

UW Oshkosh Department of Music  
Music 182 and 184 – Voice Class  
A/C Room 209 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday  
Fall 2007 – Spring 2008 Syllabus

Instructor: Professor Audrey Highton  
Office: A/C N224  
Phone: 424-7018

Voice Class (Music 182 and 184 - for the non-emphasis voice student) is designed to give the student a thorough exposure to the mechanics and techniques of vocal performance as well as to basic song literature. This voice class is structured for beginning level students in voice who may have limited (if any) background in singing. The intent of the course, which is required for students in the instrumental music education degree, is to help students develop proficiency in singing which will both inform, and aid, their future role as music educator. With instructor's permission, students who are not majors or minors in music may be allowed to take the course as well to improve their singing. Following the first semester in Music 182, students may continue in Music 184 (a small group setting) or in the individual applied voice lesson (Music 181), if deemed appropriate by the instructor.

### Course Objectives

The primary goal is to help the student develop his/her skills as a singing performer. When the student has completed this course he/she should be able to demonstrate, in the manner consistent with a beginning singer:

1. The ability to apply technical skills, such as proper breathing, appropriate tone production, clear singing diction, and healthy singing habits.
2. The ability to present song performances to an audience with confidence, poise, good stage presence, and projection of sound and personality.
3. A memorized repertoire of several assigned songs of various styles which have been performed for both class critique and instructor evaluation.
4. A familiarity with standard vocal terminology.
5. The ability to vocalize and practice independently, with a knowledge of how best to maintain vocal health and how to study and prepare song literature.

Course Text: *Basics of Singing*, Sixth Edition. Jan Schmidt and Heidi Counsell Schmidt. (Belmont, CA: Thomson/Schirmer, 2008, 2003)

Each student enrolled in the course is expected to have his/her own copy of the *Basics of Singing* from the first week of class. Song literature from genres including Folk Song, Musical Theater, Art Song, Songs of Faith, and duets and rounds will be included in the singing assignments, as appropriate for the students enrolled in the course. Vocal literature will be drawn from a variety of historic periods and composers and instructor will select, and assign, several songs from which students may choose for each performance exam. Additionally, reading assignments from the text will be used as a basis for class discussion and written exams.

### Grading

Grades are assigned as follows:

1. Three performance exams, in class, in which a student presents a memorized song at each exam for the instructor's evaluation. (20% each)
2. Two written exams covering assigned readings, class lectures and discussions, and any supplemental recital attendance or listening assignments. (10% each)
3. Musical preparation, class participation, and attendance throughout the semester. Students will be evaluated on an ongoing basis on how well prepared they are with assigned songs, assigned readings, class participation, and attendance. (20%)

### Attendance

In accordance with UW Oshkosh policy, attendance is required. As Music 182 is a small class in which every student's "voice" is essential, in which students perform for one another and also serve as audience members for one another, regular attendance is expected so that the class can fulfill its purpose. Should a student need to miss a class for any reason, the instructor should be notified (by email) ahead of the class in order to receive an excused absence. Excused absences are limited; students routinely missing for health reasons should be prepared to submit medical documentation. Unexcused absences result in an "F" for that class and three unexcused absences will result in an "F" grade for the semester.