Title: Private Voice: MUAP 237 (1 and 2 credits), 437(1 and 3 credits), 667 (3 credits)  
Semester: Spring Semester 2016  
Instructor: Christine Isley-Farmer  
Office: WMB 256  
Phone: 898-2479 (Office)  
668-9617 (Cell)  
Email: cisleyfa@mtsu.edu

Welcome to the exciting exploration of the potentials for your voice and personal development. It takes a great deal of discipline and dedication to become a good singer, and I look forward to helping you develop more expertise in your art. In order to assist you more fully, I have developed certain guidelines to assist in your study. Please read the following very carefully.

Required Materials: FOR ALL STUDENTS: Assigned vocal music for the semester. You should plan to budget money to buy music for this semester. I will provide Xerox copies only in cases where music is out of print or in any other way unavailable. Some of your assigned music may be located in the Howard Library (located in the Reference Library in Walker Library), but please, if you check music out and must make a copy, return it asap so that it will be available to other students. Xeroxed materials should not substitute for buying your music. There are a number of sites where you can download and pay for sheet music. However, please be sure you are downloading the correct key and keep any payment receipts in case you enter a vocal competition requiring proof of this.

Learning Outcomes (Undergraduate)  
1. To learn more about the diverse repertoire for voice and the study of pedagogy through private lessons and master classes.  
2. To develop greater skills as a performer through weekly master classes, performances on Student Recital Hour, and required degree recitals.  
3. To develop understanding of poetry through word for word and poetic translations of foreign languages (where applicable); musical styles and the dramatic understanding of context for pieces that are part of the operatic, operetta, musical theater and oratorio literature by keeping a voice notebook.  
4. Increased understanding of the use of vocalises as pedagogical building blocks for the voice by including them in a voice/practice notebook.

Learning Outcomes (Graduate) See above.  
5. A deeper understanding of the use of IPA as a tool for learning foreign language texts. Graduate students are required to transcribe all foreign language songs/arias into their music.
Practice
You are expected to accomplish weekly assignments by the next lesson. Bring an IPOD, IPHONE, IPAD, computer, or digital recorder to each lesson to record your lessons. You may ask at any time during the semester for an evaluation of your progress. After two lessons on any assigned piece, I expect you to have it memorized by the third time it is sung. For each lesson your piece is not memorized, your daily grade will be reduced by a letter grade. No student can receive a grade higher than a B if all music is not memorized one week in advance of the end-of-the-semester jury.

I would suggest that you schedule regular practice times into your daily schedule and log your time in your notebook. This way you can assess whether you are practicing enough for each lesson. Shorter practice times several times a day (such as 2X of 20-30 minutes each) will increase your ability to concentrate and prevent vocal fatigue, especially if you have not been practicing daily or after an illness where you have not sung for several days.

Absences/Tardiness
You should be prompt and on time for each lesson. Please knock on the studio door when it is your lesson time. Three unexcused absences will constitute an “F” in the course. Failure to contact me in advance of your absence will result in your lesson not being made up and a grade of zero for the week. In case of illness, an excuse from the infirmary or your physician will be accepted and an attempt to make up your lesson will be made. For any excuses for emergency reasons, please notify the office of the Dean of Students, so that they can inform your professors. If you need to miss a lesson for a School of Music function, your professor should inform the faculty of your absence beforehand. Please leave any messages on my cell phone listed above. Do not contact the Music Office!

Makeup Lessons
Makeup lessons will be solely at my discretion. Your regularly scheduled lesson time is the only time that I am obligated to meet with you. Plan to be at your scheduled lesson time unless there is an emergency, you have a fever, or anything that is communicable. Master classes may serve as make-up times for any lessons that I miss during the semester, unless I miss more than one of your lessons.

Students Requesting Special Accommodations: If you have a disability that may require special assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note taker, readers, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. You should also contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (898-2783) with questions about such services.

Lottery Scholarship Information: To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24-48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact eligibility. Dropping or stopping attendance in a class after 14 days may also impact TELS eligibility. If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop
attending this class, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you will not
be able to regain eligibility at a later time. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to
your Lottery Statement of Understanding from (http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-
aid/forms/LOTFOD.pdf) or contact your MT One-Stop Enrollment Counselor
(http://www.mtsu.edu/one-stop/counselor.php).

**Dropping or Withdrawing from this Course:** Please refer to the university withdrawal
calendar posted at http://www.mtsu.edu/withdraw.

**Master Class and Joint Studio Master Class**

During the semester we will have regularly scheduled master classes, guest and/or
joint studio recitals. These classes will meet on Thursdays at 11:30. In the case of studio
master class, we will meet from 11:30-12:20 in room SFA101. You will be given a
schedule of location and dates and when you will be performing at the beginning of the
semester. **Attendance at these classes is mandatory. There will be only 1 unexcused
absence allowed before your grade will be dropped by 3 points per absence. Mrs.
Paula Bell** will play for master classes this semester, so if you need to use her services,
be sure to get your music to her by **Monday morning the week you are scheduled to perform.** Failure to do so may result
in her not playing for you and a grade of “F” for that performance class. **Dress** for all
performances should be appropriate. No jeans, mini skirts, or short dresses should be
worn when singing on master class or SRH. Hair should be neat and women should wear
make up. Men should at least wear nice casual pants, shirt, and tie for Master Class and
jacket added or suit for SRH. You are practicing professional presentation of self when
you perform. Appearance in master classes, studio recitals, student recitals and juries will
be factored into your grade for that performance. **If you are performing on Student
Recital Hour, your dress should represent your professionalism. Women should
wear skirts/dresses knee length or longer with appropriate shoes (heels and no open
toed sandals or heels); men should wear coats and ties. No pants are allowed for
women on stage unless a pants role aria is being sung.**

**Exams/Grading**

At the end of the semester you will sing a voice jury (exceptions are made if you
have given a degree recital during the semester). The requirements differ for various
major emphases, so check your repertoire requirement list which is posted on line under
*Student Utilities*. The semester’s grade will be a composite of the **jury grade (25%),
weekly lesson grades (60%), participation in master classes and SRH (10%),
notebooks (5%). **If you are coaching this semester, I will ask your coach to submit
a grade for your work and that grade will count for 10% of the 60% weekly lesson
grade. **NOTE:** If you are unable to sing your end-of-the semester jury, you must
contact me personally. Messages through other students/teachers/accompanists to me
will not be accepted. A jury grade of “F” will be automatically given, and I reserve the
right to give you an “F” for the semester unless you can verify the reason for your
absence, ie a note from your physician.
Note: Non music majors and music minors' grades will be averaged as follows: 80% weekly lesson grade and 20% jury grade. Non music majors and minors are not required to keep a voice notebook, but they should record their lessons.

**For all students giving recitals during the semester:** Since you have no jury at the end of the semester, your semester grade will be based on the following: 50% weekly lesson grade, 10% coaching grade, 20% Master Class/SRH performances, 15% program notes, 5% weekly log of vocalises. Make sure your log is always neat and accurate. I will be making note of this every week in my gradebook. You are not required to hand in your vocalises notebook at the end of the semester.

_The voice faculty has adopted the policy that any student who has not fully paid his/her accompanist for accompanying services before the exam week juries will receive an “I” (Incomplete) as the final grade for the semester. This Incomplete will be removed as soon as the accompanist informs me that all fees have been paid in full._

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale (Undergraduates)</th>
<th>(Graduates)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92-100= A</td>
<td>95-100= A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-91= B+</td>
<td>92-94= A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-88= B</td>
<td>The remainder of the scale is the same as for Undergraduates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>81-84= B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>78-80= C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>74-77= C</td>
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<tr>
<td>71-73= C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>68-70= D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>64-67= D</td>
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<tr>
<td>61-63= D-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60 or 3 unexcused absences= F</td>
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**Notebooks**

The voice notebook is designed to aid you with your vocal study and will count as part of your semester grade. Please read the following guidelines: **Graduate Voice Performance, Undergraduate Voice Performance, Music Education, and Music Industry majors:** The voice notebook should include: 1) _vocalises_ that are written out on paper that have been studied during the semester with the _purpose and corrections_ given for those exercises (you should submit these exercises to me at each weekly lesson), 2) _translation of foreign language texts_ (word for word AND poetic with cited source/s) to be handed in to me BEFORE you begin study of a song. 3) _full synopsis of any works that you sing from opera, operetta, oratorio and musical theatre._ You may download and/or photocopy translations and synopses. Only _graduate students_ are required to submit IPA transcriptions of all foreign language texts. _Neatness will be factored into your grade._
Upper Division: Please refer online for the requirements for Upper Division under Student Utilities: Jury Requirements.

Guidelines for receiving an “A” for your weekly lesson.
Music is learned correctly and accurately the first time that it is sung in the studio. I do not expect that you be perfect, but I should be able to recognize that you have spent considerable time and effort in learning your music.

Foreign language texts must be translated by the first lesson. You should be able to tell me the meaning of your song and/or aria. In the case of arias and songs from musicals, you should have done your background research and be able to tell me about the opera, operetta, musical, etc. should I ask. If I make diction recordings for those of you who have not had the diction courses, I expect to be able to recognize that you have worked diligently and listened to recordings to help yourselves learn the piece as best as possible.

Subsequent lessons on your pieces need to reflect that you have incorporated pedagogical concepts and corrections as well as beginning maturation of interpretive and dramatic ideas.

Regular practice with your accompanist is necessary. Do not try to work on pieces in your lessons that you have not prepared in advance with your accompanist. Stumbling through music does not leave me with a good impression of your work.

Have a great semester!