

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

**Course Outline
Mu 1210**

Applied Music - Voice

1. **Instructor:** John Murray, BMus (Hon), MMus
Office: L114
Phone: 2812

2. **Course Description:** This course is the study of the care, development, and production of the voice as an instrument. It is a 6.0 credit course offered over the full year. The course is given in a studio setting on an individual basis. It includes a one-hour (1) lesson once a week, participation in the G.P.R.C. Concert Choir, and a one-hour (1) Repertoire Class once a week.

3. **Course in Perspective:** The purpose of this course is to provide students with the necessary skills and training to develop their vocal instrument. Students will develop their ability to perform selected repertoire from the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and/or Twentieth-Century periods.

4. **Course Criteria:** Two thirds of the student's final studio mark will be based on their ability to fulfil the following criteria.
 - A. **Effort and Attitude.**
 - i. The desire to sing.
 - ii. The desire to develop technical excellence.
 - iii. Personal motivation and discipline.
 - iv. The willingness to do all that is necessary to learn to sing with correct vocal technique and musical expression.
 - v. Maintaining proper mental, physical, and spiritual wellness.
 - vi. Develop cardio-vascular fitness and muscle tone.
 - vii. Your effort and attitude towards this course will account for the majority of your final studio grade.

 - B. **Daily Rehearsal.**
 - i. Minimum of three (3) to four (4) hours of practicing per day, five (5) days per week.
 - ii. Practice breathing exercises, all assigned vocal exercises, and repertoire during your daily practice time.
 - iii. Learn and memorize new music quickly.

- iv. Learn the meaning of each word in those pieces written in a foreign language.
- v. Develop your artistic and interpretive abilities. Character development and textual interpretation are vital parts of performing music.

C. Weekly Preparation.

- i. Work with an accompanist, outside of repertoire class or lesson time, at least once a week.
- ii. It is expected that each student will be thoroughly acquainted with the piano accompaniment to his or her music before coming to their voice lessons and to the repertoire classes.
- iii. Each student is expected to keep aerobically fit and maintain good muscle tone especially in the torso area of the body. Weekly aerobic and muscle toning work-out sessions of some sort, i.e. walking, stationary cycling, skipping, crunches, lateral crunches, push-ups, conditioning level weight training program, etc., are a mandatory requirement for this course. You must be in excellent physical condition (**become a vocal athlete**) in order to develop excellent vocal technique.

D. Repertoire Class.

- i. It is the responsibility of each student to speak to me during their first voice lesson of each week as to whether they are ready to perform in that week's Repertoire Class. Repertoire Class takes place on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Room L106.
- ii. Come to each Repertoire Class with your music, or a section of your music, ready to perform (i.e. notes learned, word meaning learned, and memorised.)

Repertoire Classes are for fine tuning interpretation and musicianship not for learning the notes.

- iii. Be on time. It is considered to be impolite to walk in during the middle of someone's performance. If you are late for your scheduled time, you miss your turn.
- iv. You should let me know, on a weekly basis, if you are unable to come to Repertoire Class. Attendance at repertoire class reflects your attitude towards the course and your desire to learn as much as you can about singing. Remember, listening to others perform in repertoire class will help you in your vocal and artistic development.

- v. Each student should plan on performing in at least two (2) Repertoire Classes per month. Whether or not you will be performing in a Repertoire Class is dependant upon the developmental stage of your vocal technique and how well you have prepared your repertoire.

E. Lesson Preparation.

- i. Daily rehearsal is expected for improvement. Without daily rehearsal you will not progress technically, and development of your vocal instrument will be minimal. Time must be spent with an accompanist before you bring a piece of music into your lesson. If you do not play the piano, it would be helpful to have a good accompanist record the accompaniment part to your pieces onto a tape so that you will be familiar with the accompaniment part to your pieces, as well as your own vocal line, when you come in for your lesson.
- ii. Music you expect to work on during your lesson time must be thoroughly learned and memorised. **Only that music which you have learned, memorised, and know well (i.e. word meaning, interpretation, characterization, etc.) will be worked on during your lesson.**

F. Performance.

- i. Participation in at least one (1) Student Noon Hour Music Recital each school term is required. Students are encouraged to participate in as many Student Noon Hour Music Recitals as possible in order to gain performance experience. Each student must have their piece(s) thoroughly prepared and memorised before they will be allowed to perform at a Student Noon Hour Music Recital. Failure to have pieces properly prepared by your scheduled performance date(s) will affect your final grade. Participation in more than the required amount of noon hour student recitals will be taken into account when assigning final grades.
- ii. Participation in studio-related voice recitals, Prism, or any other Department-related special performance events will be by invitation only.
- iii. Participation in other classical music vocal venues, such as music festivals, or vocal competitions, is encouraged. All such extracurricular musical activities will be taken into consideration when assigning final grades.
- iv. Performance of a required or optional major solo or shared voice recital will only be permitted if the students successfully complete a juried recital. The juried recital will take place three (3) weeks prior to the performance of the major solo or shared recital. If the students do not successfully complete the juried recital then the scheduled recital will either be postponed or cancelled.

- v. Students will not be permitted to perform at any type of studio- or department-related recital unless their pieces are thoroughly prepared and are ready to perform, and the students' technique and vocal health are in excellent condition.

G. **Accompanist.**

- i. Each student must be prepared to hire the studio accompanist for their own private weekly rehearsals, noon hour student recitals, term-end recitals, juries, repertoire classes, master classes, or any other departmental music functions they may be performing at or participating in.
- ii. All accompanist fees should be paid promptly.

Midterm and/or final grades will be withheld until all your accompanist fees have been paid in full.

- iii. Treat your accompanist with professional respect and courtesy at all times, especially in every professional situation in which you are employing them (i.e. Repertoire Class, private practice sessions, etc.).
- iv. It is the responsibility of each student to let his or her accompanist know, **well in advance**, when they will be needed to accompany them in Repertoire Class, recitals, juries, etc.
- v. Students may choose to hire any professional level accompanist they wish providing they discuss their choice with the instructor prior to approaching the accompanist. The instructor reserves the right to disallow an accompanist to accompany, or to continue to accompany, any College voice student at any of the venues associated with College voice courses if such a decision is necessary.

H. **Concert Choir.**

- i. Participation in the G.P.R.C. Concert Choir is considered a mandatory lab requirement for all applied music - voice courses.
- ii. Your lab (choir) mark will account for twenty (20) percent of your studio mark. Your lab (choir) evaluation will be based on your weekly choir test marks (the weekly choir tests will determine how well you have prepared your music for each rehearsal), midterm exam mark, final exam mark, attendance at sectionals, rehearsals, and performances, your performance of the pieces at concerts, etc., and your involvement in choir-related responsibilities and projects.
- iii. It is the responsibility of each student to sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of each rehearsal. A total of 2.5 percent will be deducted from each student's final grade for each unexcused absence. An excused absence will only be granted to those students who provide the choir director with a medical certificate.

- iv. A total of 1 percent will be deducted from each student's final grade for each late arrival to a choir rehearsal.

I. Attendance.

- i. Attendance at all Fine Arts Department music functions, including noon hour student recitals, Prism, ensemble concerts (including Concert Choir), vocal master classes and work shops, voice recitals, etc. is mandatory. Failure to attend these events will affect your final grade. Attendance sheets must be signed or ticket stubs or programs handed in to the voice instructor in order to receive credit for attendance at each specific event. Students must sign their name clearly on all ticket stubs or programmes before handing them in. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they remember to sign the attendance sheet or hand in the ticket stub or program for each event.
- ii. Attendance at all professional level classical music voice recitals and classical music choral concerts in Grande Prairie is mandatory. Attendance sheets must be signed or signed ticket stubs or programmes handed in following the musical event.
- iii. Attendance at a minimum of one (1) other professional level classical music vocal recital, oratorio, opera, or concert which involves a professional classical music vocalist is required. Students will be expected to hand in their signed ticket stub(s) or programme(s) as proof of their attendance at the event(s).
- iv. Attendance at all "field trip" events is mandatory. A student's final grade will be affected if he or she cannot attend a scheduled "field trip" event.
- v. It may be recommended, by the voice instructor, that certain non-music workshops, such as may be offered by the drama department or other departments, be attended by voice students in order to assist their overall artistic development. Attendance at these workshops will be taken into consideration when final grades are determined.

J. Juries.

- i. Some students may be requested to perform a number of pieces at a midterm jury. This jury is unofficial and will only serve as a benchmark for those students involved.

- ii. All voice students must participate in a final jury. Each student will be expected to perform three pieces by memory and with piano accompaniment. At least two (2) of the pieces must be in a foreign language (i.e. Italian, French, or German). One (1) of the pieces may be in English. Jury forms must be filled out correctly and handed out to each jury member at the time of your jury performance. At least one original copy of each of your jury pieces must be submitted to the jury. Jury marks will be based on your preparation of the pieces, memorization, pronunciation, interpretation, musicianship and deportment. Failure to properly fill out and distribute the correct amount of jury forms or to provide an original copy of all your jury pieces will affect your final jury mark.

K. Other Requirements.

- i. Students should be prepared to cover the following unforeseen costs:
 - Purchase of new music.
 - Concert and recital tickets.
 - Travel expenses, if necessary, for any significant out of town concerts, recitals, voice workshops or master classes (i.e. "field trips").
 - Accompanist fees for private practice, juries, noon hour recitals, etc.
 - Possible user fees related to specific areas of this course (i.e. library searches, etc.)
- ii. Those students who do not read music are expected to find a way to learn all their music (for the voice course and for the Concert Choir) by some other means. Some suggestions might be to ask someone who does read music to help you to learn the notes of your repertoire and work with you on a regular basis, ask a pianist to play the notes and accompaniment onto a tape, or take a basic music theory course at the college. **It is not the responsibility of the voice instructor to teach you the notes during lesson time, or outside of lesson time, or to record your pieces onto a tape for you.**
- iii. All College voice students are expected to sign up for various responsibilities in the performing arts section of the Fine Arts Department. Each student must see Mrs. Sharon Kimble, the Fine Arts Department's Production Coordinator, and sign up for at least two (2) responsibilities during the course of the full academic year. Responsibilities may include ushering, folding programs, stage managing, or other duties. Mrs Kimble will keep a list of all students who help her during the school year. I will review this list at the end of the year. Those who fail to fulfil this course requirement will be deducted marks from their final grade.

5. **Text books:** Students are expected to make three initial purchases:
- i. *Twenty six (26) Italian Songs and Arias*. Alfred Publishing Co., John Glenn Paton, editor. Medium High or Medium Low (depending on your vocal category). The accompanying tape or CD (whichever you prefer).
 - ii. *The Arnold Book Of Old Songs*. Arranged by Roger Quilter. Boosey and Hawkes.
 - iii. *The Structure of Singing: System and Art In Vocal Technique*. Richard Miller. Schirmer Books.

Additional music will likely have to be ordered. Please budget your finances accordingly.

Please do not make any of the above music purchases (numbers i and ii) until your voice has been tested by the vocal instructor. The Richard Miller textbook should be purchased immediately.

6. **Student Evaluation:** Students who have completed this course will be expected to know, understand, and demonstrate the basics of good vocal production.

Two-thirds of the student's final studio will be based on their fulfilment of the course criteria as outlined in number 4 (Course Criteria) above.

One-third of the student's final studio mark will be based on their final jury mark.

Oral report	10%
Lab (Choir)	20%
Studio Mark	70%

Students are encouraged to check with the instructor at any time during the school year regarding their progress and development or to receive feedback regarding their performances. Official G.P.A. marks will be assigned, by the instructor, at the end of the school year. As office hours are limited, please set up an appointment with the instructor should you have any questions or concerns regarding this course.

Note: A G.P.A. of 6 is considered to be an average mark.
A G.P.A. of 7 is considered to be a very good mark.
A G.P.A. of 8 is considered to be an excellent mark.
A G.P.A. of 9 will be assigned to the student, or students, who fulfil all of the requirements of the course outline, as listed above, and who consistently demonstrate exceptional vocal technique and outstanding musical and interpretive ability.