

German Diction MUS 271
Fall 2005
Course Syllabus
TR 9:00-9:50, Room 110

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Text

Adams, David. *A Handbook of Diction for Singers*. Oxford University Press, 1999.
I also strongly recommend that you purchase a small German-English dictionary that uses IPA.

Course Objective

The class is to provide a foundation of the principles of German lyric diction most widely practiced in the world of vocal music. The student is advised that language (and as a result, diction) is an organic entity and therefore is subject to many variables. The course is designed to provide learning opportunities in the areas of IPA transcriptions, spoken diction, and sung diction.

Class Structure

The semester will be divided into two primary sections. The first portion will deal with the academic process of learning the rules of diction while the second will provide the student with an opportunity to put those rules into practice through performance usage. During the first portion there will be reading assignments (to be completed prior to the next class), written and/or spoken exercises in IPA transcriptions, and written tests (tests will be cumulative). In addition there may be listening assignments of established singers in order to assess their usage of German diction.

The second portion will consist of IPA transcriptions of the songs chosen for coaching and performance. The student may discuss the choice of repertoire with their voice teacher or take a recommendation from me.

Grading

Grading will be determined by the written tests, assigned exercises, preparation of song to be performed (IPA as well as spoken preparedness), and a final exam. Please note that poor attendance will have a negative impact on the final grade (please refer to the attendance policy below). The final grade will be determined by the following formula:

Written unit tests: 25%

Final: 25%

Assignments: 15%

Song Prep: 15%

Song Performance: 20%

Attendance

Your progress in this class is substantially dependant on regular attendance. Students will be allowed one unexcused absence. Any other absences must have a documented written excuse. On campus performances are not excusable unless one is provided by the university. Any unexcused absences beyond the one allowed can result in a four point reduction per absence of the final grade.

Feedback

The instructor maintains an open door policy and welcomes comment and discussion regarding the conduct, content, and demeanor of the course either after class or by appointment.