**Course Title:**  Music. Voice I, II, III and IV.

**Semester:**  Fall and Spring

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

**College:**  Skyline College

**Room:**  1-1111

**Course Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to help the beginning and intermediate vocalists, improve their vocal and stage performance techniques. It will provide a strong foundation for further study of the voice in any style.

**Course Description:**

The classes will consist of lectures and demonstrations by the instructor, group discussions, educational videos, singing master classes, and reading assignments. The class will provide time for group and individual vocal practice of exercises and repertoire. An accompanist is provided for private musical coaching and taping of the musical selections being studied. Students will listen and learn from each other’s performances. Time will always be allowed for relevant questions that may arise during class time as well as from reading assignments. Discussion of subject matter is highly encouraged. Students will listen and learn from each other’s practices and performances. Each individual will learn to objectively critique and evaluate him or herself vocally and psychologically. There will be two performances in which the vocalists will sing either in groups, or individually in a recital format with their music memorized.

**Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to gain a firm understanding of the vocal instrument, how it works (physically and neurologically) as well as understanding how it is developed so one’s singing is technically efficient and musically expressive. Understanding and developing the basic fundamentals for healthy singing and speech which will protect the voice and withstand the test of time is essential. Each student will learn to efficiently practice, warm up their bodies and voices on their own. Students will learn to prepare themselves mentally and physically for a performance. Basic music theory fundamentals will be studied such as: clefs, note values and names, rest values and names, major scales, key and time signatures, meter, and counting rhythms. The singer’s vocal production
“presence”, and attitude will be discussed. This will include the essentials of posture, breath, onset of vocal tone and quality. Each student will know their voice classification and understand the terms: focus and placement. Audience connection which involves, facial expression, emotional readiness, movement of the hands and body, resonance/projection, and character development and motivation will be incorporated as much as possible in performances. 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:

*Class text: Steps to Singing for Voice Classes by Royal Stanton and The Sacco-Belli Introduction to Vocal Technique and Beginning Exercises.*

**Beginning students** must prepare at least two songs during the semester, both of which will be performed by memory. *Beginning students, please do not compare yourself to those that have been singing longer. I DO NOT GRADE BY VOCAL LEVEL! Beginners will sing in small groups for the entire semester, unless they request to be heard individually.*

**Intermediate students (or students you wish to sing solo)** must prepare at least three songs during this semester. Two songs must be performed by memory. The instructor must approve all music that is NOT in the text or handed out. A copy of the APPROVED music must be given to the pianist and instructor to keep.

**For all students,** each student must be prepared to give some background of the song they wish to perform. For example: Who wrote it? What period of time is the piece from? Is it part of a musical, opera or movie? If it is in another language, a translation and the pronunciation using IPA symbols is required.

**To fulfill** the song requirements, students may sing in duets, trios, or quartets. Singing in front of the class is expected.

**Please do not:** wear perfume or other scented products to class; many people are allergic to these things. They actually can close off the throat (not good in a voice class)!

**DO not get up or move while someone is singing, it is very distracting. I will always give the class breaks, usually on the hour so try to wait till then.**

**Please turn off all cell phones and electronic noise making instruments!**
**Grading:**

Grades are determined by attendance 30%, individual vocal improvement 10%, participation in discussions 10%, singing your songs by memory in both the midterm and final recitals 20%, individual and group practices in front of the class 10%, doing all reading and writing assignments including the take home test due at midterm 20%. This take home test must be either typed or printed and may be turned in early.