



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music

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

Trimester 1 & 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 16 October 2016

Easter break: 24 to 30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Mid-year break: 30 June to 8 July 2016

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 14 October 2016

Study period: 17 to 20 October 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Monday, 10:00am–11:50am (Room MS301)

Thursday, 4:10pm–6:00pm (Room MS209)

Extra rehearsals have been arranged for the Opera Scenes in mid-trimester break, Trimester 2. Rehearsal Schedule as detailed in the Syllabus.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator:	Margaret Medlyn	
Contact phone:	463 9488	Email: margaret.medlyn@vuw.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@vuw.ac.nz
Office(s) located at:	Room 107, 88-90 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn Campus	

Tutors:

Maaike Christie-Beekman
Jon Hunter
Lyn Pringle
Georgia Jamieson Emms

Email:

maaikecb@gmail.com
jon@vocal.zone
bipeds@ihug.co.nz
georgia.je@gmail.com

Programme Administrator: Belinda Behle

Email: belinda.behle@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Official notices issued after the course has commenced will be posted on Blackboard.

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 Scenes 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.

- you are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals
- you must arrive in good time to commence each rehearsal at the stated time
- lateness will not be tolerated
- all music must be learnt and memorised by each student by the agreed date notified at the beginning of the rehearsal period

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 répétiteur/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.

2016 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, Audition Practice. Audition assessment.

Section 2: Three dance and movement sessions

Section 3: Chorus music rehearsals

Journal 1 of 275-330 words due electronically (email attachment) to Margaret Medlyn at 5pm, 8 April 2016

Trimester 2

Section 1: Acting module. Acting assessment

Section 2: Rehearsals, music and stage for the Opera Scenes, to be presented 9,10,11 September 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-trimester break, Trimester Two, and students need to commit to this time. Rehearsal schedule is attached to 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, 19 August 2016

Section 3: 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, 14 October 2016, 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) 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. 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). 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.

Justification: attendance and participation is essential for ensembles to continue to run. Absences by any member(s) of an ensemble may adversely affect the performance and assessment of the group and its members. Moreover, this is a training platform for students interested in pursuing a professional career in music; it is unacceptable in the professional world to be late or to miss a rehearsal or performance without plenty of warning where possible. This is directly linked to CLO 4.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

A 15-point full-year course should require at least 150 hours' work (including class time). This means that during the trimester, 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 rehearsals, learning music and practicing. This is over and above your practice to maintain vocal fitness. As this course requires a lot of time in the theatre there is an expectation of a full commitment to the artistic endeavour.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Preparation for and contribution within classes and rehearsals called as part of course work	30%	1-6	9 May, 15 August 2016
2	Mid-course performance assessment (approx. 15-30 mins performance)	30%	1-6	11 August 2016
3	End-of-course performance assessment (10-15 mins)	30%	1-6	13 October 2016
4	Portfolio of 3 journal entries (275-330 words each, maximum 1,000 words total)	10%	7	8 April, 19 August, 14 October 2016

Extra Assessment Information:

Trimester 1 and 2: The mark for preparation and contribution to classes and rehearsals will be broken into three sections: personal projection classes and audition assessment, acting assessment and contribution to classes and rehearsals.

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 and/or additional expenses

All classes are predominantly practical, working sessions. Students are expected to dress appropriately for the physical nature of the class (dress as if for a dance class i.e. comfortable movement clothing).

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.

Student feedback

An acting module and continued work with Maaïke Christie-Beekman has been added at the students' request. The nature of this practical course means that a commitment to learning, practising and rehearsing takes a different sort of time than a written 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
- 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: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>

- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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 Student Handbook and NZSM Guidelines for Presenting Academic Work: 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. 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