COLLABORATIVE KEYBOARD SKILLS I
VOCA/CHORAL
Fall 2005

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The study of ensemble techniques, score preparation, rehearsal skills, coaching techniques and performance strategies for performing standard vocal/choral literature. Sight reading will be emphasized and students will participate in an accompanying practicum.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide students with the basic ensemble skills necessary for collaborating with the voice.

2. To systematically improve sight reading skills through the use of weekly assignments and several tests.

3. To expose students to the standard vocal and choral accompanying literature.

4. To acquaint students with the methods for rearranging choral scores for the piano.

5. To provide students with "hands-on" experience in an accompanying practicum.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Berlin, Boris. 4 Star Sight Reading. Toronto: Frederick Harris, 1980


TBA - choral score, possibly Handel's Messiah (on loan from library)

blank VHS cassette
EVALUATION

A. Practicum
- 2 repertoire pieces (chosen in conjunction with applied faculty) rehearsed and performed in the following settings for each:
  i) REHEARSAL - 4 half-hour sessions with the student
  ii) LESSON - one lesson with applied faculty and student
  iii) PERFORMANCE - in class, or MUSC 1000, or studio class or jury, or choral concert (upon the discretion of applied faculty)
- you will record your experiences in a practicum portfolio which should total 8 single spaced pages, 4 per repertoire piece.

i) REHEARSAL
1. Report: what occurred at rehearsals and their dates and times (1/2 page for each, 2 pages total)
2. Video Report and Analysis: (one page) tape one or more rehearsals, choose one 10 minute segment (successful, unsuccessful, or both). Give counter numbers and cue up. Follow indicated outline. Answer the following questions:
   a) Were your actions planned with a specific goal in mind? If so, how?
   b) Were you “flying by the seat of your pants” trying to adapt instinctively to the situation? If so, how?
   c) What did you contribute to the success or failure of the rehearsal?
   d) What did your partner contribute to the success or failure of the rehearsal?
   e) How could the rehearsal be improved next time?

ii) LESSON
Describe what occurred at the applied lesson and how you adjusted. (1/2 page)

iii) PERFORMANCE
State where it occurred and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the performance (1/2 page).

B. Class Assignments
- In-class performance of sections of assigned repertoire, small written assignments, readings, and listening.

C. Sight Reading Tests
- 4 in-class tests each worth 5% at a similar level to the one at which you are practicing
- towards the end of the semester you may be asked to sight read an accompaniment while a singer performs
D. GMTA Conference Critique
- attend one recital, or several totaling at least 20 minutes of collaborative piano and voice.
- may be student competition winner’s recital, or NATS event.
- write a two page single spaced critique:
  a) list date, time, performer's names, venue
  b) include a copy of the program (s)
  c) describe what occurred
  d) evaluate the strengths of the performance
  e) evaluate the weaknesses of the performance
  f) where possible, give suggestions for improvement

Practicum 40%
Class Assignments 35%
Sight Reading Tests 20%
GMTA Concert Critique 5%

GRADING
90-100 A
80-90 B
70-80 C
60-70 D
Below 60 F
SYLLABUS
(subject to change)

1. Aug 23  
   Student Brainstorm Syllabus Creation  
   Organization of Practicum

2. Aug 30  
   Introduction to Syllabus  
   Principles of Sight Reading  
   Principles of Vocal Accompanying

3. Sept 6  
   Application of Vocal Accompanying Principles

4. Sept 13  
   26 Italian Art Songs  
   Sight Reading Test #1  
   Practicum Repertoire

5. Sept 20  
   Practicum Repertoire

6. Sept 27  
   26 Italian Art Songs  
   Practicum Repertoire

7. Oct 4  
   Sight Reading Test #2

8. Oct 11  
   Simplifying Choral Arrangements  
   Messiah

9. Oct 18  
   In Class Rehearsal with Singer

10. Oct 25  
    Sight Reading Test #3  
    Guest Artist: Miss Julie Lowry

11. Nov 1  
    GMTA Conference – no class

12. Nov 8  
    Hymn and Popular Song Accompaniment Creation

13. Nov 15  
    In Class Performance with Singer

14. Nov 22  
    Standard Lied and Mélodie  
    Sight Reading Test #4

15. Nov 29  
    Standard Lied and Mélodie  
    GMTA Concert Critique Due

16. Dec 6  
    Summary  
    Tue Dec 13 10am Practicum Due
GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS

Students chose ONE from:

A. 5 page single spaced paper either:
   a) interviewing a professional collaborative pianist and/or reviewing their recordings, or
   b) surveying and grading repertoire, or
   c) reviewing books and articles on the topic, or
   d) on a pertinent topic in collaborative pianism.

B. Accompany an extra UWG student and record and evaluate the experience in a journal, especially focusing on coaching techniques.

C. Prepare and perform an advanced piece of chamber music.

D. Own choice with permission of professor