

SONG LITERATURE SEMINAR
MUL 4602
Fall 2016
Fridays, 6th Period, Room 302 MUB

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Course Description

The course is designed to help advanced singers to understand the repertoire that is age and size appropriate for each voice part and type. The concept of “song recital” will be examined in addition to operatic and oratorio literature as appropriate. Each student will be assigned repertoire weekly for score study, performance, comparative listening, and research. The final result of the course will be the completion of thorough, well-edited program notes.

Textbook

The Art of the Song Recital by Shirlee Emmons and Stanley Sonntag (New York: Schirmer, 1970, ISBN 0-02-870530-0) and *The Complete Collaborator* by Martin Katz (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009, ISBN 978-0-19-536795-9) are the textbooks for the course. Other resources will be available on reserve in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

Learning Outcomes

Students will investigate the performance practices for each historical style period and language. Each student will gather significant information regarding composers, poets, and interpreters of vocal literature. At the conclusion of the semester, each student will have completed all program notes for the senior recital and a reference notebook of works discussed during the course and current materials used for further study.

Assessment Tools

Student work will be evaluated each week, based on the depth and accuracy of research and performance assignments. There will be a midterm exercise. The final project will be related directly to the recital program notes in final, edited form.

Class Schedule

The class will meet weekly. Each student will be responsible to present his research results in oral and written form. The instructor will be happy to duplicate the handouts, if provided 24 hours in advance of the class.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week I

What is Vocal Literature?

- The origin of song
- The elements of song (Text, Rhythm, Melody, and Harmony)
- *Fach* and Repertoire Choices
- Resources for Research

Assignment: Read Chapters One and Two of Emmons/Sonntag
Create a research plan for Recital Repertoire

Week II

What are Program Notes?

- Types and Purposes
- Elements for the Listener
- Format Options

Assignment: Read Chapter Nine of Emmons/Sonntag
Research one work and composer from Recital Repertoire
Prepare a program to read aloud
Read Introduction: What is Collaboration Anyway? And
Breathing and Singing by Katz

Week III

What does the other half sing?

- Repertoire for Soprano
- Repertoire for Mezzo

Assignment: Select one work by J.S. Bach, Schubert/Schumann, Debussy
composed for soprano or mezzo
Study the text and poet/ Listen to at least 3 recordings of each
Be prepared to discuss the vocal difficulties and appropriateness
Analyze the differences between comparable works for male voices

Week IV

Lute Song

Campion, Rosseter, Pilkington, Hume, et al.

Music of the Baroque in England

Purcell and Contemporaries

Masque, Opera, Oratorio, and Chamber Works

Week V

The German Baroque

Solo Repertoire and Oratorios of Heinrich Schütz and J. S. Bach

Week VI

Vocal Literature of the Bel Canto

Monteverdi and Contemporaries

Monody and Early Performance Practices

The Solo Cantata in Italy

A. Scarlatti and G. F. Handel

Week VII

Early German Lied
First Viennese School
Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, and Schubert
Masses, Oratorios, and Opera
Midterm Exercise

Week VIII

Early French Song
Bergerette
Hector Berlioz
Cesar Franck and Charles Gounod
French Masses and Oratorios
Gounod and Saint-Saëns

Week IX

Bel Canto Operas
Donizetti, Rossini, Bellini

Week X

English Song
Gurney, Vaughan Williams, Britten, Butterworth

Week XI

19th c. German Lied and Song Cycle
Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, Carl Loewe (Ballads), Johannes Brahms

Week XII

19th c. German Lied, continued
Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, Josephine Lang, Louise Reichardt

Week XIII

19th c. French *mélodie*
Fauré, Chausson, Duparc, Paladihe, Poulenc, and Ravel

Week XIV

American Song
Hopkinson, Ives, Rorem, Bernstein, Copland, Persichetti, Barber and Hundley

Week XV

Potpourri
Berg, Korngold, Ricky Ian Gordon, Cecile Chaminade, Gian Carlo Menotti

Final Project

Program notes for the Senior Recital are due in final, edited form on the last day of class.