

# Potter Voice Studio - Spring 2021

## Contacting the Professor:

Professor's Name: Thomas Potter  
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Office Hours: By appointment – please email to schedule Zoom meetings

## Applied Voice Lessons:

### **Number of semesters of applied voice lessons:**

Depending on your degree path, you are eligible for between two and eight semesters of applied voice lessons. *In every case, we have little time to prepare you for the next step in your vocal future.* It is my goal to help you achieve the highest potential appropriate for your age/experience during this brief time and to help you learn how to teach yourself, in essence.

### **Lessons and Studio Class:**

In addition to your weekly 50-minute lesson (*time to be scheduled with me – which can be either all online Zoom lessons or a mixture of some online and some in person outdoor lessons – the choice is yours*), each student must attend our voice studio class from 11:30-12:20 each Wednesday. Those studio classes will also be a mixture of in person (*outdoor*) meetings and online Zoom events.

### **“In House” Juried Performances:**

At midterm and again as we near the end of each semester, certain times will be set aside for PVS In-House Juried Performances. These 'in-house' juried performances will be conducted in a similar manner as the voice area juried performances. ***Please dress professionally for these event.*** This semester's In-House Juried Performance dates will be held ***from 1-3:00pm on February 26 and April 9.*** All students must be in attendance for this Zoom meeting – *if you have a conflict, tell me about it at least one month ahead* of each of these dates.

### **Voice Area Juried Performances [“Juries”]:**

At the end of each semester, each applied voice student will sing a voice area juried performance in front of the entire voice faculty. Please *dress in a professional manner* for this important performance opportunity. This is something like a final exam for this course and is required. Missing your jury will result in your taking an Incomplete grade for the semester (*or failing the course*).

### **Minimum Repertoire Requirements [per semester]:**

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Degree(s)</u>	<u># of Selections</u>	<u>Language(s)</u>
MVV 1873 (a)	BA [secondary*]	2	any language
MVV 1873 (b)	BA [secondary*]	2	1 must be Italian
MVV 1873 (c&d)	BA [secondary*]	2	1 must be French or German
MVV 1411	BA [primary], BME, BM	4	2 Italian; 2 English
MVV 2421	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
MVV 5451/6461	MA	7	all at teacher's discretion

\* “secondary” lessons are not generally given in this studio – BA students receive “primary” lessons [MVV 1411].

This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor.  
Any changes will be discussed in class and/or announced in Webcourses.

Revised January 7, 2021

**Comprehensive Minimum Repertoire Requirements:**

Please refer to the UCF Voice Area Handbook (*available online through a link in “Announcements” section of this Webcourse*) for information on these requirements.

**Other:**

It is expected that you will learn/memorize the words, pitches, and rhythms of your assigned music *outside* of your lesson time. **Lessons are not to be used for note learning.** Additionally, it is expected that you will rehearse (*with your pianist or music tracks*) throughout the semester, and that when you perform (*in studio class, at in-house juried performances, etc.*), you will have previously worked out tempo/ensemble issues with your pianist and timings and technological aspects of balance, etc. with your music tracks and audio equipment.

**Attendance Policy:****Be on time:**

The discipline of being punctual is a critical component in your preparation to enter the professional world. In addition to the factor of professionalism, late arrival shortens your lesson and reduces your chance of progressing at an acceptable rate. If you know you must be late for a lesson or studio class, whether it's because of technological (*weak Wi-Fi, for example*) challenges or “just running behind”, you must text my cell phone [321-230-7487] **prior to the scheduled start time**. Repeated tardiness adversely affects your semester grade, of course. Furthermore, if you are more than 20 minutes late to a lesson, the lesson is cancelled (*unexcused*).

**Allowed Absence:**

You are allowed to miss **one** voice lesson and **one** studio class (*on which you are not scheduled to perform or present*) per semester [unexcused]. Additional absences will adversely affect your semester grade. With three or more unexcused lessons/studio classes in the semester, your semester grade will be lowered one full letter grade [*for example, an A- will become a B-*].

**Notice of Absence:**

If you know in advance that you must miss a lesson or studio class meeting *for any reason*, send me a message (*through the Webcourses Inbox feature*) as far in advance as you can and with as much detailed explanation as you can that might justify the absence being considered “excused”. Failure to write me through Webcourses Inbox about an attendance problem *within 24 hours after the event/lesson/class* forfeits your chance of that absence being excused [*no exceptions*].

**Make-up Lessons:**

Lessons I must miss due to circumstances or professional obligations will be made up. Unexcused absences and lessons missed due to university-recognized holidays or departmental events [*ensemble tours, etc.*] will not be made up. Lessons missed due to student illness will also not be made up. It is your responsibility to arrange with me any make-up (*excused absence*) lessons by emailing me with your availability, so that we can will find a time...

**Studio Class:**

Our Studio Class periods offers a great opportunity for you to test your nerves in front of a friendly audience, whether in person or through Zoom. You are responsible for arranging to have your pianist at these dates or to arrange the necessary technological equipment needed to sing with a music track. A **bluetooth speaker** is highly recommended for playing your tracks.

A schedule of “Who Sings When” in Studio Classes may be found on the last page of this syllabus (*once that schedule is established*).

## Assignments / Assessments:

Applied music study in voice is not just about vocal technique and expression, but about being the best singer-musician you can be. It is important that you develop the habit of bringing skills you learn in other music courses (*diction, music history, music theory, etc.*) into your own music study and preparation. In addition to performance and repertoire expectations, this course will involve completion of certain written assignments and assessments which relate to your better understanding of the study of vocal music, vocal pedagogy, and other professional matters. All assignments will be posted in Webcourses at least one week prior to their due date.

## Evaluation and Grading:

### **Grade components and percentage s:**

- 30% Voice Lesson Assessment
- 10% Wednesday Studio Class attendance/attentiveness
- 30% Performances and performance attendance
  - sing in 4 Studio Classes
  - sing in "In-House" Juried Performances [Midterm (02-26-21) and End of Semester (04-09-21)]
  - see Webcourses calendar for additional *required* attendance events (*recitals, master-classes, etc.*)
- 20% Additional Assignments / Assessments
- 10% End of Semester Voice Area Juried Performance (*Date TBA*)

### **Letter Grades:**

"A" = 93-100 points	"A-" = 90-92 points	"B+" = 87-89 points	"B" = 83-86 points
"B-" = 80-82 points	"C+" = 77-79 points	"C" = 73-76 points	"C-" = 70-72 points
"D+" = 67-69 points	"D" = 63-66 points	"D-" = 60-62 points	"F" = 59 and lower

*Students who fail either their Voice Area Juried Performance or Upper Divisional Exam, or who receive a semester grade below a "C+" are not guaranteed a space in this studio for the following semester.*

## Costs: Time/Money/Focus:

Above and beyond the considerable "extra" time commitments and dedication, there are additional monetary costs associated with serious music study. 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 *and* studio classes
- silent practice [*learning texts, listening to/studying music*] – min. 30 min., six days a week
- vocal study [*warm-ups and musical selections*] – minimum 30-60 minutes, six days a week
- *daily* check of email & Webcourses page for announcements, possible schedule changes, etc.

### **Accompanists/Accompaniment Tracks:**

As the ongoing presence of the Covid-19 virus continues to hinder our ability to work with live pianists, your normal responsibility of paying for an accompanist is shifted to one of finding and purchasing accompaniment tracks to use for your performances throughout the semester and having and maintaining appropriate equipment (*preferably a bluetooth speaker*) on which to play those tracks. Although it may be possible for you to pay a qualified pianist to custom-make accompaniment tracks of your assigned repertoire, I also highly recommend your purchasing and maintaining a subscription to a program called "Appcompanionist". This can cost as little as \$3.99 a month for students who use the iOS platform on their phone – see [www.appcompanionist.com/pick-six](http://www.appcompanionist.com/pick-six)

**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.

**Online meeting equipment**

As long as we are reliant on using music tracks to perform our repertoire, you need to own equipment to use for those performances. I highly recommend that you purchase a bluetooth speaker (*you can find them on Amazon for \$25-75, or you can invest in a really good one that you can use for longer for \$100-200*). You can use other equipment to play your tracks, but phone speakers alone are seldom adequate to play things loudly enough for you to hear well when you are singing, as well as loud enough for the computer to pick up during a Zoom performance, such as at juries.

Another consideration (*though not quite as important, really*) is the purchase of an external microphone. I use a "Blue Yeti USB Mic" which sells for about \$130 on Amazon, but there are less expensive good options available, of course. This is an item you will find helpful for recording audition and competition recordings, as well as to capture a truer sound of your practice sessions, etc., to help you progress.

**Additional Policies:****Academic Honesty:**

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (*and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course*) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the [Office of Student Conduct](#) for further action. See the [UCF Golden Rule](#) for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (*or expect me to change*) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

**Viruses and other Technological Challenges:**

A computer virus can spell disaster. Your use of a reputable anti-virus program is a requirement for participation in this course (*good ones include McAfee or Norton*). Also, back up your files: "My hard drive crashed.", "My Wi-Fi is not good.", and "My computer is old and slow." - these are today's equivalents of "My dog ate my homework." - and these problems really do occur and are inconvenient when they do. However, these are not valid excuses for failing to get assignments in on time. There are computer terminals available for you to use on campus and laptops you can borrow from the library (*you're paying UCF a technology fee for such things*), and the Wi-Fi connection on can sometimes be better than that at home or in your apartment. A little planning can go a long way toward saving you time uploading video files, etc. into assignments.

**Disability Statement:**

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](#), Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

**Copyright:**

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

**Third-Party Software and FERPA:**

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

**“ Who Sings When? ”  
VOICE STUDIO CLASSES:**

	Jan 13	Jan 20 *	Jan 27	Feb 03	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24
Zaryah [BM]		Sing *			Sing		
Stephanie S. [BM]		Sing *			Sing		
Sanju [BM]		Sing *			Sing		
Kaleb [BME]		Sing *			Sing		
Hunter [BM]			Sing			Sing	
Hannah W. [BME]			Sing			Sing	
Hannah P. [BA]			Sing			Sing	
Everett [BM]			Sing			Sing	
Cullen [BM]				Sing			Sing
Byron [BA]				Sing			Sing
Billy [BM]				Sing			Sing
Alyssa [BM]				Sing			Sing

NOBODY  
SINGS IN  
STUDIO  
CLASS  
TODAY

\* as the first Studio Class performers of the semester, these students are allowed to perform a piece which they have previously studied. All subsequent Studio Class performances for the semester are to center on this semester’s repertoire choices.

	Mar 03	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31	April 07	April 21
Zaryah [BM]	Sing			Sing			TBA
Stephanie S. [BM]	Sing			Sing			TBA
Sanju [BM]	Sing			Sing			TBA
Kaleb [BME]	Sing			Sing			TBA
Hunter [BM]		Sing			Sing		TBA
Hannah W. [BME]		Sing			Sing		TBA
Hannah P. [BA]		Sing			Sing		TBA
Everett [BM]		Sing			Sing		TBA
Cullen [BM]			Sing			Sing	TBA
Byron [BA]			Sing			Sing	TBA
Billy [BM]			Sing			Sing	TBA
Alyssa [BM]			Sing			Sing	TBA