

MUSP 2240 Singer's Diction II

Meets: Monday/Wednesday, 11:30-12:20, CMA 1004

Led by: Liz Pearse – epearse@bgsu.edu, phone 812-219-1182

Course materials

Texts - Joan Wall, *Diction for Singers* (either 1st or 2nd edition); Thomas Grubb *Singing in French*; John Moriarty, *Diction*; Julius Hey, *Der kleine Hey*

Other – small hand mirror, notebook, index cards, recording device (if available)

Course objectives

By the conclusion of this course, you will:

- Accurately, intelligibly, and efficiently pronounce French and German in an art song setting
- Know the resources available to you in song/aria preparation
- Accurately transcribe French and German texts into IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)
- Evaluate your diction and the diction of others through listening tasks
- “Sight-read” brief French and German texts with reasonable accuracy

This class requires that all students feel **safe** to take risks, make mistakes, and provide input. I will do everything I can to support you as a singer/colleague, and I expect that you will extend the same support to your colleagues in the class.

Assignments/Evaluation:

As a singer, you will rarely be evaluated on written-work alone. The focus of this course is performance – thus you will perform two art songs in class (French 2/27-29, German 4/23-25). I expect you to use these opportunities to practice *performing* – preparing the song and dressing as you would for a public performance. Your teacher **MUST** be involved in selection and learning your pieces.

Other than performance, there will be written transcription work in order to build facility with IPA, and listening exercises to build aural awareness of the unique sounds of sung French and German.

We are required to meet for a “final exam” at the BGSU-designated time of 10:45-12:45 on MONDAY, APRIL 30. You cannot miss this meeting-time.

Attendance policy [TEXT or EMAIL if you will not be in class!]

If you are a contagious-sort of ill, *please stay home*. As singers, it is a courtesy to keep others healthy. Regardless of attendance, you are expected to keep up with coursework by contacting classmates for notes, as well as me for assignments. Your understanding of the topics *will* suffer if you are not completing work on time.

Course schedule:

	M	W	Assignments (subject to modification)
WEEK ONE	1/9	1/11	IPA review, obtain books (I suggest Amazon.com)
WEEK TWO	xxxx	1/18	Introduction to French diction
WEEK THREE	1/23	1/25	French song choice AND MUSIC due Monday
WEEK FOUR	1/30	2/1	Written exercises
WEEK FIVE	2/6	2/8	Written exercises
WEEK SIX	2/13	2/15	Listening exercises due Wednesday
WEEK SEVEN	2/20	2/22	Song transcriptions due Monday, spoken “quiz”
WEEK EIGHT	2/27	2/29	SING FRENCH SONGS
WEEK NINE	Spring Break		
WEEK TEN	3/12	3/14	Introduction to German diction
WEEK ELEVEN	3/19	3/21	German song choice AND MUSIC due Monday
WEEK TWELVE	3/26	3/28	Written exercises
WEEK THIRTEEN	4/2	4/4	Written exercises
WEEK FOURTEEN	4/9	4/11	Listening exercises due Wednesday
WEEK FIFTEEN	4/16	4/18	Song transcriptions due Monday, spoken “quiz”
WEEK SIXTEEN	4/23	4/25	SING GERMAN SONGS

FINAL: Monday, April 30 (!) 10:45a-12:45p

NOTE ON ASSIGNMENTS: I frequently assign work in class, and will also post assignments on Oncourse. I expect that you complete work on time, but have not built in grade penalties for “late” work. Instead, the penalty is that you will be behind in class. Do not make a habit of this!

PLAGIARISM POLICY: Learning how to transcribe into IPA and pronounce languages with accuracy requires individual practice – therefore, you’re only hurting yourself if you choose to take shortcuts (such as relying on IPAsource.com instead of doing the work yourself). Though there are few chances to “plagiarize” as described in the BGSU student handbook, I expect you to do your work yourself, and then use the myriad resources available to you to check your work.