



**AZUSA PACIFIC**  
UNIVERSITY

# **Voice Handbook**

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## WELCOME & MISSION STATEMENT

Welcome! Your years of study are crucial to your development as a musician and person. This handbook has been developed to provide you with a general understanding of the departmental programs and requirements. Please feel free to consult with your voice teacher or the Directors of Vocal Studies for further guidance and to clarify any questions or concerns. Many hopes and prayers for a blessed year!

The Area of Vocal Studies is dedicated to training future musical artists, educators, and classical music professionals through rigorous vocal study, enriching course work, wide-ranged performance opportunities, and personal mentorship. Our long-term goal is to develop vocal artists who will have a positive effect on the world by promoting a life of integrated faith and music that honors God.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Developing excellent vocal technique is important for all Vocal Majors and students whose primary instrument is voice.

Undergraduate students will strive to acquire a solid technical foundation and develop an understanding of the relationship between music and poetry in classical literature. Students will learn proper diction in English, Italian, German and French through IPA instruction and in their lessons with individual instructors. The goal of the undergraduate program is to help students build vocal and performance skills that equip them for the demands of solo and ensemble singing.

Graduate students will strive to develop the highest possible level of artistic interpretation and proficiency in vocal technique, musicianship, and advanced foreign language skills. They will also gain a deeper understanding of musical styles and historical periods. Students will learn research methods and critical thinking in vocal pedagogy and will integrate vocal and interpretive skills in preparation for performance on the concert and operatic stage.

## **STUDIO ASSIGNMENTS**

New studio assignments are determined by the Director of Vocal Studies unless there is evidence that a student has been actively recruited from an outside institution into a studio or into the program by a particular teacher. All new unassigned Applied Voice students will be required to sing in the new student Placement auditions at the beginning of the Fall semester. Students may request to study with a voice teacher, however, admission to a studio will be contingent upon the availability of the requested teacher. Students should approach the Director of Vocal Studies with requests to study with a particular teacher or to change teachers. Voice studio assignments should not be agreed upon nor negotiated directly between teacher and student without prior approval by the Director of Vocal Studies. The Director will guide the student through the process of requesting a voice teacher or to change studios. Studio/teacher changes will generally be implemented the semester following the request.

## **LESSONS**

Lessons are either 30 minutes (one unit) or 60 minutes (two units) in length and students must complete a minimum of 12 lessons per semester. Teachers will make every effort to schedule lessons in accordance with students' academic schedules. Lessons canceled by a teacher due to illness or other reasons will be made up as will lessons missed due to University-approved field trip activities. Teachers can, but are not required to make up lessons canceled by the student due to illness or any other reasons. Students are requested to give their voice teacher 24 hour notice should they need to cancel their lesson. "No-show" students do not receive make-up lessons.

## **STUDIO CLASSES**

A teacher may at some time during the semester hold a studio class for his or her students. The class is structured by the individual teacher and includes student performances, demonstrations and discussions. Studio classes give students the opportunity to sharpen their performance skills in a familiar and trusted atmosphere.

## **MONDAY AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE FORUM**

Every Monday afternoon from 4:20 – 5:15pm, students have the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience through student recitals, guest lectures and presentations, as well as master classes by industry professionals. Nothing furthers the development of singers/performers better than an opportunity to sing for or observe their peers in an encouraging and educational atmosphere. Performance Forum attendance is therefore mandatory for all undergraduate Vocal Performance, Music Education, Music & Worship and Music majors with Vocal emphasis.

### **Student Recitals**

All Music Majors must present a solo performance annually. All Vocal Performance Majors who are not presenting a Junior or Senior Recital, must fulfill this requirement in a Performance Forum (PF) recital. All other music majors with Voice Emphasis will participate in a studio recital or perform in the Non- Major Applied Voice Recital at the end of each semester. Any variance must be requested in writing with an “In-House” Petition, by the student and their instructor, to Dr. John Simons, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and The School of Music.

### **Master Classes**

Fall semester: Master Classes will be offered and vocal majors will be selected to perform in at least one of these. Attendance is mandatory for all Vocal Performance majors and Music Majors with a vocal emphasis.

Spring semester: Master Class participation will prioritize Juniors and Seniors as well as Graduate students who are preparing recitals. Attendance is mandatory for all Vocal Performance majors and Music Majors with a vocal emphasis.

### **Singer Enrichment**

A series of lectures and presentations by esteemed guest artists and industry professionals is offered during Performance Forum as a means of enriching the performance practice and understanding of the music industry as we experience it today. Attendance is mandatory for all undergraduate Vocal Performance, Music Education, and all Music majors with vocal emphasis.

## **UNDERGRADUATE BACHELOR OF MUSIC OR BACHELOR OF ARTS VOCAL PERFORMANCE (APPLIED VOICE)**

Students will experience singing in English, Italian, German and French as well as many compositional styles and periods over their four years of study. It is important that students learn a significant amount of repertoire over their four years of study (a minimum of 9 – 10 songs per year). It is also recommended that students document all works studied and update their repertoire lists on a regular basis.

### **Additional Requirements**

- A minimum of 36 – 40 works (songs, arias, recitatives) over the course of four years.
- BM Vocal Performance majors are required to give a Junior Recital (30 minutes of music) and a Senior Recital (60 minutes of music)
- BA Vocal Performance Majors are required to give a Senior Recital. A Junior Recital is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged.
- Mandatory juries at the end of each semester, excluding semesters where recitals are being presented
- Mandatory Freshman & Sophomore Platforms (See Achievement Platforms)

### **Repertoire**

- The following historical periods should be represented:
  - Baroque
  - Classical
  - Romantic (including French and German lieder)
  - 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> century
  
- At least 4 Italian songs
- At least 1 Recitative and Aria (Opera or Oratorio)
- At least 4 German songs
- At least 4 French songs
- At least 6 songs (British and American)
- At least 2 songs from 'national schools' including Spanish, Czech, Russian, Scandinavian (English translations allowed)
- Remaining repertoire choices at teacher's discretion

## **ALL OTHER MUSIC MAJORS WITH VOCAL EMPHASIS (APPLIED VOICE)**

### **Additional Requirements**

- Students should complete a minimum of 32 – 36 works over the course of four years.
- Mandatory Senior recital (please follow Music Education and Music & Worship guidelines)
- Mandatory juries at the end of each semester (except in semester of degree Recital)

### **Repertoire**

- The following historical periods should be represented:
  - Baroque
  - Classical
  - Romantic (including French and German lieder)
  - 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> century
  
- At least 4 Italian songs or arias
- At least 1 Recitative and Aria (Opera or Oratorio)
- At least 3 German songs
- At least 3 French songs
- At least 4 English songs (American & British)
- Remaining repertoire choices at teacher's discretion

**Music & Worship students are encouraged to include sacred, worship and church literature from all historical periods.**

## **MUSIC MAJORS (NON-VOCAL EMPHASIS) & NON-MUSIC MAJORS (APPLIED VOICE)**

- Teachers will determine repertoire according to level, interest of student and voice type
  
- Students have the opportunity to perform a learned piece of music in a casual non- major Applied Voice recital at the end of the semester which is organized by the voice department.

## **JURY AND PLATFORM REQUIREMENTS – VOCAL PERFORMANCE MAJORS (BM/BA) AND MUSIC MAJORS WITH VOCAL EMPHASIS)**

### **Juries**

Voice juries take place at the end of each semester. A jury serves the purpose of evaluating the progress a student has made during the course of a semester. Students will perform their jury selections for faculty members who will give valuable and constructive feedback. The final grade will be determined by the student's primary voice teacher. Make up juries for students who must be absent from scheduled juries will take place during the first two weeks of classes in the following semester.

Students taking one unit of Applied Voice prepare a minimum of two selections from the repertoire requirements. Students taking two units of Applied Voice prepare a minimum of four from the repertoire requirements.

Students performing a Junior or Senior recital are exempt from juries in the semester of their recital.

Students participating in the Opera program are required to do juries however learned arias or roles may count as partial fulfillment of jury literature requirements.

### **Repertoire List**

Occasionally the voice faculty will request to review all sung repertoire. Students are responsible for maintaining a repertoire list and updating it accordingly.

### **Achievement Platforms**

#### **Freshman Platform**

- To be taken at the end of Freshman year
- A minimum of four selections from memory (two in Italian, two in English)
- Focus of the evaluation is on all aspects of student's technical progress, including musical accuracy, tone quality, connection to breath, physical alignment, proper pronunciation and communication of text.

**Pass:** Student may progress to Sophomore level

**Conditional Pass:** Student passes platform but faculty has concerns about specific problems serious enough to question the student's further participation in the Vocal Performance program. Student will be required to do a Freshman Platform rehearing in the next semester.

**Fail:** The student does not pass platform and cannot continue as a Vocal Performance major.

Student receives feedback and recommendations from primary teacher and vocal faculty to facilitate a change of major/program.

## Sophomore Platform

- 🎬 To be taken at the end of Sophomore year
- 🎬 Five selections from memory German, French and English and Italian must be represented as well as all four compositional periods (**Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20 or 21<sup>st</sup> Century**). May include one aria from Opera or Oratorio
- 🎬 Students will list all 5 selections including composer.
- 🎬 Focus of evaluation is on demonstrated growth and progress in all skill sets. Voice faculty will look for a synthesis of vocal, musical and performance achievement.  
**Pass:** Student may progress to Junior level  
**Conditional Pass:** Student passes platform but faculty has concerns about specific problems serious enough to question the student's further participation in the Vocal Performance program. Student will be required to do a Sophomore Platform rehearsing in the next semester.  
**Fail:** The student does not pass platform and cannot continue as a Vocal Performance major.  
Student receives feedback and recommendations from primary teacher and vocal faculty to facilitate a change of major/program.

## Transfer Student Platform

- 🎬 To be taken at the end of the student's first semester
- 🎬 Same repertoire requirements as Sophomore Platform
- 🎬 Student must submit a list of all previously studied repertoire.
- 🎬 Required for admittance into Vocal Performance Program
- 🎬 Focus of evaluation is to determine vocal and academic level of the student and number of applied units needed to graduate.

## MASTER OF MUSIC IN PERFORMANCE (VOICE)

Graduate students will focus on advanced repertoire from all compositional styles and periods and will continue to refine their musical, foreign language, critical thinking and stage presentation skills. Repertoire learned during the undergraduate degree may not be repeated during the graduate degree. Master of Music in Performance (Voice) requires a full graduate recital in addition to juries. The student is exempt from doing a jury in the semester of his or her recital.

### Repertoire

- 🎬 The following historical periods should be represented

Italian  
Classical  
Romantic (including German and French Lieder)  
20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> century

## **Juries**

Students taking 2 units of Applied Voice will prepare a minimum of 5 – 6 selections from the repertoire requirements. Each jury will include art songs and at least one aria from opera or oratorio per semester. Students participating in the Opera program are required to do juries however learned arias or roles may count as partial fulfillment of jury literature requirements. Students are expected to be able to recite the English translations for all foreign language selections if asked and must demonstrate sufficient technical, musical, and performing proficiency to prepare the graduate recital.

### **ALL OTHER MASTER OF MUSIC STUDENTS TAKING APPLIED VOICE**

Graduate students will focus on advanced repertoire from all compositional styles and periods and will continue to refine their musical, foreign language, critical thinking and stage presentation skills. Repertoire learned during the undergraduate degree may not be repeated during the graduate degree.

- 🎵 Repertoire guidelines the same as for MM Performance (Voice)
- 🎵 All Master of Music students taking Applied Voice are required to do juries
- 🎵 Recital not mandatory

### **RECITALS (VOCAL PERFORMANCE B.M./B.A. AND M.M. PERFORMANCE – VOICE)**

#### 🎵 **Junior Recital (B.M.)**

- 30 minutes of memorized solo music (not to include Chamber music)
- Should be a joint recital with another student on the Junior level if possible

#### 🎵 **Senior Recital (B.M./B.A.)**

- 60 minutes of memorized solo music (may include one Chamber music collaboration)
- Mandatory pre-recital hearing (minimum of one month in advance of recital date) including final draft of program notes and translations.

#### 🎵 **Graduate Recital**

- 60 minutes of memorized solo music
- Recital repertoire should represent a culmination of the vocal, musical and artistic work done to date
- Mandatory pre-recital hearing (minimum of one month in advance of recital date) including final draft of program notes and translations.

## **BACHELOR OF MUSIC PRE-TEACHER CERTIFICATION SENIOR RECITAL REQUIREMENTS**

A 60-minute senior recital is required for BM Music Education majors. A junior recital is not required, but students are welcome to complete one.

For the senior recital, music education majors should plan to have a minimum of 30 minutes of solo performance in their primary applied area. The remaining 30 minutes may include their solo applied area, but may also include conducting, chamber music, composition and arranging, and performing on secondary instruments. Students are encouraged to include diverse styles of music including pop/commercial, jazz, and world music.

### **Additional Voice Requirements: 4 languages should be represented**

#### **Repertoire**

Teachers and students will strive to choose level-appropriate repertoire for all recitals. Recitals are comprised of art songs from all of the aforementioned historical periods. No more than 3 opera arias will be allowed on any recital program.

#### **Accompanists**

Students giving recitals will be responsible for acquiring and compensating their recital pianists and should consult with their accompanist with regard to appropriate compensation for the recital and preparation/rehearsals. Students are able to utilize the services of the staff accompanists for 'in-lesson' coaching and rehearsal.

#### **Practice Rooms**

Practice rooms on campus are limited. Students are advised to reserve practice/rehearsal rooms in advance through the School of Music office.

### **Scheduling**

All student recitals must be booked well in advance with the School of Music office. For undergraduate students, recitals may NOT be scheduled during final examination periods in any semester. Please stop by the School of Music office to pick up a Recital Date Request form to begin the scheduling process.

Contact person for the recital process is Dianne Schlitt ([dschlitt@apu.edu](mailto:dschlitt@apu.edu))

Once a recital date and time has been confirmed, a recital confirmation packet along with a program template is sent to the student and instructor by email. Please refer to this packet and template for detailed instructions with regard to recital preparations. Pre-recital and recital completion forms are also included in the confirmation packet. Students are responsible for inputting their own recital program information into the template and must have their programs approved by their applied instructor. Additionally, students must make an appointment with the Writing Center to review their program. Please use the following link to make appointments with the Writing Center: [www.apu.edu/writingcenter/appointments](http://www.apu.edu/writingcenter/appointments) (Refer to Music Major Handbook for complete recital information)

## **CHORAL ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS (VOCAL PERFORMANCE MAJORS)**

Freshman and sophomores will be assigned two choral ensembles, one of their choice and one assigned.

Juniors may choose Opera as their ensemble and then they will be assigned to another.

Seniors may choose Opera as their ensemble or they will be assigned to another. The Senior recital will count as one other assignment.

Any petition process will be handled together with the Directors of Voice and the Petition Committee.

Scholarship money is for assigned ensemble(s). (This is not a change from current policy.)

If consensus cannot be reached between the Directors of Voice and the Petition Committee, the student may request the petition be sent to the Dean for a final decision.