

Major lessons I-VIII- Performance
MUSC 101/102 - 401/402
Last Updated: Spring 2022

Prerequisites

Students must pass their live audition and then successfully complete and pass the preceding semester's major lesson course to move on to the next level of major lessons.

Course Description

Major lessons are offered to the student through private weekly instruction one time per week and 50-minute sessions. Each student will develop a well-rounded skill set according to their major. Training and instruction from a private instructor will be tailored to each student's current need and ability. Instruction will be balanced between developing a student's technique and musicianship.

Course Goals/Student Learning Outcomes

(Performance)

By the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate** the basic and essential listening skills and technical competence for all major students.
2. **Demonstrate** the abilities of respiration, vocalization, resonance, and various vocal techniques for vocal students.
3. **Demonstrate** the skills essential for a professional performer, including musicianship, interpretation of repertoire, music analysis, and musicality.
4. **Perform and possess** a variety of repertoire corresponding to one's major informed by a broad understanding of them.
5. **Utilize knowledge of** various eras, styles, composers, and traditions of the music to make intelligent and educated musical choices.
6. **Display** the attitude and posture necessary for professional performers.

Course Reading and Materials

1. Students should discuss their specific program pieces with their instructor.
2. Repertoire choices must fall within the requirements for the student's major and year in their program, according to the Repertoire Requirements manual.

3. Students should bring a copy of their music for their instructor to every lesson.

Major Course Evaluations

Midterm

Students will take a performance test midway through the term and will be evaluated by their instructor and the Associate VP of Academic Affairs. An unexcused absence on the day of the midterm will result in an F. Should a student miss the midterm due to an excused absence, they will have one chance to retake it before the final according to a date decided by the instructor and Registrar. Exact rules and guidelines on the midterm repertoire can be found in the Repertoire Requirement manual. All repertoire must be checked by the Academic Affairs Office two weeks prior to midterms week.

Jury

All students will have a jury examination at the end of the semester and will be evaluated by a jury of faculty. Should a student miss the Jury due to an excused absence, they will receive an incomplete (I) for the course until they can reschedule it within the first month of the following semester. An unexcused absence on the day of the jury will result in an F for the jury. Repertoire for the jury exam on the Repertoire Requirement manual. All repertoire must be submitted to the Academic Affairs Office two weeks prior to finals week.

Jury Re-Evaluations

In the event that a student receives a failing grade for the final jury, the major instructor may require the student to retake the jury with the permission of the Program Chair and VPAA. A date will be decided between the instructor and student, with the approval of the Program Chair and the VPAA. The retake must be done no later than one month into the following semester. The student's audit and transcript will be marked with an "I" for Incomplete until the new grade is calculated. All evaluators must re-evaluate the jury for a new grade. Only one chance may be given for a retake. If the student fails to improve their final jury and receive a passing grade for the Major Lessons, then they must take a failing grade and repeat the course. The student will be charged a \$50 fee for the re-evaluation.

Jury Evaluation Criteria

1. Technique -

- a. Clear intonation,
- b. Proper articulation,
- c. Effective dynamics
- d. Excellent tone quality,
- e. Precise rhythm and tempo,
- f. Careful listening,
- g. Correct breathing,
- h. Correct vocalization and diction,

2. Musicality -

- a. Good phrase shape,
- b. Sufficient expressiveness,
- c. Understanding the character of the music,
- d. Proper interpretation,
- e. Passion

3. Performance Factor -

- a. Outstanding memorization,
- b. Proper level of repertoire,
- c. Mastery of the music,
- d. Collaboration with the accompanist,
- e. Resonation with the audience,

4. Attitude -

- a. Proper stage manner,
- b. Exudes confidence,
- c. Professional performance posture,
- d. Sheet music prepared,

Changes to Repertoire Submissions

Students wishing to change their repertoire after submission should refer to the [Repertoire Submissions Policy](#). Each performance evaluation has its own form to fill out and the deadline to submit as indicated on the Academic Calendar.

Changes to your repertoire can be made prior to the final submission deadline for that evaluation. After the deadline has passed, only in certain circumstances

and by a certain date will changes to your repertoire be approved. Please note that the following reasons will NOT be accepted:

1. A lack of memorization or preparation.
2. A misunderstanding or misreading of the repertoire requirements.

Final Grade Calculation

Development throughout the course	10%
Attendance, Preparation	20%
Mid-Term Jury	30%
Jury	40%
Total	100%

Grade Scale

4.0	95-100%	A
3.7	90-94%	A-
3.3	87-89%	B+
3.0	83-86%	B
2.7	80-82%	B-
2.3	77-79%	C+
2.0	73-76%	C
1.7	70-72%	C-
1.0	66-69%	D+
1.0	60-65%	D
0.0	Below 60%	F/ Fail
P/ NP		Pass/No-Pass
I		Incomplete

Attendance Policy

Students are allowed up to two excused absences per semester without effect to their grade. If a student should miss a lesson due to an unforeseen emergency (i.e. health, family-related, etc.) or a school-sponsored event, they must give up to 24 hours prior notice. A makeup lesson or chamber coaching can be scheduled during the semester through discussion between the instructor and Registrar. Any unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction to the student's final grade. Please see the school catalog for a detailed definition of excused absences and emergencies.

Course Responsibilities

Students are responsible for all assignments, even if they are absent. With the exception of the first lesson on a new piece, the student must have all pieces prepared and memorized at a relatively fluid level before each lesson.

Academic Support:

The **Academic Excellence Center** or **AEC** is your “one-stop” academic center that supports your co-curricular learning. The physical location of the AEC (the Mahanaim Library) contains all academic services, support, and resources, located in a single area where you can study, collaborate and create. The AEC offers the following services:

- **Writing Center**, which aims to guide you to become a proficient writer who is able to effectively understand and use standard American English.
- **Peer Tutoring**; through meaningful collaborative work experiences, peer tutors will assist you in critical thinking, time management, and cultivating resiliency and successful habits. Peer Tutoring is for anyone, even if you are passing your classes, you can seek additional support if you would like. Students who have previously failed the course or are failing their first few assignments and quizzes will be required to have peer tutoring.
- **Mahanaim Library** currently has an extensive selection of drama, art history, music history & scores, Spanish, public speaking, theology, and English literature books. As our collection grows, the library is striving to add books that explore the topics of philosophy, psychology, cognitive science, as well as data and computing. You can check out items using your Mahanaim ID, or you can access course reserves in the library.

Visit us in the AEC (in the Mahanaim Library) or email aec@mahanaim.com for services.

Disability Services:

The Disability Services Coordinator is ready to provide equal opportunities to students with disabilities who would like to request accommodations in order to perform and accomplish their coursework successfully. Reasonable requests that do not pose an undue burden for the school will be accommodated including test-taking and note-taking accommodations. Other requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Sollip Kim, at sollip.kim@mahanaim.com.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Mahanaim insists on academic honesty and integrity. Unless the assignment explicitly is a group project, all of the work in an assignment must be done individually. Proper citations on writing assignments and presentations must be used, whether it is a quotation, paraphrase, summary, idea, concept, statistic, picture, or anything else copied from any source other than your own immediate knowledge. A listing of books and articles at the end of an essay is not sufficient in crediting the original writer/contributor of the information. Credits through other means include a parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes, accompanied by a bibliography.

Plagiarism is defined as passing or stealing another's ideas and words as one's own, with no credit given to the source. This is considered literary theft and will not be tolerated in an academic setting. It is your responsibility to understand and follow the rules governing plagiarism, fraud, and cheating. The full text of the policy is found in the Student's Handbook.