



VCA Music

VOICE (Repertoire) AUDITION requirements for 2009 entry

The Repertoire Stream implies a degree course delivered in 'Classical Music' under the Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP, formerly known as HECS) scheme. The 'Foundation Music Theatre Course' and 'Foundation Course – Music Performance' are fee paying courses **unrelated** to the Classical degree courses. These courses should be applied for separately.

Applicants are expected to have gained a Victorian Certificate of Education or equivalent. This requirement may be waived in exceptional circumstances, which may include mature-age entry or outstanding talent.

Voice Audition Process

- Prepare three items of classical repertoire commensurate to the applicant's ability. A selection will be made by the panel
- Demonstrate a basic keyboard skill as a music-learning tool if able
- Sight-read a short piece
- Undergo basic aural tests
- Undergo a performance related studies test as outlined in Application for Entry form

All applicants must provide their own accompanist.

Applicants unable to present personally should send a high quality video or DVD of the required repertoire pieces, with an accompanying letter of authenticity (see 'Application for Entry' form).



VCA Music

VOICE STUDIES 2008

Principal Study

This subject focuses on developing both the technical and musical standard of students' performance. High priority is given to musical accuracy, tone production, projection and accurate pronunciation of language. A main focus is to ensure that appropriate technical and postural issues are addressed in order to optimise progress to higher levels of achievement. In all years of the course students are encouraged to study a wide range of musical styles, including 20th century and contemporary classical compositions. Students will have the opportunity to perform works in the Principal Study Forum, Vocal Workshop, and concerts organized by VCA Music.

Subject delivery:

Individual Lesson: 50 minutes per week x 11 weeks per semester

Principal Study Forum: one 2 hour class per semester

Workshop: 2 hours per week x 12 weeks per semester

Specialist Related Studies

This subject consists of two units – Vocal Materials and Languages

Vocal Materials

This subject will aim to supply the singer with an ability to:

- Break down singer's parlance into accessible components of physical and acoustical elements that make up the act of singing
- Link these components creating a framework that makes up "vocal technique"
- Take vocal technique across the "great divide" into the world of artistic expression and theatrical orientation, towards clearly communicating emotional intent to an audience
- Explore the rich interweaving of creative purpose and musical and dramatic intention with the historical and cultural elements of vocal repertoire
- Gain autonomy through a thorough understanding of one's individual instrument
- Ultimately achieve visceral, intellectual and emotional satisfaction from our art form
- Gain maximum effect for minimum effort

Languages (Italian, German, French)

This subject will focus on learning the correct pronunciation of the Italian (1st year), German (2nd year) and French (3rd year) languages as it relates to the standard vocal repertoire. It will provide students with an introduction to the topic, as we move through all of the component sounds of the language being studied, with special emphasis on sounds that are challenging to non-native speakers. Students will be given practical exercises for each vowel and each consonant. The class will study song and recitative texts together and each individual student will prepare songs, drawn from the class work materials for assessment at the end of the course.

Subject delivery:

Vocal Materials: 1 hour per week x 12 weeks per semester

Languages: 1 hour per week x 12 weeks per semester

Ensemble

This subject consists of two units – Small and Large Ensemble

Small Ensemble

This subject is seen as complementary to principal study done throughout the course. Alongside the solo vocal repertoire, in small ensemble students will have the opportunity to experience a broad range of chamber music repertoire (and some opera ensembles), from its beginnings in the Middle Ages up to and including contemporary works. The range of skills which can develop in small ensemble – flexibility, aural and musical perception skills, intonation, communication and cooperation are seen as essentials for musicians seeking to find a place in the professional world of music performance.

Large Ensemble: Feldenkrais – Awareness Through Movement Class

This subject is seen as fundamental to the development of improved vocal and physical health. The lessons will address various elements of performance and will help to awaken the student's own sense of physical awareness, and help students to step outside of habits that may have become ingrained and limiting. Whilst giving students information and skills that relate to such areas as posture and movement, students will learn about how posture, balance, coordination and breathing affect and can in turn be affected by the changing conditions of concert and operatic performance, both physically and emotionally – how to work with these aspects of physical performance in a way that enhances the student's current abilities, and points the way forward to further improvement.

Subject delivery:

Small Ensemble: 1.5 hours per week x 10 weeks per semester

Large Ensemble (Feldenkrais): 1 hour per week x 12 weeks per semester

Queries relating to Voice Studies, should be directed to either the Head of Voice, Anna Connolly [audition queries only] on (03) 9685 9431 - email at eaconn@unimelb.edu.au, or Lecturer of Voice, Stephen Grant on (03) 9685 9433 – email at sjgrant@unimelb.edu.au

All general enquiries should be addressed to:

VCA Admissions

Phone: 03 9685 9419

Email: caholmes@unimelb.edu.au

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