



NEW ZEALAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC

PERF 235 *Vocal Ensemble and Stagecraft 2* **15 POINTS**

FULL-YEAR 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 16 October 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3 to 19 April 2015

Mid-year break: 2 to 12 July 2015

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 16 October 2015

Study period: 19 to 23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Monday, 10:00am–11:50am (Room MS301 - ACR)

Thursday, 4:10pm–6:00pm (Room MS209)

Extra rehearsals have been arranged for the Operas in the Mid-Year Break.

Rehearsal Schedule as detailed in the Syllabus.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Margaret Medlyn

Contact phone: 463 9488

Email: margaret.medlyn@nzsm.ac.nz

Office located at: Room 108, 88 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn Campus

Office hours: By appointment

Other staff member(s): Mark Dorrell

Contact phone: 463 9683

Email: mark.dorrell@nzsm.ac.nz

Office(s) located at: Room 110, 88 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn Campus

Tutors:

Frances Moore

Email: frances.moore@vuw.ac.nz

Maaike Christie-Beekman

Email: maaikecb@gmail.com**Programme Administrator:** Belinda Behle**Email:** belinda.behle@nzsm.ac.nz**Communication of additional information**

Official notices issued after the course has commenced will be posted on the board outside the NZSM office on the Kelburn campus. Notices concerning a number of courses will also be posted on Blackboard. The Course Coordinator will specify if Blackboard will be used.

Prescription

A study at intermediate level of selected vocal ensemble repertoire and of its dramatic communication to an audience.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who have successfully completed this course will be able to:

1. demonstrate analysis of text and subtext to develop characterisation
2. demonstrate effective performance as a member of an ensemble at a level appropriate to the year of study
3. demonstrate the projection of sung and spoken text in dramatic action without detriment to voice
4. demonstrate the skills, disciplines and team work ethic involved in ensemble rehearsal and performance situations
5. demonstrate the musical and dramatic aspects of the performance, both supporting and leading the group dynamic as appropriate
6. demonstrate stagecraft and acting skills and the ability to perform in an engaging and communicative manner dramatically while sustaining a vocal line that is both accurate and musical
7. demonstrate reflexive analysis of the musical and dramatic aspects of a performance and the acquisition of stage expertise.

These learning objectives contribute to the NZSM Graduate Attributes. For a full list, please see www.nzsm.ac.nz/study-careers/graduate-attributes

Teaching format

This course comprises one 2-hour class/rehearsal per week and one 1 to 2-hour class/rehearsal per week as further explained in the Course Syllabus

The course comprises two areas of study:

- stagecraft and acting
- study and performance of selected vocal ensembles and/or an opera

These ensembles and casting in the Opera double bill will be chosen and cast by the Course Tutors, and students will be notified of their assigned roles prior to any class work commencing on the ensembles.

Stagecraft and acting study:

This will involve class and group work as well as individual study. Activities involved may include:

- practical class/group work on acting exercises and improvisation
- text and scene analysis relating to own assigned roles in excerpts
- practical class/group work on spoken text
- stagecraft terms and knowledge
- staging of some of the chosen ensembles

The chosen repertoire will be worked on in the context of music rehearsals with a repetiteur/coach and in staging rehearsals as appropriate. Students will prepare, learn and rehearse musically roles or chorus parts in assigned opera excerpts (or other appropriate ensemble works). Staging rehearsals, if any, will follow the music rehearsals, and in later stages both may happen simultaneously.

Musical preparation:

In particular, please note that any musical rehearsals scheduled within class time are mandatory: see 'Mandatory Course Requirements' section. Students will be expected to work individually on the assigned music to prepare for the rehearsals and other class work in a timely and professional manner.

As part of this preparation, students are expected to bring the music they are preparing for the opera to their individual singing lessons and coachings, and to arrange extra music rehearsals with their student colleagues as needed. If an accompanist is required, then students are encouraged to share their individual coaching times with others, for example, a trio ensemble may rehearse 3 times by all 3 students coming to the 3 scheduled individual coaching sessions. **All music must be learnt and memorised by each student by the agreed date notified at the beginning of the rehearsal period.**

Please note that the estimated weekly workload time given below is an *average minimum* only, and that you should expect to spend more time in learning your music in the first part of each trimester. You will need to manage your time well to do this, and should allow time in your personal timetable to do so, so that you are appropriately prepared for the scheduled in-class rehearsals.

2015 Plans:

In the first Trimester of this year, music activities will centre around the development of movement and acting skills, and skills in stage presence and energy, and learning chorus music.

Trimester 1

Section 1: Energy, Concentration and Communication.

Section 2: Two dance sessions for Purcell

Section 3: Chorus music rehearsals

Section 4: Theatre sports, acting skills, bonding, theatre etiquette

Journal 1 of 275-330 words due electronically (email attachment) to Margaret Medlyn at 5pm, 2 April 2015

Trimester 2

Section 1: Rehearsals, music and stage for the Opera double bill, to be presented 13-16 August in the Memorial Theatre, with the repertoire chosen by the tutors and advised to the students during Tri 1.

There will be an intensive rehearsal period in the mid-year break, Trimester Two, and students need to commit to this time, rehearsal schedule detailed in the Syllabus.

Students will be assessed in public performance at the time and date as outlined in the Syllabus. The preparation for these performances is expected to involve rehearsals outside of class time in the mid-year break, including dress rehearsal in the venue. Extra to those rehearsals are those expected to be arranged by students themselves as part of their individual preparation and learning for the course. This is the Mid-Year assessment.

Journal 2 of 275-330 words due electronically (email attachment) to Margaret Medlyn at 5pm, 21 August 2015

Section 2: Work on individual arias, using skills developed in previous modules.

The performance of your solo aria, and delivery of the character assessment, will constitute your End of Year assessment, and will require the delivery of a performance which combines the study you have put into the previous areas of study in the Trimester, particularly acting and improvisatory skills and stage presence.

Journal 3 of 275-330 words is due electronically (email attachment) to Margaret Medlyn in the last week of Trimester 2, 10am, 16 October, which will be a summary of your experience in the performances and draw conclusions on how the performance qualities you focused on in your Tri 1 study affected/benefited your performance or did not end up being something you used.

Guidelines for the subject matter for Journals 1 and 2 will be on Blackboard in Week 2.

See attached course syllabus for more information.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- a) complete each item of assessment worth at least 10%. Where the item contains multiple subcomponents (e.g. a portfolio of journal entries, or similar), students must complete at least 50% of those subcomponents
- b) attend all rehearsals. Rehearsals are defined as any session listed on the production rehearsal schedule that involves the particular student, as well as any in-class sessions labelled 'rehearsal' as shown on the Syllabus. If there is no stated work or ensemble shown on the Syllabus, all students will be required for that session unless otherwise notified by the tutor or coordinator

Professional attitude is required at all times:

- c) you are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals
- d) you must arrive in good time to commence each rehearsal at the stated time
- e) lateness will not be tolerated
- f) if for some good reason you are unable to attend a scheduled rehearsal, you must request leave three weeks in advance, from the coordinator or the director/musical director as applicable and notify the stage manager (if it is a production rehearsal)
- g) all music must be learnt and memorised by each student by the agreed date notified at the beginning of the rehearsal period
- h) if you are taken ill and are unable to attend any particular rehearsal because of this, you must inform the relevant person (coordinator, director, stage manager) BEFORE the start of the rehearsal, and earlier where this is possible.

Workload

A 15-point full-year course should require at least 150 hours work (including class time). This means that in trimester time, the mid-trimester break and study week you should be prepared to spend on average 5 hours per week involved in activities such as attending classes, reading, listening to recommended recordings and preparing assignments.

Assessment

Extra Assessment Information:

Trimester 1: The mark for preparation and contribution to classes and rehearsals will be broken into three sections: acting classes, personal projection classes, and rehearsals.

Approved assessment regime

The following assessment regime has been approved by the NZSM Academic Committee:

This course is internally assessed.

There are 4 items of assessment:

1. Preparation for and contribution within classes and rehearsals called as part of course work. Related to learning objectives 1-6. (30%)
2. Mid-course performance assessment (completed by mid-trimester two break). Related to learning objectives 1-6. (30%)
3. End-of-course performance assessment. Related to learning objectives 1-6. (30%)
4. Portfolio of 3 journal entries (275-330 words each, maximum 1,000 words total). Related to learning outcome 7. (10%)

Assessment details for this offering

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
Preparation for and contribution within classes and rehearsals called as part of course work: 35 hrs	30%	1-6	n/a
Mid-course performance assessment (completed by mid-trimester two break). 44 hrs	30%	1-6	15 August 2015
End-of-course performance assessment: 38 hrs	30%	1-6	15 October 2015
Portfolio of 3 journal entries (275-330 words each, maximum 1,000 words total). 9 hrs	10%	7	2 April; 21 August; 16 October

Submission and return of work

Assignments should be handed into NZSM Reception for the attention of the relevant tutor.

Journal entries must be sent electronically to Margaret Medlyn in a word doc format.

Marked assignments will be returned to the student pigeonholes.

Assignments will normally be marked and returned within three weeks of submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Students, who for exceptional reasons can justify an extension for an item of assessment, must apply to the Course Coordinator *before* the due date. Please note that no extensions can be granted for tutorial assignments.

Penalties

Assignments must be submitted by the due dates. In fairness to other students, unless a medical certificate is produced, assessment submitted after 5pm on the due date will be subject to a 5% demerit on your grade, increasing by 5% each further working day it is overdue.

Materials and equipment

Clothing: it is important that you wear appropriate clothing for the acting class and staging rehearsal sessions when timetabled, as indicated by the tutor. In general this means that you should wear clothing which does not restrict your movement ability in any way.

Recommended reading

Readings for acting and stagecraft or the operas will be posted on Blackboard.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure

- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- NZSM Policies, Statutes and Student Handbook: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides
- Scholarships and prizes relevant to NZSM students: www.nzsm.ac.nz/study-careers/scholarships-and-prizes

Events

Regular events are held during trimesters 1 & 2 at all NZSM campuses. These events are for the benefit of all students, and include performances, masterclasses, special lectures and workshops given by staff, students and visiting artists. All students are expected to keep time free to attend the weekly lunchtime concert on Friday at 12.10pm, along with other events as required.

Students should sign up to the **Dawn Chorus**, the NZSM's events e-newsletter, by emailing events@nzsm.ac.nz with 'subscribe dawn chorus' in the subject line.

Website: www.nzsm.ac.nz/events