers and self.

Required Texts and Materials

- Scores and Music as Assigned
- 3 Ring Binder (with copies of assigned music)
- Voice Recorder (Can be a digital voice recorder, computer, cell phone, tape recorder, etc.)

Course Policies

1. Attendance- Regular attendance is essential to your progress and growth in your lessons and in this course. Your regular attendance and promptness along with sufficient preparation for lessons and master classes is essential to your ultimate success in this course. **Please note that you will have 1 absence that may be used during the course of the term for a Master Class Only.** You will not be prepared for dream role rehearsals if you only work on the material during master class times; it will absolutely require practice outside of class time. If you are not prepared to work on assigned material during your lesson, you will forfeit your points for that day and your lesson partner(s) will be given the rest of the lesson time. **Two incidences of tardiness to the master class sessions will be counted as an absence.** Missing two lessons, two master classes, or a combination thereof, will result in an automatic failure of the course. Missed lessons will not be made up, unless they are cancelled by the instructor. In this circumstance, lessons will be made up if time allows. Exceptions to this policy may occur, at the discretion of the professor, due to family emergency or serious illness. In these cases, please work with classmates to trade lesson times when possible. Written verification of these circumstances may be required. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for all material covered, and the instructor assumes no responsibility to tutor you for classes missed.

It is the policy of the University to reasonably accommodate absences due to observed religious holidays and/or University-sanctioned events whereby a student will be representing UCF. However, the student is responsible for any material covered during the absence(s). You must inform the instructor in writing two weeks prior to being away. Please also notify your lesson partner(s) and classmates so that you may see about trading lessons with another student so that you will not fall behind in your vocal development.

2. Electronic Devices- You may be utilizing your cell phone to record your voice lesson. This is the ONLY acceptable use of your cell phone during class. There may be a collection of all cell phones at the beginning of every master class and during voice lessons if they become disruptive. You should not be surfing the web, watching YouTube, etc. during your lesson unless you have been asked to find a specific resource by the instructor. Any interruption caused by your cell phone, or other non-approved electronic device, will result in your removal from that day’s activities and a forfeiture of all points associated with that day.

3. Attitude- We can’t grow and change if we don’t try. The old saying —If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you always got, rings true. Throughout this course keep a positive attitude, take responsibility for yourself and your work, try new things and remember that phrases like — “I can’t do this” and/or — “That’s too hard” are self-fulfilling prophecies which **won’t be tolerated.** The instructor reserves the right to ask uncooperative students to leave the classroom or studio and forfeit all points for that day’s activities.
Course Policies continued

4. University-Wide Academic Participation Verification- As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students’ academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity, Voice VI Verification Quiz, by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 28. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

5. Disability Access- The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons 185, phone (407) 823-2371, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

6. Be Prepared- The show must go on. Failure to present your songs on the days they are due will result in a grade of zero. Exceptions will be granted in an emergency situation only to be considered on a case by case basis by the instructor. If a song partner (or partners) is (are) prepared and one group member is not, the prepared students’ grades will not be affected. If your dream role performance is not at an acceptable performance level by the end of dress rehearsals, it will be cut from the final program.

Written work will be penalized at the rate of 10% for every day it is late and can be turned in no later than a week after its assigned due date. Any alterations to this policy will only be considered in an extreme emergency, on a case-by-case basis, and may require further written documentation.

7. You must attend the Main Stage musical this semester. The more theatrical experiences you have, the stronger theatre artist you become. You must see theatre to know theatre. A written review of this show will be required as a follow-up to the performance. To validate your attendance please secure a program/ticket stub and have it stamped and dated by either A.) a faculty/staff member in attendance or B.) a student member of the front of house crew. The signed program/ticket stub should be brought to class on the announced due date.


8. Addendums- Any handouts provided to the student with guidelines for written or performance projects are to be considered part of the syllabus. In addition, verbal or written changes to the syllabus as announced during class, a lesson or via electronic means, are the responsibility of the student. The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus in response to her perception of the needs of the class.

9. Academic Integrity- As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University’s Rules of Conduct (http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/) as well as The Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/).
**Course Grading**

25% - Voice Lessons & Weekly Practice Records
*Participation points for voice lessons will be based on progress on assigned repertoire and identified vocal/character issues, turning in any accompanying written work by announced dates, evidence of outside rehearsals with accompanist and adherence to MT Voice area guidelines concerning professionalism and decorum. Students will work on at least 3 pieces in addition to dream role material during lessons. Additional songs will be considered after their commitments to other’s dream role projects have been determined. The songs must fulfill the following categories:

- Contemporary Art Song (i.e. Ricky Ian Gordon, Scott Alan, John Bucchino, etc.)
- Occasion Songs (Repertoire commonly heard at weddings, funerals, bar/bat mitzvahs, etc.)
- Operetta (i.e. Gilbert & Sullivan, Romberg, Herbert, Friml, Lehar, etc.)
- Solo from a Second Choice Dream Role (for inclusion in a Medley during the Final)

10% - Repertoire Memorization
(See tentative due dates listed below.)

5% - Mid-Term Concert

5% - Written Review of *Hair*

40% - Dream Roles Cultivation
  - 10% Master Class Rehearsal
  - 10% Character/Scene Analysis Paper
  - 5% Oral Presentation
  - 5% Required Activities per DR Guidelines Handout
  - 10% Progress on Dream Role Material in Lessons

15% **Final** - Dress Rehearsal & Public Performance of Dream Role Concert
(Dress Rehearsals - 12/8-12/11, Public Performances 12/12 & 12/13, Possible Callbacks for Industry Guests 12/13 & 12/14)

*Opportunities for Extra Credit will be at the discretion of the instructor.*

**Class Grading Scale**

- A 4.00 - excellent work, consistently dynamic
- A- 3.75
- A+ 3.25
- B 3.00 - good work, but not consistently dynamic
- B- 2.75
- C+ 2.25
- C 2.00 - average work, meeting minimum requirements
  
  *C- 1.75 - results in departmental probation
  *(& Below)

**Notes**

*PLEASE READ:* Since Theatre requires the use of mind, voice, and body, there might be situations that require a certain amount of physical contact between you and the Instructor and other students. If this presents a problem for you, please see the Instructor immediately to assess your chances for success in this course.
On written work: Successful theatre practitioners expend considerable time and effort in making every resume, audition application, grant application, design drawing, portfolio presentation, etc., look absolutely perfect. In an attempt to prepare you for this reality, the instructor reserves the right to deduct a maximum of 10% of the possible points from each major written assignment for punctuation, grammar, structure and spelling errors. General guidelines for the major written assignments are that they should be typed, with margins of no more than 1”- 1.25”, using a standard font, such as Times New Roman, and a font size no larger than 12 point.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change):

L= Lesson, MC= Master Class, T= Tuesday, H= Thursday
Bolded Items= DUE

Week 1- L-Select Repertoire,
T only- MC- Syllabus Review & Dream Roles Concert: A History

Week 2- L- Rep. Work
T/H- MC- Open Practice w/Accompanist (if scheduled in advance)

Week 3- L- Rep.Work
T- MC- Open Practice w/Accompanist (if scheduled in advance), H- Guest Participants’ Photo Shoot, Dream Role Approval Form/Reh. Sch./Script/Score DUE

Week 4-L- Rep Work
T- MC- DR Photo Shoot & Rehearsal Orientation- Wear Orange, H- MC- Open Practice w/Accompanist (if scheduled in advance)

Week 5-L-Operetta Memorization Due, Rep/DR Work,
T- Lindsay’s DR Rehearsal, H- MC- Abigail’s DR Rehearsal

Week 6-L- Rep/DR Work,
T- MC- Leigh’s DR Rehearsal, H- MC- DR Medley Rehearsal

Week7-L-Contemporary Art Song Memorization DUE Rep/DR Work,
T- MC- Mid-Term Rehearsal, H-MC- Mid-Term Concert

Week 8-L Rep/DR Work
T-MC- Lauren’s DR Rehearsal, H-MC- DR Medley Rehearsal

Week 9-L- Rep/DR Work
T- MC- DR Paper & Oral Presentation Due, H-MC- Austin’s DR Rehearsal

Week 10-L- Dream Role Material Memorizations DUE
T-MC- Salvatore’s DR Rehearsal, H-MC- Tyler’s DR Rehearsal
Tentative Schedule Continued (Subject to Change):

Week 11- Rep/DR Work, Hair Voice Analysis Paper DUE
T- MC-Fo’i’s DR Rehearsal, H- MC- Lindsey DR Rehearsal

Week 12- Dream Role Second Solo Memorization DUE, Rep/DR Work
T- MC-Gabe’s DR Rehearsal, H-MC-Ashley’s DR Rehearsal

Week 13- Rep/DR Work
T-MC-Khalifa’s DR Rehearsal, H- MC- DR Medley Rehearsal w/Pati

Week 14- Occasion Song Memorization DUE
T-MC- DR Night 1 Work-through (in class), H- No MC- Thanksgiving

Week 15- Review all DR material for classmates’ projects,
T- MC- Finish Night 1 Work-through & Begin DR Night 2 Work-through (in class), H- MC-Finish DR
Night 2 Work-through (in class)

Week 16- T/H- Dress Rehearsals for Night 1 (evening), W/F- Dress Rehearsals for Night 2 (evening),
S- Final: Night 1 Performance (evening)

Week 17- Su- Final: Night 2 Performance (afternoon/evening), Su/Mo- Possible Callbacks for
Industry Guests (evening)