

Graduate Special Topics/Singing for the Actor

TPP 6930

Fall 2021

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Periods 7-8 (1:55-3:50)

G15

Professor Malcolm Gets

mgets@arts.ufl.edu

352-273-0500

231 McGuire Pavilion

Office hours M/W/F, Period 5 (11:35-12:45)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“I’ve always preferred actors who sing to singers who act...” -Stephen Sondheim

‘Singing is an extension of all the things you do when you’re acting.’ -Meryl Streep

“If I’m going to sing like someone else, then I don’t need to sing at all.” -Billie Holiday

Over the course of the semester the Actor will focus on songs from different musical genres, beginning with American Popular Standards, and traveling through the Harlem Renaissance, Broadway’s Golden Age, Contemporary Broadway, and Contemporary/Pop songs. The student will study basic vocal/singing technique (breathing, engagement/support, placement). However, the emphasis of the course will be on approaching the songs with the same work and exploration entailed with non-musical material. Some of these techniques include Linklater’s Dropping In method, personalization, and action/intention work. A live accompanist will help the students learn to develop a relationship with the piano/orchestra. The semester will also include students working together on duets/musical scenes. The class will conclude with a public sharing of the work accomplished.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

By the end of the term the Actor should have an expanded relationship to their singular voice and possess more freedom and tools to utilize when preparing and performing in a musical or a play with songs.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week 1	Course Intro, How to Work
Week 2	Begin American Popular Standards/Harlem Renaissance
Week 3	Continue American Popular Standards/Harlem Renaissance
Week 4	Broadway Golden Age
Week 5	Continue Broadway Golden Age
Week 6	Contemporary Broadway/Brecht/Wilson/Shakespeare
Week 7	Continue Contemporary Broadway/Brecht/Wilson/Shakespeare
Week 8	Pop
Week 9	Continue Pop
Week 10	Self-Composition
Week 11	Continue Self-Composition
Week 12	Begin Prep for Sharing (No class, Thursday, 11/11)
Week 13	Rehearse Sharing
Week 14	Continue Rehearsals (No class Thursday, 11/25, Thanksgiving weekend)
Week 15	Continue Rehearsals
Week 16	Sharing Presentation Tuesday 12/7 (last day class meets)

The goal is for each student to have 4 pieces to work on during the term. Student has the option of focusing on the genres/styles that they most want to explore. The instructor will provide student with several suggestions of material within that genre, but the student is completely encouraged to choose material that speaks most powerfully to them.

Most of the material used in class can be purchased on Musicnotes.com. The cost for purchasing sheet music is fairly nominal. If this is an issue, the instructor will help the student find an alternate way of attaining the music.

When a student is working in class, they must have their sheet music in clear, plastic sheet holders. The students should have two copies, one for the pianist and one for themselves.

SUGGESTED READING:

Singing on Stage: An Actor's Guide, by Jane Streeton and Philip Raymond/Bloomsbury
On Singing on Stage, by David Craig/ Applause Acting Series

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. Attendance and Punctuality (20%)
2. Preparation and Professionalism (20%)
3. Song Research Papers (20%)
4. Discipline, Growth, Effort and Class Participation (20%)
5. Final Project (20%)

GRADING SCALE:

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	100-94	4.0
A-	93-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33
B	86-84	3.00
B-	83-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-74	2.00
C- *	73-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-64	1.00
D-	63-60	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	59-0	0.00

- Please note that a C- is no longer an acceptable grade for any course in which a 2.0 GPA is required, for example, any course in the major

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to be in attendance daily and to be on time. Students are allowed 2 “unexcused” absences that do not require documentation and do not conform to the UF “acceptable reasons for absence.” Any other “unexcused” absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade per “unexcused” absence. To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation. To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness—A doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course’s instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student’s continued participation in the course. For Majors: Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation. Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, if a student acquires more than 2 unexcused absences, the student may be prohibited from participation in partner/group exercises which will affect the student’s final grade.

CAMPUS OPERATIONS THIS SEMESTER

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

COVID-19 cases are surging because of the new delta variant and the large numbers of people who are unvaccinated, setting new local and state records for hospitalizations.

All of us at the University of Florida have an obligation to each do our part to prevent further transmission of COVID-19. We are in this together, and each and every one of us plays an important role in furthering the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors and our loved ones. It is the right thing to do — and medical experts say vaccination and masking are the best ways to do it.

Therefore, we are advising you of the following steps we are taking in our efforts to ensure a safe and successful fall semester:

1. Effective immediately, in light of new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we expect everyone to wear a mask at all times when inside any UF facility, even if you are vaccinated. This includes our students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors. Recent studies and guidance from the CDC state that both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals can transmit the current COVID-19 variant to unvaccinated persons.
2. If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. If possible, students should aim to be fully vaccinated but if unable, should strive to have at least one shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine no later than August 22. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Our UF Health experts tell us that even if you've had COVID-19, you still need to get vaccinated. Having had COVID does not provide nearly as much protection as the vaccine. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine wherever they are currently can still receive their second dose on campus.
3. COVID-19 testing remains available both on and off campus. Testing locations and schedules are available at <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/how/screen/#locations>. In addition, please complete the Weekly COVID-19 Symptom Screening you receive via email. This will help our UF Health Screen, Test & Protect team identify and contain any potential COVID-19 outbreaks.
4. If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.
5. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing.

6. Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

We will continue our robust contact tracing program through UF Health Screen, Test & Protect in partnership with the Florida Department of Health.

UF Health Screen, Test & Protect, through its collaboration with the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County, will order isolation for those who have tested positive for the virus and quarantine for unvaccinated individuals who are identified as contacts of someone who has tested positive. UF will no longer provide on-campus quarantine or isolation space for students. Quarantined or isolated students will miss classes, and we are unable to offer an online version of every class.

Vaccination not only helps prevent you from becoming seriously ill or hospitalized with COVID-19, the more people who are vaccinated, the more it also protects those around us as well — our friends, families, colleagues and others. This is a natural extension of the culture of care and compassion we've embraced as a campus community.

Our individual decisions matter greatly in this fight to end this global health crisis. Anyone who chooses not to be vaccinated assumes a significant risk of contracting COVID-19 and spreading it to others. As previously communicated, UF cannot be responsible for that risk, given the ready availability of vaccine, and cannot modify the operation of the entire university for a minority of people who may choose not to be vaccinated.

We applaud those who are already vaccinated for taking this crucial step toward preventing the spread of the disease and for leading by example. Thank you for helping the university continue to fulfill its important missions of teaching, discovery, patient care and service to others.

In closing, we implore you to do everything possible to keep yourself and those around you safe from this highly contagious and deadly virus.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>

It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

HONOR PLEDGE:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the

highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website. (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>)

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website (<https://police.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website. (<https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>)

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.