

SYLLABUS
Introduction to Voice & Singing
Spring 2012

INSTRUCTOR:

Ryan Michael Decker • decker18@uni.edu • (563) 590.9562 • SWT 125 by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a series of private, weekly half-hour lessons providing the beginning singer instruction which encourages vocal growth and development and creates a foundation for singing through technical exercises, applied repertoire study, and possibly performance before faculty and peers. This basic foundation we develop will include:

- I. Basic Music Reading & Piano Playing (Music Theory)
- II. Vocal Technique (Breathing, Resonance, Diction)
- III. Artistry (Interpretation, Communication, Performance Skills)
- IV. Vocal Health

NO CREDIT / NO GRADE:

You may not receive credit – graded or otherwise – for participating in this particular class as your instructor is teaching as a Vocal Pedagogy student (MUS ED 3300). It is understood that you are taking this course freely for your own benefit, and that you will hold yourself accountable for your own growth and development.

MATERIALS:

To every meeting, you are expected to bring: (1) sheet music – *original copies of material to be determined*; (2) photocopies of music for instructor use; (3) any handouts/assignments (4) paper or a notebook; and (5) a pencil – *not a pen!* You are encouraged to bring: (6) a recording device; and (7) water bottle.

PREPARATION:

You will be expected to practice outside of lessons for the amount of time it takes to satisfy the expectations of each lesson. This amount of time will vary from lesson to lesson, however frequent, short practices are suggested. Daily practice is recommended. Practice may take many forms – quality time at a keyboard instrument, listening to recordings of previous lessons, working on warm-ups in the shower, working on breathing or resonance skills or memorizing songs at the bus stop, etc. Such activities add up to significant practice. Additionally, it is helpful to warm-up (on exercises, vocalises, or humming) immediately before weekly lessons.

ATTENDANCE AND LESSON CANCELLATIONS:

Meetings are weekly, 30-minute, one-on-one sessions. Attendance is vital and you are expected to arrive on time, warmed up and ready to begin the lesson. If you are unable to attend a scheduled lesson, you must contact the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the lesson time. In case of emergency or illness on the day of scheduled lesson you are encouraged to text the instructor's cell phone: (563) 590.9562. Lessons that have been properly cancelled *may* be made up at mutually convenient times. If you are ten or more minutes late to a lesson, your instructor may leave. Due to university service and student organization responsibilities, the instructor reserves the right to not make up missed lessons. Absences, tardiness, and lack of preparation will adversely affect progress.