**Course Description**

Opera Workshop is a class designed to help singers learn and practice performance skills. Learning centers around practical projects that culminate in either a scenes program or opera production performed publicly at the end of each semester.

**Learning Objective**

Gain performance experience and tools to necessary to become a proficient performer. A student who successfully meets all the requirements of the class will:

- Know how to prepare dramatic roles
- Successfully collaborate in rehearsal situations
- Begin to convincingly practice primary and general rules of acting singers
- Have the tools necessary for continued development in live performance

Students will be held to professional standards of conduct not professional standards of performance though professional standards of performance are our goal.

**Major Course Requirements**

Students must attend all scheduled classes and rehearsals. Students are expected to perform in class and in scheduled performances during the semester. Students are also required to submit practice logs and performance evaluations as assigned in class.

**Class Policies**

*Attendance and Late Policy* - Students are expected to be to class at least 5 minutes early, warmed up, focused, and ready to perform. Late students will receive half of the days attendance points. You are late if you are not ready to work by the official start of the class period. Students are responsible if defined and required to catch up on material missed due to an absence.

*Appropriate dress* is crucial to the success of the class. Unless the character you are portraying in a performance assignment requires and exception you must be dressed in:

- Character or dance shoes (Closed toed shoes)
- Comfortable clothes that allow for a broad range of movement
- Low cut shirts or short skirts or shorts are not acceptable. If you are concerned with trying to keep yourself covered you cannot focus on what is being asked of you.

The classroom must be a safe environment. Physical and Emotional safety are paramount. If at any time you do not feel safe it is your responsibility to let the instructor know your concern so appropriate changes can be made. Sexual Harassment will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to University Policy. Please ask for help inside or outside class time. DO NOT correct colleagues unless specifically asked to do so. Your role as a good colleague is to encourage and support. You are competing with yourself, not your colleagues. You should be on each others team.

Excuses for poor performance are not needed and are not accepted. They are irrelevant in performance. You are strongly encouraged to take appropriate risks. Appropriate risks are actions that stretch you and push you out of your comfort zone or stretch your artistic limits without risking the safety or legal boundaries of yourself or others. Risk taking is hard to do. Please respect those who extend themselves in this way by validating the risk taking whether or not the attempt was successful. This is a classroom where we are learning, risking, and making mistakes, not where we expect perfection.

**Required Text**

Semester 1: *Talent is Overrated* by Geoff Colvin
Semester 2: *The inner game of music* by Timothy Gallwey
Semester 3: *Singer and Actor* by Alan Hicks
Semester 4+: Readings will be assigned per individual student

*You can visit operastagedirector.com. Click on “Shop”. Then Click on “Opera workshop” and it will direct you to the correct link on Amazon.

**Recommended Texts**

*Acting for Singers* by David F. Ostwald
*Body Language* by Julius Fast
*Bringing Opera To Life* by Boris Goldovski
*No Acting Please* by Eric Morris and Joan Hotchkis
*Singing, Acting, and Movement in Opera* by Mark Ross Clark
*Sanford Meisner on Acting* by Sanford Meisner & Dennis Longwell
*Stanislavski on Opera* by Constantine Stanislavski
*The Complete Singer-Actor* by Wesley Balk
**Disabilities Accommodations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade in the class.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Consult the online academic calendar for date of the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including
classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Grade Appeals

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules.

Important Dates:
* Note: Rehearsal Call Schedules will be posted on the door of CA 141. Schedules are subject to change. Singing actors will not be called for every rehearsal. You are still expected to come to class. If you are not in the main rehearsal you are expected to use class time to rehearse on your own. If you are not called and are not practicing it will count as an absence. See “attendance” section under grades.

First Day of Class: Jan 23rd
Tech/Dress Rehearsals:
Educational Performances: April 3rd starting at 10:00am and 12:00pm
Public Performances: April 3rd/4th starting at 7:30pm
Last Day of Class: April 25th. After the production is over we will focus on developing and refining acting techniques using other songs you have or will prepare.

Grades

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role Preparation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice &amp; Practice Log</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Required Reading &amp; Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
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A (Excellent) = 92% - 100%
A- = 90% - 92%
B+ = 88% - 90%
B (Above Average) = 82% - 88%
B- = 80% - 82%
C+ = 78% - 80%
C (Average) = 72% - 78%
C- = 70% - 72%
D (Below Average) = 60% - 70%
F (Fail) = Below 60%

**Attendance**

Come on time. Come focused. Come prepared. Come ready to work. You are allowed 2 absences without penalty to allow for life events. After that each absence lowers your attendance grade 10%. EXCUSES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED so use your two absences wisely (save them for when you have emergencies, you are too sick to come, or you forget to come.) Coming late to class counts as half of an absence. Thus, after you use your two absences you will lose 5% off your grade each time you are absent. You are expected to be rehearsing the entire time each class period. You are expected to be at every rehearsal and performance. If you are not performing you will be needed back stage.

**Role Preparation**

**Memorization (10%)**: Have your role completely memorized (Correct notes, words, rhythms, dynamics, etc) and off book (this doesn’t mean you have sung it once without looking at the book but that you can sing it nerves and all) by the memorization deadline. We will have a memorization test that will account for 10% of your total grade.

**Character research (10%)**: You will be graded on the thoroughness with which you research and apply your research to portraying your character. This will require to spend time outside of class researching and exploring the possibilities with your character by yourself and your cast mates. You will be graded at each rehearsal in this area.

**Blocking Memorization (10%)** You are expected to remember, recreate, and improve upon all information given at each staging rehearsal. You will be graded according to your consistency and attention to detail. Please do what you need to do in rehearsal so you can remember and practice your blocking outside of rehearsal. You will be graded at each rehearsal in this area.

**Practice & Practice Log**

You will submit a practice log every Monday at the start of class reflecting your practice the previous week. Practice & Practice Log will be graded upon practice log submission based on the consistency and application of the principles of deliberate practice as demonstrated by your practice log entries. LATE PRACTICE LOGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**Required Reading**

You will read the book that corresponds the number of semester you have registered for the class. After reading the book a summary will be do that outlines the key points of the book and how you intend to applying the principles in your work. The paper will be due the last day of class (April 25th) though you may turn it in earlier. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.