2017 SPRING OPERA SYLLABUS / ARTIST’S AGREEMENT

Course: MUEN 1158  Location: CA 136  Time: MW 1-1:50 pm; TR 12:30-1:45 pm
Instructor: Dr. Hope F. Thacker  Email: hope.thacker@tamucc.edu  Phone: 361-558-5986
Office Hours: as posted and by appointment

1) The Artist is contracted to perform in the Spring, 2017 TAMU-CC Opera Theatre production of *Speed Dating Tonight!* to be presented on March 30-31, 2017.

2) **Preparation of roles.** The Artist agrees to prepare his/her role in a professional manner, and will sing his/her role(s) with musical accuracy, stylistic appropriateness, correct diction, and dramatic understanding at his/her coaching/musical rehearsals of the opera on first two days of this class in the spring: Wednesday, January 18 and Thursday 19, 2017. Staging will begin ***OFF-BOOK*** on Wednesday, February 15.

3) The Artist agrees to make arrangements **immediately** with professors, employers, church choir directors, and any other individuals or organizations in order to be available for every rehearsal, as per the "Production/Rehearsal Schedule." Please note the times listed on the schedule are the “downbeat times” or the start of the rehearsals. Beginning with the rehearsal on March 10 (“Piano Run-Crew Watch”), the calls will be prior to these starting times (as much as 30-60 minutes in some cases) for costumes and make-up.

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL ONE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR CONFLICTS TO NOTIFY PROFESSORS, CHOIR DIRECTORS, ETC. NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THIS TIME PERIOD.**

4) **Registration.** The Artist **must** enroll in MUEN 1158, as noted in the audition sign-up information, on the audition form and repeated in the initial cast meetings.

If the student is auditing the class, this must be discussed with the Director of Opera before rehearsals commence in January. Additionally, if a student is auditing the class and fails to fulfill any obligations herein, including "strike," the audit will be changed to registration for credit and an automatic "F" will result.

5) **Music/scores.** The scores for *Speed Dating Tonight!* will be the textbook for the class and will be available before your departure for the holiday break. Scores will be available no later than December 16.
6) **Weekly/daily Rehearsal schedules.** The Artist agrees to check his/her e-mail and/or the opera call board daily to facilitate communication involving rehearsals, costume fittings, etc. Of special importance are costume fittings / calls. **Failure to show up for a fitting** inconveniences many people and **jeopardizes the Artist having a costume**, let alone one that fits and in which he/she will feel comfortable singing. This cannot be stressed this enough!!

7) **Make-up.** The artist agrees to secure his/her own make-up kit, for use at the make-up workshop, as well as for the run of the show. **MAKE-UP WILL NOT AND CANNOT BE SHARED BETWEEN CAST MEMBERS DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS.**

8) **Hair / wigs.** As of the cast meetings, the artist agrees not to cut, trim, color or alter his/her hair prior to checking with the costume designer and director/producer.

9) The Artist agrees to participate in **company strike** immediately following the final performance on March 31, 2017. Furthermore, no Artist will leave the PAC until strike is complete and all are Dismissed by the Director. Violation of this will result in failure of the course - no warning. This project is a total cooperative effort, of which strike is an important part. **ANY ATTITUDE NEGATIVELY AFFECTING THE SUCCESS OF THE PRODUCTION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN THE REASSIGNMENT OF THE ROLE.**

10) **Weekly conflicts.** The production rehearsal schedule will be posted and distributed weekly during the rehearsal period. Any conflicts or problems must be submitted **VIA E-MAIL** for approval to the Director of Opera by Wednesday at noon for conflicts with the following week. **No conflict request is automatically approved by virtue of the fact that it is submitted!** However, the **vast majority** of conflict requests are approved **when turned in early enough to make scheduling arrangements.** Regular rehearsals (prior to the final two weeks) will be held during class time, as well as the following dates:
Fridays from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Some Saturdays in February and March
11) **Withdrawal from production.** In the event that the artist withdraws from participating in *Speed Dating Tonight!* without the approval of the Director, he/she will pay for the cost of the costume (labor and materials) that was prepared for him/her.

12) **Grades.** Grades for the semester will be based on each student's participation in the production. The grading will take into account role preparation, rehearsal/performance/strike attendance, cooperation with colleagues, attitude, and general contribution to the ensemble nature of the production.

13) **Final Two Weeks.** ALL ARTISTS will reserve March 9-10, 19-31 for Zitsprobe, Technical rehearsals, and dress rehearsals. NO EXCUSES will be given for these dates. Plan ahead now!

**GRADE APPEALS PROCESS**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf).

For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

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 Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

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.