

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

[CLASS ]

[MUSIC]

**Expanded Course Outline**

<b>Course Subject Area:</b>	<b>MU</b>
<b>Course Number:</b>	<b>3681</b>
<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Interpretation for Singers</b>
<b>Units:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>C/S Classification #:</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Component:</b>	<b>Lecture</b>
<b>Grading Basis:</b> (graded only, CR/NC only, student's choice)	<b>Graded only</b>
<b>Repeat Basis:</b> (may be taken once, taken multiple times, taken multiple times only with different topics)	<b>May be taken twice (4 units total)</b>
<b>Cross Listed Course:</b> (if offered with another department)	
<b>Dual Listed Course:</b> (if offered as lower/upper division or undergraduate/graduate)	
<b>Major course/Service course/GE Course:</b> (pick all that apply)	<b>Major course</b>
<b>General Education Area/Subarea:</b> (as appropriate)	
<b>Date Prepared:</b>	<b>March 24, 2015</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Susan Ali</b>

**I. Catalog Description**

A performance workshop based on individual student participation in which communication through the singing voice and the special problems of the singer/actor are explored in depth. Improvisation, acting, communication.

**II. Required Coursework and Background**

Prerequisite(s): MU 134 or 1 unit of MU 177 or MU 1340 or 1 unit of MU 1770, MU 1771 or MU 1811.

Must have solo performances experience, be able to learn songs outside of class, and be confident enough to perform in class. Open to non-majors by audition.

**III. Expected Outcomes**

1. Acquire an understanding of the depth of exploration of literature, character, and intent for a more artistic approach to performance.
2. Acquire an understanding of how to tap into these resources to improve performance.
3. Ability to understand special problems and variables of live performance, and problems particular to certain types of literature.
4. Achievement of greater ease and confidence while faced with the stress of performance situations.

The outcomes of this course relate to the following Music Department Student Learning Outcomes:

- #1: Perform a variety of music with expression and musical accuracy.
- #3: Demonstrate musicianship skills (including those involving technology) and conceptual understandings.
- #4: Demonstrate and articulate personal growth as a musician and student of music in the world.
- #5: Articulate a holistic understanding of the many influences on any musical endeavor (e.g., cultural, artistic, technological, economic, etc.).
- #6: Develop specialized knowledge appropriate to the option or emphasis area.

**BA in Music:**

- #2. **Perform** a variety of music with expression and musical accuracy.

**BM in Music:**

- #1. **demonstrate** a high level of musicianship that facilitates independent preparation of music for performance.
- #4. **articulate** the distinguishing characteristics of multiple musical styles, traditions, and historical periods, **and apply** that knowledge to performance.
- #5. **perform** a wide variety of solo and ensemble repertoire for varied audiences.
- #6. **analyze, interpret, and defend** judgments of various musical works for audiences of scholars and amateurs.
- #7. **demonstrate** healthy body mechanics and technique.

**BM in Performance:**

- #1. **apply** skills for collaborative music making (including chamber music and conducting).
- #2. **demonstrate** competence in selecting and preparing solo repertoire for performance.
- #4. **demonstrate** specialized expertise in interpreting the music of one or two particular styles, including the utilization of improvisation.
- #5. **model** entry-level professional performance skills on a primary instrument or voice, through a capstone recital.

**IV. Instructional Materials**

Balk, H. W. *The Complete Singing Actor*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977.

Carlson, Rhonda. *What Do I Do With My Hands?: A Guide to Acting for the Singer*. Personal Dynamics Publishing, 2013.

Dayme, Meribeth Bunch. *The Performer's Voice*. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 2005.

Ostwald, D. F. *Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

## **V. Minimum Student Material**

Music, Textbook, Notebook

## **VI. Minimum College Facilities**

Large rehearsal space or stage area, piano, audio equipment

## **VII. Course Outline**

1. Study of the techniques available to the student in working out interpretations of vocal literature of different styles for performance.
  - a) Styles of music studied include opera, art song repertoire, musical theatre, and oratorio.
  - b) Manner and customs of performing are discussed and examples shown.
  - c) Analysis of the interpretive problems of certain texts and certain stylistic periods.
2. Study of the techniques available to the student in working through performance anxiety. Discussion of techniques for concentration under the often-stressful conditions of live performance and discussion of the relationship of the performer to the audience.
3. Study of audition techniques to prepare performers to compete in formal auditions.
  - a) Auditions and preparation for specific roles in musical theater or opera companies.
  - b) Help in choosing the best audition material, how to dress, how to present oneself, working with an unknown pianist, ways of mental preparation, and other ideas.

## **VIII. Instructional Methods**

Lectures, demonstration, observation

Discussion, Improvisational exercises

Workshop sessions focused on individual performance and feedback, suggestion, evaluation

## **IX. Evaluation of Outcomes**

1. Student will be evaluated by his/her progress in the ability to discuss the problems of convincing interpretation and by the progress of his/her ability to employ the techniques discussed in previous performances.

2. The final exam will consist of a final performance showing the application of techniques used to overcome the specific problems of the individual singer.

Performances	Demonstrate growth in interpretation of sung literature
Research	Investigate and present findings of management of performance anxiety
Participation in Class Activity	Demonstrate ability to think creatively and spontaneously to bring life to the material
Final Performance	Demonstrate improvement of interpretation of song literature