

# *Southern Utah University*

## *Voice Handbook*

Welcome to the Southern Utah University Music Department and applied voice study. Since you are a Voice Major, we know that you, like your professors, will take the study of singing seriously. Voice study at SUU is taught in the traditional manner which provides healthy technique to each student. Every effort is made to provide you with proven and progressive instruction that should enable you to develop your vocal skills and artistic talents to their maximum capabilities and further, to expose you to all of those elements necessary for you to become not only proficient, but competitive in your chosen profession. Regular practice of assigned vocalises and literature plus your own initiative, imagination, and disciplined work ethic play a critical role in determining your success as a singer, musician, and artist. Careful consideration is needed in planning your daily schedule to allow for adequate practice time in order to reach your vocal potential and goals. You will only get out of voice study what you yourself put into it.

### ❖ *LESSON ATTENDANCE*

Attendance is expected and required at all individual voice lessons. If you must miss a lesson due to illness, etc., you should notify your instructor and your assigned accompanist prior to your scheduled lesson time. Lessons missed will be made up only at the discretion of the instructor. **Any unexcused absences will lower your final studio grade by a letter** (one letter for each unexcused absence). Any lessons missed by the instructor will be rescheduled.

### ❖ *CREDIT HOURS AND MINIMUM PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS*

All voice majors (performance or music education) must register for MUSC 1410, 2410, 3410, or 4410, as determined by the student's proficiency, and will receive 12 50 minute lessons each semester. All voice majors must register for two credits. Students registered for two credits must practice the allotted time specified by the student's applied studio teacher. Any lessons missed by the instructor will be rescheduled.

### ❖ *VOICE STUDIO CLASS*

**Voice majors will be required to attend all voice studio classes.** Each studio will hold class at the 11:00 a.m. time on Fridays. Combined studio classes are often scheduled during the semester and will be team taught. Please refer to the schedule handout to ascertain the places for your assigned teacher's class. The Voice Studio Classes will be held on Fridays from 11:00-11:50 a.m. according to the schedule handout. Failure to attend studio classes will result in the lowering of the student's semester grade by at least a letter. Each voice major will be required to sing a minimum

of at least once a semester in studio class as assigned by the applied studio teacher. Please refer to the schedule handout.

### ❖ **RECITAL/CONCERT ATTENDANCE**

**It is required that voice majors will attend all the voice recitals and vocal events presented on campus.** Attendance will be taken at these events. An up-to-date list of events will be posted outside the student's studio applied teacher's door. It is the student's responsibility to check this list regularly for updates and changes. Failure to attend these recitals and events can lower the final grade by a letter.

### ❖ **PERFORMANCE LEVELS**

Performance levels were established under the direction of the National Association of Schools of Music in order to ensure that students receiving music degrees are performing at a certain level of skill by the time they graduate. The idea is that the assessment of the student's ability to successfully perform repertoire of a particular kind and level of difficulty is the easiest way to determine technical (as well as interpretive) skill level. A representative level repertoire list over four years of study is given below. The student's individual repertoire for each semester will be determined by the student's individual applied studio teacher.

- Early English or 17-18th century Italian songs or arias, or Handel or Purcell songs or arias [3].
- Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven songs in original language [3].
- 20th century American or English songs [3].
- German Lieder of Schubert and/or Schumann [3].
- French mélodie of Debussy, Fauré, Duparc or comparable [3]
- Lyric operatic aria in original language [3].
- Mozart or Rossini aria in original language [1].
- German Lieder by Brahms, Wolf, or Strauss [3].

- Oratorio aria (Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, etc.) [2].
- 19th-20th Century Italian, Romantic, or 20<sup>th</sup> century opera aria in the original language [3].
- Contemporary operatic aria or advanced (post 1950) American Art song [3].
- Arias from verismo opera if appropriate to the voice[2]; complete song cycle in original language; songs to be performed with orchestra or oratorio arias.

### ❖ **REPERTOIRE CHECKLISTS**

In addition to the Level Checklist, each student (with the help of his/her teacher) should keep a Repertoire Checklist. This is to be used over the entire course of voice study at Southern Utah University. It is designed to ensure that each student learns a balanced, but broad body of vocal literature. Students are expected to satisfy these general requirements by their graduation. Repertoire may be adjusted by the student's applied studio teacher according to the individual student's capabilities.

Careful planning will be required in the senior year so that literature learned for the senior recital and that learned for the preceding juries fills in any remaining blanks.

### ❖ **JURY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

#### ➤ **WHO?**

All voice majors must present a jury at the end of each semester of study (minors at the end of one year of study). This jury is 10% of the student's final grade. The jury requirement will be waived in any semester in which the student has successfully completed a junior or senior recital.

#### ➤ **WHEN?**

Juries are generally scheduled during finals week. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside the department secretary's door two weeks before the end of the semester. Students should select a time in consultation with their accompanist. Your accompanist

must sign your jury time to indicate that he/she is available and has received copies of all the music you will present. There will be a posted closing date for jury sign-up. If you have not signed up by that time-you will FAIL. Failure may be for the jury or for the semester depending on the student's individual applied studio work.

➤ **WHAT?**

All voice majors doing a jury must fulfill the following **MINIMUM** repertoire requirements. All music must be memorized. Minimum repertoire requirements must be met with solo vocal literature. Duets, etc. may be offered for juries but are to be in addition to minimum requirements. Any music presented but not memorized (with the exception of excerpts from oratorios and other chamber works normally performed with music) will not count towards the minimum repertoire requirement.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Repertoire</b>
Freshmen	2- 4 songs each jury
Sophomores	4 -6 songs each jury
Juniors	6-8 songs each jury
Seniors	8-10 songs each jury

- Students who have learned a major opera or oratorio role may deduct 2 songs from their requirement in the semester in which the opera is performed.
- At the end of the jury the freshmen and sophomore level student will be asked to sing appropriate scales and intervals.
- Freshmen and sophomore students will also be asked to sight-sing.
- At the end of the semester in which the student has completed 4 credits at the 2410 level (Sophomore Gateway Assessment), the student will be assigned a selection by the studio teacher appropriate to the individual student three weeks before the scheduled jury. The student will then be required to prepare and perform the selection without the aid of the studio teacher or anyone else.
- Music Minors with an emphasis in voice will be required to fulfill the requirements listed under freshmen.

➤ **GRADING?**

The jury will be heard by a panel of judges consisting of the voice faculty. The student's jury performance will be assigned a letter grade by the individual applied teacher. The jury will account for 10% of the student's final grade. The other 90% of the student's final grade will be given by the applied instructor.

**The grading scale is as follows:**

<b>A</b>	<b>94-100 %</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-93 %</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89 %</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83-86 %</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82 %</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79 %</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>73-76 %</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>70-72 %</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>67-69 %</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>63-66 %</b>
<b>D-</b>	<b>60-62 %</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Below 60 %</b>

➤ **Criteria for Passing Jury**

- **Students are required to pay their accompanying fee before they are allowed to sing their jury**
- Students are expected to arrive for their jury at least 15 minutes before their assigned time
- Each student is expected to have rehearsed with his/her accompanist under the supervision of his/her applied studio instructor.
- Failure to adhere to ensemble rehearsal between pianist and singer will result in a lowered jury and studio grade.
- Students may forfeit (FAIL!) their jury if they are not on time.
- If your accompanist is late we will fit you in when he/she arrives.
- Students must bring with them at least 3 copies of the jury repertoire/evaluation sheet and 3 copies of the current repertoire list.
- Blank copies are available on the SUU web-site <http://www.suu.edu/pva/music/handbook.html>. Photocopy it as needed for each semester's jury.

- The student will select the first piece to be performed and the faculty will select subsequent pieces.
- You may be asked to sing only a portion of some of your repertoire.
- Appropriate dress is required for juries. (Appropriate dress for juries should be: For men: suit or sport coat and tie, leather shoes or dress boots [no tennis shoes, no flip-flops]. For women: a “Sunday” dress with appropriate shoes and stockings [no tennis shoes, no flip- flops].
- Students should introduce themselves and announce the first number-title and composer. Correct pronunciation is expected.
- Sight-singing and intervals will be done for 1410 and 2410 juries.

### ❖ *Sophomore Assessment Gateway*

All voice majors must complete a Sophomore Assessment Gateway (**SAG**). **This includes matriculated students at the junior level or higher. "Transfer students wishing to matriculate at the Junior level must pass the Gateway during the first month of their first semester in residence at SUU. Otherwise, the Gateway should be completed after the required courses/credits have been satisfied."**

This is an interview/jury that takes place in the spring at the end of the student’s second year of full-time study or its equivalent (approximately 60 credit hours with pending completion of sophomore level theory, 8 credits of applied study, and music history). The Gateway allows the faculty to assess the student’s progress as a music major and to ascertain the likelihood for successful completion of the degree. The Gateway also affords the student an opportunity to assess individual goals and progress. Passing the Gateway enables the student to begin upper level studies that pertain to completion of the voice major. At the Gateway Assessment the student will provide a portfolio containing the following:

- Transcripts of all course work
- Complete list of repertoire
- List of courses taken in the major
- Copies of programs in which student has performed
- Program notes for the sophomore jury repertoire

- List of ensembles in which student has performed
- Resumé
- Written biography appropriate for a program
- Any other pertinent material if applicable

### ❖ *Evaluation Criteria*

The voice faculty will review the following points for all voice majors:

- Review of the student's academic record, including writing skills
- Evaluation of the student's participation and commitment to ensembles
- Evaluation of the student's progress and commitment to applied or technical study including knowledge of repertoire/literature and understanding of stylistic elements
- Progress in functional music skills (sight-singing and ear training) as required for the chosen degree concentration
- The student's aptitude for success in his/her chosen field as demonstrated in the student interview and the successful completion of pertinent coursework.
- Performance of selected sophomore jury selections

### ❖ *RECITAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES*

The B.M. Performance degree in voice performance requires a half recital in the junior year and a full recital in the senior year. The B.A. Liberal Arts degree requires a half recital in the junior or senior year. The B.M. Ed. degree in music education requires a half recital in the senior year. Music education students must enroll in applied music until this requirement is met. Degree recitals must be performed on the SUU campus.

- Half Recital for B.A. Liberal Arts juniors or seniors, B.M. Performance juniors, and B.M Ed music education seniors must be a minimum of thirty minutes of

music. (This does not include pauses between numbers and intermission). Students are encouraged to present joint recitals to complete this requirement. The length of a joint recital should not exceed 1 ½ hours. The recital will be presented in Thorley Recital Hall. Standard languages should be represented (German, French, English, Italian, or Spanish). The program should be organized into 3-4 cohesive groups of songs (i.e. same composer or same period/style); it should represent a variety of periods; (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern; 20th-century, Modern, American or British art songs); and may include operatic, oratorio, or concert arias.

- Full Recitals for B.M. Performance seniors must be a minimum of fifty minutes of actual music and a maximum of sixty minutes. (This does not include pauses between numbers and intermission). Degree recitals must be performed on the SUU campus. Standard languages should be represented (German, French, English, Italian or Spanish). The program should be organized into 4-6 cohesive groups of songs (i.e. same composer or same period/style); it should represent a variety of periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern, 20th-century and American or British art songs); and may include operatic, oratorio, and concert arias.

### ❖ **Program Approval**

- All senior and junior recital written programs as well as program notes must be **approved for content and length by the applied teacher at least six weeks before the recital preview is scheduled.** A copy of the program to be performed along with the exact timings for each piece should be submitted to the student's studio teacher to allow time for corrections.
- All students presenting required recitals must do a recital preview at least three but no more than six weeks before the scheduled performance. All music for the recital must be memorized at this time. Previews will be heard by the voice faculty. Failure to demonstrate either technical or musical readiness (memorization) will result in the postponement of the student's recital.
- Prior to scheduling the recital preview including date and time make certain to clear the time and date with all of the voice faculty. The student's recital accompanist must accompany the preview so that any problems of ensemble, balance, etc. can be addressed at that time.



❖ **Grading**

Voice recitals are Pass/Fail and the student must be registered for recital credit. Junior Level recital Course number is MUSC 3800 and Senior Recital Course number is MUSC 4800.

❖ **Music Department Student Recitals (Fridays at 12:00 p.m. noon)**

Selected Fridays at 12:00 p.m. have been set aside for music department student recitals. All music majors are required to perform on a student recital once a semester. First semester freshmen will perform at the discretion of his/her applied studio teacher. Recital request forms can be found on the web-site <http://www.suu.edu/pva/music/handbook.html>, and are due in the music office by noon the Thursday before the recital.

❖ **Music**

Voice students need to realize that the purchase of music is important in building a personal library. The purchase of music is a standard of the profession. The student's applied studio teacher will assist each student in the proper selection of music for each student's individual library. Students who use photo-copied music without having purchased original music are breaking the law unless music is out of print or is considered in public domain. The Supreme Court in its ruling on NAPSTER has declared that enabling anyone to pirate music whether by (1) photo-copying, (2) downloading illegally on computer, or (3) the illegal copying of CDs is illegal. Fines for breaking this law are considerable and put the individual, the department, and the university at risk.