

# MUS A118: POPULAR VOCAL TECHNIQUES 1

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	10/18/2023
Top Code	100400 - Music
Units	1.5 Total Units
Hours	45 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 18; Lab Hours 27)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)

## Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study, rehearsal, and public performance of literature appropriate to jazz and pop vocal ensembles, with an emphasis on the development of skills needed to perform within an ensemble, as well as a soloist. Different literature will be studied each semester. Choice of ensemble is based on each student's voice and level. Also covered are healthy vocal techniques, approach to vocal styles, and song interpretation. Transfer Credit: CSU.

## Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Rehearse and perform a minimum of two songs in public with a live rhythm section.
2. Analyze, critique and formulate improvements for a live vocal performance.

## Course Objectives

- 1. Demonstrate the methods used for singing in popular vocal styles, in an ensemble and soloist capacity.
- 2. Distinguish and differentiate between the techniques necessary for performing in the professional music market: Rock, Jazz, Blues, RB, Country, Folk
- 3. Demonstrate proper breathing techniques.
- 4. Sing in time with section and ensemble as directed by the conductor.
- 5. Sing the correct pitches as indicated with accurate intonation.
- 6. Sing with the articulation, dynamics, phrasing, and expression as directed.
- 7. Sing appropriately to the ensemble.
- 8. Sing stylistically appropriately to the period/style of the composition.
- 9. Perform improvised solos as applicable.
- 10. Demonstrate appropriate blend and balance within the ensemble and/ or section

## Lecture Content

Vocal Health and Development Relaxation Body alignment and use Breathing Vocalizing, vocal registers, ranges, and qualities Correct song selection Performance Anxiety Description, causes, and self-study Meditation Relaxation response Visualization and Focus Controlled breathing Alexander Technique of body use Musical Accuracy and Rhythm Precise reading of rhythm Correct readings of markings Intonation and Pitch Accuracy Correct reading and production of pitches Tuning of pitches and harmonies as an ensemble "Popular" Voice Techniques Resonance Tremolo Vibrato Interpretive Devices, Articulation, and Expression Rubato Beat variation Phrasing Professional Ensemble Etiquette Following the conductors gestures as applicable Singing together as a section Singing together as an ensemble Blend and Balance Correct tone, volume, and timbre as appropriate to ensemble Correct tone, volume, and timbre as appropriate to section Study and performance of Musical styles Jazz Rock Country Blues Pop Easy listening Folk RB Improvised solos as applicable Professional Standard of Conduct Demonstrate musical preparedness in rehearsal and performances Demonstrate professionalism with regard to attendance, attitude, deportment, and participation Memorization of performance repertoire as directed

## Lab Content

Song Presentation 1. Stage deportment 2. Interpretation of text 3. Expressiveness of voice, face and body 4. Rehearsing and performing with an accompanist vs. recorded accompaniments 5. Musicianship: intonation, rhythm, and phrasing 6. Visual presentation: costuming, makeup, and grooming

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- Lab (04)

## Instructional Techniques

Lecture, master class and group rehearsal

## Reading Assignments

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## Writing Assignments

Students must demonstrate proficiency in performing a variety of popular music to the instructors satisfaction to complete the course.

## Out-of-class Assignments

Students will need to spend at least 30 minutes a day for 5 days a week practicing vocalizations and assigned songs. It is suggested that they dedicate some time each week listening to other pop vocal artists, analyzing their style and song repertoire. A variety of different artistic styles should be studied.

## Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Evaluated public performances. Evaluation of written student critiques.

## Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

Students must demonstrate proficiency in performing a variety of popular music to the instructors satisfaction to complete the course.

## **Eligible Disciplines**

Music: Masters degree in music OR bachelors degree in music AND masters degree in humanities OR the equivalent. Masters degree required.

## **Textbooks Resources**

1. Required Eloise Ristad. A Soprano on Her Head: Right-Side-Up Reflections, latest version ed. Real People Press, 1982 Rationale: This text is a background on overcoming stage fright and improving stage performance. This is a standard book. 2. Required Rundus. K.. Cantabile - A Manual about Beautiful Singing for Singers, Teachers of Singing and Choral Conductors , latest version ed. Pavane Publishing, 2009 Rationale: .

## **Other Resources**

1. Repertoire appropriate to each ensemble: Selected handout materials including sheet music to be provided and distributed by instructor.