

CONTEMPORARY IDIOMS VOCAL SYLLABUS

SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

BEGINNER LEVEL

Level 1 Ages 9, 10, 11

- Learning about music
- Hearing and singing several different genres of music (musical theatre, pop, Disney, early rock and roll)
- Learning about breath control and its importance to singing
- Learning to release any muscular tension related to singing
- Expression in the face and in the body
- Beginning ear training
- Solfege syllables are introduced and used when learning scales

Level 2 Ages 11, 12

- Expanding knowledge of music by listening to and singing in several different genres (musical theatre, Disney, pop, early rock and roll)
- Continue to work on breath control
- Vocal range is expanding and strengthening in all registers
- Expression of text and characterization is becoming more natural
- Developing musicality: good use of dynamic contrast and phrasing
- Ear training is developing and improving

Level 3 Ages 12, 13

- Continue to listen to and sing in many different genres
- Breath control is understood and continuing to improve
- Expanding vocal range, strength throughout the range is developing well
- Placement and resonance of tone is developing
- Continue to release any muscular tension hindering vocal freedom
- Character and expression is good and natural
- Continuing to develop musicality and demonstrate it in the songs
- Continue to develop and improve ear training skills
- Introduce sight reading using solfege syllables
- Introduction to improvisation

Before moving on to Level 4 the students must have acquired the following skills:

Reading Music

A solid understanding of the different note/rest values beginning with the whole note, half note, quarter note, and dotted quarter note

- (a) A solid understanding and recognition of 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4 time (aural and visual)
- (b) Familiar with the musical alphabet and able to recognize notes on the grand staff
- (c) Familiar with the concepts of sharps/flats/naturals

Ear Training

- (a) Able to match pitches and sing back short 4 bar melodies by ear
- (b) Able to recognize and sing all major and perfect intervals using solfege
- (c) Able to clap back short rhythms in 4/4, 3/4 or 2/4 time
- (d) Able to distinguish between major and minor scales and tonalities
- (e) Able to recognize a I IV V progression in any major key

Microphone

The use of a microphone at the Beginner Level (levels 1 – 3) is optional. Students who choose to use a mic on the exam will be expected to use proper mic technique. Microphones will be available for use on the examination.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Level 4 Ages 13, 14

- Good support and breath control
- Strengthening and expanding vocal range
- Blending of registers is developing
- Vocal freedom and resonance is improving
- Musicality and expression in pieces is good and natural
- Continue to develop and improve ear training skills
- Sight reading skills are developing
- Improvisational skills are developing

Level 5 Ages 14, 15

- Versatile in several genres
- Good support and breath control
- Strengthening and expanding vocal range
- Good placement and free, resonant tone, may still be breathy in places
- Good blend of registers
- Displays vocal flexibility and agility
- Musicianship is very good and evident in repertoire
- Continuing to grow as a performer (expression, character, delivery of text)
- Continue to develop and improve ear training skills

Syllabus Overview

- Sight reading skills are good
- Improvisation is coming more naturally and comfortably

Level 6 Ages 15, 16, 17

- Versatile in several genres (or excels in one)
- Breath control and support is consistent
- The voice is continuing to grow stronger and developing a “full body” sound
- Vocal freedom and release of muscular tension is evident
- Tone is clear
- Blending of registers is very good
- Developing musical maturity is evident in performance-dynamic contrasts, expression, character, delivery, dramatization
- Student has begun to experiment with different vocal textures and timbres as they apply to the music.
- Continue to develop and improve ear training skills
- Sight reading skills are above average
- Comfortable with improvisation, may begin to use scat syllables if necessary

Before moving on to Level 7 the student must have acquired the following skills

Reading Music

- (a) A solid understanding of the different note/rest values now including the eighth note, dotted quarter note and the sixteenth note
- (b) A solid understanding and recognition of compound time including 3/8, 6/8, 9/8 and 12/8
- (c) Little to no difficulties reading notes on the grand staff, able to sight read simple melodies

Improvisation

- (a) Introduction to scat singing
- (b) Able to improvise a melody over a given chord progression using scat syllables

Ear Training

- (a) Able to recognize and sing back major, perfect and **minor** intervals using solfege
- (b) Able to clap back rhythms in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, **6/8, 9/8**
- (c) Able to recognize and distinguish between the blues scale, major and minor pentatonic scale
- (d) Able to recognize and distinguish between the **natural** key signature modes (Dorian and Mixolydian)

Microphone

The use of a microphone at the Intermediate Level (levels 4 – 6) is required for jazz repertoire selections. The use of a mic for repertoire other than jazz is optional. Proper mic technique will be expected on the examination. Microphones will be available for use on the examination.

SENIOR LEVEL

Level 7 Ages 16, 17, 18

- Versatile in several genres (or excels in one)
- Excellent understanding of breath control and support but may still need work at times
- Strength throughout the vocal range and very good blend of registers
- A vocally healthy “belt” voice is developing to be used in Musical Theatre
- Clear and resonant tone
- Musicality and musical maturity is growing and improving and is evident in performance
- Expression, dramatization and character is excellent
- Sight reading and ear training skills are very good
- Ability to improvise and scat is developing and becoming more natural and comfortable

Level 8 Ages 17, 18, 19, 20

- Ready for 1st year University or College musical theatre/jazz/popular program
- Versatile in several genres (may excel in one)
- Breathing is deep, full and connected to the support at all times
- Voice is free, flexible, resonant and strong throughout the range
- Musical theatre “belters” produce their sound in a vocally healthy way
- Expression, dramatization and character are excellent and evident in performance. Shows a strong ability to connect to the music as well as the audience in a performance situation.
- Demonstrates a great deal of musicality in their pieces
- Sight reading and ear training skills are very good to excellent
- Improvisational skills are above average

Microphone

The use of a microphone at the Senior Level (levels 7 and 8) is required for jazz repertoire selections. The use of a mic for repertoire other than jazz is optional. Proper mic technique will be expected on the examination. Microphones will be available for use on the examination.