

**Course Title:** Voice I-IV and Special Projects

**Semester:** Fall/Spring

**Instructor:** Jeanette Sacco-Belli  
650-654-4312

**College:** SKYLINE

**Room:** 1-1111

**Course Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to help vocalists, speakers, and actor/singers improve their vocal and stage performance techniques.

**Course Description:**

The classes will consist of lectures and demonstrations by the instructor and visiting professionals, as well as videos of various singing master classes. The class will also provide time for group and individual practice. An accompanist is provided for private musical coaching as well. Students will listen and learn from each other's performances. Time will always be allowed for relevant questions that may arise during class time. Discussion of subject matter is highly encouraged.

**Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to gain a firm understanding of the vocal instrument and to understand and develop the basic fundamentals for healthy singing and speech.

**Teaching Strategies:**

The singer's vocal production, physical "presence," and attitude will be discussed. This will include the essentials of posture, breathing, vocal tone, audience connection, facial expression, emotional readiness, movement of the hands and body, resonance/projection, and character motivation.

Expressiveness of the vocal line, as well as text and musical interpretation will be covered. The ultimate goal is for the students to develop increased personal awareness of how s/he is using his/her voice and body. Mindful objective observation during private practice must be developed for their advancement.

**Course Requirements:**

**Beginning students** must prepare at least two songs during the semester. One song must be performed by memory. *Beginning students please do not compare your self to those who have been singing much longer. I DO NOT GRADE BY VOCAL LEVEL! Beginners have the option of singing in small groups for the entire semester! I will suggest and supply two class songs for study. A disc of the pre-selected songs will be available in three keys (high, medium and low) so one may learn the music by ear. The written sheet music will be provided as well for those students who can read music. There will be ample time for group and individual practice of these class songs. Please note: one does not need to read music to take this class!*

**Intermediate to advanced students** must prepare at least two songs during this semester, preferably three. Two must be performed from memory. One of the songs should be an art song, folk song, standard, musical theater or aria.

**Students singing solo repertoire (which has been pre approved by the instructor), must supply a copy of this music to the pianist and to the instructor at least four weeks before their final performance.**

**All students** must be prepared to give some background on the songs they wish to perform. For example: Who wrote it? What period of time is the piece from? Is it part of a musical or opera? What is happening to the character in the scene where this song is taking place? If it is in another language, please prepare a translation.

**To fulfill the song requirements, students may also sing in duets, trios, or quartets.**

**Grades** are determined by attendance 30%, individual vocal improvement 10%, participation in discussions and group /individual practices in front of class 10%, singing your songs by memory in both the midterm and final recitals 20%, and completing the take home test ( due at mid-term) 30%. This test must be typed or printed. The answers to the test are **easily** found in the reading assignments.

Students with special needs (such as an upcoming audition) should see me to adjust the curriculum to fit their needs. Feel free to call with questions if you have a particular concern. I am flexible and try to approach each student with as much personal attention as possible. I may be reached at: (650) 654-4312.

**Please do not:** wear perfume or other scented products to class as many people are allergic to them. Please turn off all cell phones and other noise making instruments while in class. Do not get up or talk while someone is singing. I will always give the class break times; try to wait till then to take care of personal business.

***PLEASE REMEMBER TO RELAX AND HAVE FUN WITH YOUR MUSIC!***