

# MUS A247: ADVANCED POP VOCAL TECHNIQUES

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	12/08/2021
Top Code	100400 - Music
Units	1.5 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 18; Lab Hours 36)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	Yes
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)

## Course Description

Designed to meet the changing needs and challenges of performing currently popular singing styles including solo, group and background singing in jazz, rock, blues, country, folk, and easy listening. Also covered are basic appropriate stylistic embellishments for various pop styles as well as the jazz genre. Vocal jazz ensemble training will be a strong focus for this class, as this will prepare students for a degree in vocal jazz at other universities. ADVISORY: MUS A144. Transfer Credit: CSU.

## Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Rehearse and perform a minimum of three songs in public with a rhythm section.
2. Analyze, critique, and formulate improvements for a live vocal performance, both solo and within an ensemble.

## Course Objectives

- 1. Perform a minimum of three songs in public with a rhythm section.
- 2. Analyze, critique, and formulate improvements for a live vocal performance, both solo and within an ensemble.
- 3. Employ healthy vocal technique for singing in popular vocal styles.
- 4. Distinguish and differentiate various styles and techniques for performing in the professional market, including rock, contemporary pop, jazz, blues, rb, country, and folk.
- 5. Demonstrate microphone technique.
- 6. Develop rehearsal techniques with a rhythm section.

## Lecture Content

Contrast and compare traditional and popular voice techniques  
Resonance Vibrato Focus Blend Rhythm Methods of achieving these differences without damage to the vocal mechanism Interpretive devices and articulations Rubato Beat variation Phrasing Musical styles Jazz Rock Country Blues Pop Easy listening Folk RB Terminology Vamp Turnaround Figure Riff Instrumental lead Scat singing II-V-I chord progressions

## Lab Content

Basic techniques Breathing Pitch Resonance Diction Range Extended Voice Techniques and timbral effects Men s falsetto and head voice Women s extended chest tones Background singing With lyrics Without lyrics Background harmonies Group singing Proper resonance/ sustained tone in the small vocal jazz ensemble Standard jazz and pop interpretation of diction as it relates to the small vocal ensemble Vocal improvisation concepts, including scat. Diction Microphone technique (Personal use; sound systems) Self Accompaniment Harmonic problems Rhythmic challenges

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- Lab (04)
- DO NOT USE (LL)

## Instructional Techniques

Lecture, Lab, independent study, group rehearsal

## Reading Assignments

Students will spend approx. .5 hour/week reading/listening to music in a variety of styles.

## Writing Assignments

Students will spend approx. .5 hour/week making written responses to in-class performances.

## Out-of-class Assignments

Consistent practice regime of no less than four days a week of independent practice (est. 2-4 hours/week).

## Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Solo and group performance. Evaluation of written student critiques and analysis; ability to listen to performances, identify technical/stylistic/ interpretive choices, and respond constructively.

## Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

Student will demonstrate knowledge of styles that have been taught and workshopped during class time.

## Eligible Disciplines

Music: Master's degree in music OR bachelor's degree in music AND master's degree in humanities OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

## Other Resources

1. Selected handout materials including sheet music to be provided and distributed by instructor, as well as obtained through various sheet music distributors.