

Voice Area Handbook

2015-2016

This handbook is designed specifically for WTAMU students, music majors and non-majors, who are taking private studio voice. Any questions about the handbook should be directed to your studio teacher. Within this handbook you will find repertoire requirements, barrier competencies, recital requirements, as well as advising materials for your major. You will also find information about choral ensembles, opera workshop, and other ensembles that you are encouraged to participate in throughout your education.

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WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Department of Music

Applied Voice Requirements
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GOAL: Students completing voice study will have attained performance proficiency, technical skill, and repertoire commensurate with their ability and appropriate to the degree they are pursuing.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objectives apply to all voice majors, whether they be in Performance, Music Education, Music Therapy, Music Business, or Musical Theatre degree programs. Each student must achieve the required level for his/her specific degree program.

I. TECHNIQUE

- a. The student will be able to sing throughout his/her range on any vowel with appropriate adjustments to negotiate register shifts with consistent timbre.
- b. The student will be able to crescendo-diminuendo any pitch on any vowel, maintaining proper breath support, focus, and pitch.
- c. The student will be able to articulate consonants throughout the usable range.
- d. The student will be able to sing lines of contrasting textures, such as connected and detached lines, sustained lines, coloratura, etc.
- e. The student will develop a range appropriate for his/her voice type.
- f. The student will be able to sing, true to pitch, with tone quality appropriate to the voice type and to the student's maturity.

II. STYLE

- a. The student will be able to express a variety of emotions and meanings, using tone-coloring, rubato, adequate verbal expression, etc.
- b. The student will know how to set and maintain proper tempo and how to

- handle tempo changes.
- c. The student will be able to solve basic performance problems in any style he/she sings, such as: 1) Baroque Improvisation, 2) Tempo changes between sections of a cantata or song cycle, 3) Bringing variety into a strophic song, 4) Interpolations and deletions in operatic arias, etc.
- d. The student will demonstrate appropriate stage presence, posture, and etiquette

III. LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

- a. Literature: the student must build the minimum repertoire required to complete the level specified for by his/her degree program:

Music Business - Level V	Music Therapy - Level V
Music Education - Level VI	Performance - Level VIII
Music Theatre - Level VI	
- b. Languages. The student will have prepared representative literature in, and shown satisfactory competency in English, Italian, German, and French. Additional languages may be studied but will not substitute for the four major languages.
- c. Periods. The student will have satisfactorily performed pieces in at least six areas:
 - 1) Songs/Arias of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries
 - 2) German Lieder
 - 3) French Melodie of the 19th and 20th centuries
 - 4) American and English songs of the 19th and 20th centuries
 - 5) Arias from Oratorios, Cantatas, Passions, Masses, and other Sacred Songs
 - 6) Art Song of the 19th and 20th centuries in languages other than English, German and French
 - 7) Operatic and Concert Arias; Musical Theatre pieces
 - 8) Performance in Major Works: Opera, Oratorio, Musical, etc.
 - 9) Folk music of western and non-western cultures, art music of non-western cultures
- d. Chamber Music. A student must perform in at least 1 chamber ensemble.
- e. Commercial, pop, and contemporary Christian music will not satisfy the above requirements.

IV. PREPARATION OF LITERATURE

The student will demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of his/her craft by preparing detailed notes on material to be studied. These notes will cover:

- a. Background on composers

- b. Performance problems and solutions
- c. Vocal/ensemble problems and solutions
- d. Analysis, translations and IPA transcriptions of poetry and/or discussion of dramatic setting
- e. Distinctive features of the music

V. PERFORMANCE SKILLS

- a. Stage Department
Students will develop performance skills and etiquette, including proper attire for performance, deportment on stage, acknowledgement of applause, and proper acknowledgement of collaborative musicians.
- b. Performance Traditions
Students will learn traditions of performance associated with formal recitals, including but not limited to the memorization of performance repertoire and the standards of acceptable movement and gesture.
- c. Performance Seminar and Studio Class
All voice students are expected to attend voice Seminar, as reflected in the schedule of classes, and voice studio classes. Each student will perform a minimum of once a semester on Seminar and studio class. Seminar performance in the first semester of study may be at the discretion of the studio teacher.

VI. EVALUATIVE SKILLS

- a. The student will be able to evaluate his/her own performance, and to listen constructively to his/her peers and more advanced singers. To that end, the student will attend vocal recitals and concerts presented locally, will hear recordings of fine singers regularly, and will keep a log of his/her evaluations.
- b. The student will be able to select appropriate music for his/her own voice type as well as for other voice types.

OUTCOME ASSESSMENTS

Progress toward the accomplishment of the Learning Objectives will be measured by a variety of assessments. The measurements will apply to all voice majors, whether they be in Performance, Music Education, Music Therapy, Music Business, or Musical Theatre degree programs.

Semester Grades:

1. Studio grade: Each semester, the student will be evaluated according to criteria and goals established by the individual studio policies. Among

these expectations are:

- a. preparation of required repertoire for the level, and related assignments
- b. performances in studio and seminar as required by this policy
- c. attendance at lessons
- d. evidence of practice

2. Juries.

All majors will sing for an applied voice jury each semester. Students will prepare and present repertoire sheets to the jury. The jury will begin with the song or aria of the student's choice, after which the faculty will select the remaining repertoire to be examined. Jury repertoire must be performed adequately from memory in order to be counted toward the repertoire requirements for the level. The jury will constitute 40% of the semester grade.

Junior and Senior Recitals:

Performance Majors: Junior recital : 30 minutes of music in four languages

Senior recital : 1 hour of music in four languages

Music Education: 30 minutes of music in four languages

Music Business 30 minutes of music in three of four languages

Music Therapy 30 minutes of music in three of four languages or a cap stone project approved by Dr. Kahler.

Performance Levels for Voice Majors

Music Business : Level V (28 songs)

Music Therapy: Level V (28 Songs)

Music Education: Level VI (36 songs)

Performance: Level VII (52 songs)

Students are expected to complete one level each semester. Students should expect that failure to complete the level corresponding to the semester of study will result in a lower semester grade. Students who fall more than two levels behind will

be reviewed by the voice faculty and may not be permitted to continue as a voice major. Note that these provisions will not apply to students who lack only a recital performance to complete level V, VI, or VII. Students will present a note book of listed repertoire at each jury to assure that their amount of repertoire learned is in accordance with the appropriate level.

Level I Semester 1 1081

1. Four memorized pieces
2. Languages: English and/ or Italian

Level II Semester 2 1081

1. Four memorized pieces (8)
2. Languages: English and Italian
3. Perform on Seminar

Level III Semester 3 1081

1. 6 memorized pieces (14)
2. Languages: English, Italian, German or French
3. Perform on Seminar

Level IV Semester 4 1081

1. 6 memorized pieces (20)
2. Languages: English, Italian, German or French
3. Perform on Seminar
4. Complete competencies
***see competencies barrier for requirements**

Level V Semester 5 3081

1. 8 memorized pieces (28)
2. Languages: English, Italian, German and French
3. Perform on Seminar
4. 30 minute recital for Music Business and Therapy Majors

Level VI Semester 6 3081

1. 8 memorized pieces (36)
2. Present folder of repertoire and perform recital hearing for faculty
3. 30 minute recital for Performance and Education majors (Four languages)
4. Perform on Seminar

Level VII Semester 7 3081

1. 8 memorized pieces (44)
2. Perform on Seminar

Level VIII Semester 8 3081

1. 8 memorized pieces (52)
2. Perform on Seminar
3. Full hour recital for Performance majors (Four languages)

Semester Jury Examination Policies

Jury Examinations: Each semester the final examination for studio voice study consists of a jury performed before the voice faculty. Students taking voice for 1 credit hour will be exempt from the jury process. Also Music Theater students will not have a jury in the voice area and will be juried in the music theater department. All majors and others taking a 2 hour voice credit will be expected to perform a jury.

Jury Schedule and Content: Voice juries are held during finals week. Days and times are TBA. The voice area jury sign up sheet will be posted in the music office and will remain there until the end of the day of the last day of classes. It is each student's responsibility to sign up for a jury time as well as inform your accompanist of the time. Once the final day of sign up has passed, there will be no changes to the schedule. Failure to sign up and attend a jury will result in automatic failure of the semester jury. An incomplete is only available to those with a documented illness or family emergency. All other situations will result in an F. Your jury will consist of the repertoire you have studied over the semester. You will need to provide two repertoire sheets for the jury, which can be found on the School of Music web page under jury sheets. These **are not** electronically submitted, so you must print them off and present two hard copies at the time of your jury. You will begin your jury with a song of your choice and then the faculty will select the other songs to be sung until satisfaction from the entire faculty is reached.

Jury Grading: The student will receive written comments as well as numerical grades from the voice faculty. The grades will be averaged and combined with the studio grade to determine the final semester grade. Copies of the jury scores and comments will be returned to each student while the final grade form will remain in the student's permanent file in the School of Music office.

Absences: An unexcused absence from the jury will result in a failing grade for the semester. Absence due to documented health problems or high-level family emergencies will result in a grade of incomplete. The incomplete must be made up within the first 60 days of the semester immediately following or it will become an "F"

Recital Exemptions: In the semester a student gives a recital, they will not be required to present a jury.

Competencies Barrier:

The competencies jury is a separate jury from your voice jury.

Competencies:

Spring of Sophomore year (Sophomore Barrier)

Sight singing: exercise on Solfege. This will be a 12 measure reading.

Sung Example: The sung example will be chosen by the voice teacher and given to the students 7 days before the jury. This piece does not have to be memorized but must meet preparation satisfaction of the entire voice faculty. This piece will also be coached after performance by a senior vocal major.

Any student not successfully completing the sung example (Sophomore Barrier) **will not** be allowed to take voice at the 3000 level until barrier competencies are passed.

Spring of Junior Year

Language Proficiencies: Oral and written quiz over rules and grammar for each language required within your major. This will take place in the semester before your senior recital.

Music Business and Music Therapy- no quiz
Music Education- English and Italian
Performance- English, Italian, German and French

Fall of Senior Year

Senior Pedagogy Requirement: Seniors, in the semester they offer their senior recital, will demonstrate an 8 minute vocal lesson during juries. The subject may be a sophomore completing their competencies. Seniors will address language, translation, technical approach as well as artistry and characterization. Seniors not giving a satisfactory demonstration will not be able to complete their vocal requirements for graduation until a satisfactory presentation teaching demonstration is made.

Music Portfolios: Your music portfolio will be a three ring binder with an organized list of your repertoire from freshman to senior year. This is to be kept up by the student and presented to the voice faculty at the senior hearing. At this time the faculty will review the repertoire to be sure all requirements have been met for the student's major. If the list is approved, then it will be signed by the faculty and

placed in your permanent file in the music office. **No student will be allowed to perform a final recital without all major requirements being met.**

Seminar: Seminars are joint studio recitals, which take place around the last weeks of the semester. All vocal majors, except for first semester freshman, are required to perform on at least one of the seminar recitals. Your seminar recital date will be assigned to you each semester.

Studio Class: Studio class is TBA within the studio and individual policies on studio times, participation, and content are left to the discretion of each voice teacher. Please see your syllabus and private lesson teacher for exact details.

Vocal Ensembles:

Choral: The WTAMU choral is the top choral performing group on the campus and is directed by Dr. Sean Pullen. The chorale is dedicated to the study of choral music from all major historical eras and from modern formal styles. The group performs four to five major concerts per year, and is also the touring choral ensemble. Membership is by audition only. Auditions occur at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Choral rehearsals are M_F from 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Collegiate Choir: This ensemble is a large mixed choir, consisting of vocal music majors as well as majors from other disciplines. The group is dedicated to the study of choral music from all of the major historical eras and from modern formal styles. The Collegiate Choir performs four to five major concerts per year. Membership is open to all West Texas A&M students. Colligate Choir rehearsals are M_F from 12:00 -12:50p.m.

Chamber Choir: The Chamber Choir is selected by audition only. Membership within the ensemble, while smaller than the larger choirs, is flexible based upon the goals of the director. The group may perform a variety of formal literature from all historical eras, and may explore popular forms as well. In addition to major concerts on campus, the Chamber Choir may have occasions to sing for special events and groups off campus.

Sforzando: Is a very an active performing group. This group performs for community as well as campus events. The music style is more contemporary in nature but will present classical repertoire when needed. For more information on this group and auditioning please contact Dr. Kuhnert. Dr. Kuhnert is the overseeing faculty member of this ensemble.

Opera Workshop: Opera workshop focuses on the artistry of the performance of opera. The opera will perform scenes as well as full operas with the WTAMU symphony. Auditions are TBA . Please see Dr. Ramo for details.