

MUS 171-01, Spring 2006
English Diction for Singers
M/W 1:00-1:50 p.m.
Rm. 226

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Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to acquaint the student singer with the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), the correct pronunciation of English consonants and vowels, and the diction rules of this language. As a result, the student will:

- Learn to use the International Phonetic Alphabet for symbolic representation of spoken and sung sounds.
- Apply knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet to pronunciation and enunciation of English vocal literature.
- Refine awareness of the movements of the vocal articulators and their effect on speech sounds and singing tone.
- Gain fluency, accuracy, and confidence in pronunciation, enunciation, and expression of sung text.

Course Requirements

This is a course for singers. Therefore, each student will be required to sing in class. Students will perform a maximum of one assigned piece and two pieces of their choosing, all of which the student will provide a phonetic transcription. There will be written tests over and above the midterm and final exams (dates are noted on the course schedule).

Song Selection

Each student is to select two pieces of solo literature to be performed in front of the class. He or she is required to listen to the art songs if a recording is available. Most recordings can be found in the music library. Upon selecting the pieces, the student will research each art song. The research will include a phonetic transcription and an oral reading in the original language, brief composer history, and brief information about the cycle from which the song comes, if applicable. This information will be typed, presented to the class, and turned in to the instructor with a photocopy of the piece on the assigned date. This research will only be done for the two student-selected works.

Required Course Materials

- Madeleine Marshall. The Singer's Manual of English Diction, Schirmer Books.
- Small, hand-held mirror
- Personal tape recorder /mini disc recorder, if necessary
- Accompanist for class performances

Attendance

Class attendance is essential. With the exception of documented personal or medical emergencies (excused absences), perfect attendance is expected. Each student will be given two (2) unexcused absences - each unexcused absence thereafter will lower the final grade by two (2) points.

Evaluation

The student's final grade will be determined as follows:

Exam 1, 2, 4	25%	Midterm	10%
IPA's	25%	Final Exam	15%
Song Performances	25%		

January		Homework
9	Intro, Syllabus, IPA Review	Read p. 122-145
11	Vowels	Read p. 185-191
16	NO CLASS	Read p. 146-155
18	Vowels	Read p. 156-164
23	Unstressed/Unsung sounds	Study for Exam
25	Exam 1 - Song Title 1 Due	Read p. 165-173
30	Diphthongs	Read p. 174-180
February		
1	Neutral Vowel Diphthongs	Read p. 181-184
6	Neutral Vowel Triphthongs	Complete Song IPA #1
8	Singing Day 1	SONG IPA # 1 DUE
13	Singing Day 2	
15	Exam 2	Read p. 1-7
20	Silent Letters and Syllabic Division	Read p. 8-26, 95-97
22	The Letter 'R'	Read p. 27-28
27	The Letter 'Y'	
March		
1	Midterm - Song Title 2 Due	
6	Spring Break	
8	Spring Break	
13	Voiced/Unvoiced Consonants	Read p. 29-40
15	Consonants [t], [d]	Read p. 41-55
20	Consonants [p], [b], [f], [v]	Read p. 74-79
22	Consonants [k], [g]	Read p. 80-86
27	Bedbug Rule	Complete Song IPA #2
29	Singing Day 1	SONG IPA #2 DUE
April		
3	Singing Day 2	
5	Exam 4 - Song Title 3 Due	Read p. 56-63
10	Consonant [m], [n]	Read p. 98-100
12	The sound of 'ng'	Read p. 64-73
17	Consonant [l]	Read p. 87-94
19	The sounds of 'th'	Read p. 101-106
26	The sounds [h], [hw]	Read p. 107-119
28	Remaining Sounds [z], [s], etc.	Complete Song IPA #3
May		SONG IPA #3 DUE
3	Singing Day 1	Study for Final
5	Singing Day 2	Study for Final
	Final Exam	See university exam schedule