

**Drake University Voice Area**  
**Fall 2024 - Spring 2025**

**Description of the Area:**

The area consists of approximately 70 voice majors who are pursuing degrees in four programs: Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies in Business, and Bachelor of Arts in Music. All students receive a one-hour lesson per week, regardless of the degree program in which they are enrolled.

**Voice Faculty:**

Dr. Eric Barnum, Director of Choral Activities – beginning and advanced Conducting, Drake Choir, Chamber Choir, Drake University/Community Chorus

Dr. Ann Cravero, Prof. of Voice – Studio Voice

Leanne Freeman-Miller, Prof. of Voice – Studio Voice, Opera

Dr. Alyssa Becker, Teaching Associate in Voice – Studio Voice, Vocal Pedagogy

Christine Blanner, Teaching Associate in Voice – Studio Voice, Vocal Literature, Opera

Dr. Greg Sojka, Teaching Associate in Voice – Music Director Drake Opera Theater, Studio Voice, Diction I & II, Conductor of Drake University Community Chorus

Ted Brimeyer, Adjunct Teaching Artist of Choirs – Conducting Borealis, Auditioned Treble Choir

Cassie Mackeef, Adjunct Teaching Artist of Vocal Coaching, Drake Opera Theater

**Weekly Lessons and Rehearsal Time with Accompanists:**

If it is necessary because of illness or some other unusual circumstance for a student to cancel the weekly lesson or the 30-minute rehearsal time with your collaborative pianist, please provide advanced notice to your studio teacher, and pianist. Consult syllabi of both the studio teacher and the pianist for details. Rescheduling lessons missed by the student is at the discretion of the instructor.

All voice faculty are expected to reschedule any lessons they miss. Unless faculty make another arrangement with the studio pianist(s), voice faculty should direct majors to meet in the accompanist's office for the 30-minute lesson collaboration when cancelling lessons. Voice faculty members are *not* required to makeup lessons for university cancellations and holidays.

See individual studio syllabi for details.

**Accompanists:**

All voice *majors* are expected to have a collaborative pianist for their lessons and performances before the start of the semester. Studio teachers will assist students in finding a pianist.

The pianist will be present for half of the student's weekly lesson, rehearse with students for one-half hour/week outside of the lesson time, and accompany the student during studio classes and departmental recitals.

Note: Voice *minors* are not required to have a weekly rehearsal with their pianist outside of their studio lesson time. Minors will be assigned a pianist to play for their final jury and will schedule 2-3 rehearsals with the pianist prior to the jury.

Please visit the following link on the Drake Website regarding all further information on policies regarding accompanists.

**Drake Univ. Accompanist policy is found at the following link:**

[https://www.drake.edu/media/departmentsoffices/music/FALL2021%20Vocal%20Accompanist%20Policy-%20MUSIC%20DEPARTMENT\[1\]%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.drake.edu/media/departmentsoffices/music/FALL2021%20Vocal%20Accompanist%20Policy-%20MUSIC%20DEPARTMENT[1]%20(1).pdf)

Students should also be aware that studio pianists may also provide their own policy further outlining their attendance and payment details.

Below is a list of *staff accompanists*- Students may contact accompanists directly for department-sponsored competitive events and recitals should their assigned pianist not be available.

Liz Augsburg (515.864.8587); [lizaugsburger@gmail.com](mailto:lizaugsburger@gmail.com)

Lauren Cain (435-229-2397) [lauren.cain@drake.edu](mailto:lauren.cain@drake.edu)

Cynthia Giunta (x2832; 515.991.9293); [cynthia.giunta@drake.edu](mailto:cynthia.giunta@drake.edu)

Francine Griffith (515.244.7568; cell: 515.419.6908); [francine.griffith@drake.edu](mailto:francine.griffith@drake.edu)

Susan Ihnen (cell: 515.720.5257; home: 515.267.0112); [susan.ihnen@drake.edu](mailto:susan.ihnen@drake.edu)

Amanda Jones (cell: 319-290-4595; ofc: 515-271-4948); [amanda.jones@drake.edu](mailto:amanda.jones@drake.edu)

Cassie Mackeef [cassie.mackeef@drake.edu](mailto:cassie.mackeef@drake.edu)

Christa Pearson (515.979.8040); [christa.pearson@gmail.com](mailto:christa.pearson@gmail.com)

Sonya Siebert (home: 515. 279.1211; cell: 515-669-2374); [mssiebert@aol.com](mailto:mssiebert@aol.com)

Ling-Yu Hsiao [ling-yu.hsiao@drake.edu](mailto:ling-yu.hsiao@drake.edu)

**Repertoire Requirements:**

Students are expected to learn, memorize, and perform all assigned repertoire. All assigned repertoire must be listed on the semester jury sheet for possible performance at your jury. General guidelines concerning the amount of repertoire studied each semester are as follows:

1 credit: 3-4 pieces

4 credits: 7-8 pieces

2-3 credits: 5-6 pieces

5+ credits: 8-10 pieces

Final determinations regarding the amount and type of repertoire studied during the semester will depend on each student's needs and abilities and will be determined by the studio teacher.

### **N.A.T.S**

The voice department strongly encourages each of its faculty members to become members of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, as well as encourage student participation in auditions. Voice Faculty will help to coordinate transportation and lodging to such events for both students and faculty.

### **Vocal Coaching:**

This laboratory course (MUS 171L), in conjunction with MUS 171 (Studio Voice) is designed to provide additional instruction to voice majors in the areas of musicianship, language and performance to further prepare them for the professional world.

The course is offered in both the fall and spring semester.

All voice majors enrolled in MUS169 (Drake Opera Theater) are required to enroll in MUS 171L (Vocal Coaching) regardless of casting status. Coaching will coincide with the semester(s) they are cast. (Approved 2020 by Music Dept. & A&S Curriculum Committee)

The course is open to all voice majors, but enrollment is not guaranteed. If enrollment should exceed the capped class size, the course will be first made available to performance majors, then all other vocal degree programs determined by seniority.

Students will receive a total of seven hours of coaching, either through a weekly half-hour coaching or bi-weekly one-hour coachings. There is an associated fee of \$305.00 that will be charged through University Billing.

Please note, although it is not a degree requirement for any vocal degree program, it does fulfill scholarship requirements for the department. Note: MUS 171L will not fulfill an AOI requirement.

### **Studio Class:**

All voice majors are to reserve the *Wednesday 3:00-3:50 pm* time for studio class and are required to attend all studio classes and departmental recitals. Voice minors and Non-Major Participant student attendance is at the discretion of the studio teacher. Studio Class attendance is factored into students' grade for MUS 171. Students with unavoidable class conflicts must satisfy the studio class requirements with work determined by the teacher. The studio teacher determines the structure of the class.

### **Departmental Recitals:**

Four departmental recitals are scheduled each semester in rotation with the studio classes *Wednesdays at 3:00-3:50*. A master schedule of all studio classes and departmental recitals will be provided to the voice faculty and students at the start of each semester. Departmental recitals are typically held in Sheslow Auditorium. Attendance will be taken by studio instructors at every recital.

All voice majors (those taking a one-hour lesson each week) are required to perform on one departmental recital each semester. The student must perform a memorized piece of *classical* repertoire, which is approved by the studio teacher. Dress is professional. Students should communicate with their accompanists to insure availability for the performance.

Voice minors and non-major participants are not required to perform on Departmental recitals. Due to the large number of voice majors, voice minors studying voice may attend departmental recitals, but perform only on studio recitals or other recitals organized by studio teachers.

Studio instructors determine the scheduling of students as well as the classical repertoire to be performed. Studio instructors will collect program information from their students and submit one document including program information electronically to a designated music student assistant no later than two weeks before the departmental recital date. No hard copies or late submissions will be accepted. Studio instructors should attempt to evenly distribute those students performing over the four designated departmental recital dates.

ATTENDANCE at Departmental Recitals is required. Each voice instructor should take attendance for their studio and email [Leslie.marrs@drake.edu](mailto:Leslie.marrs@drake.edu) the names of students who completed the following: *Two Departmental Recitals will then qualify for MUS 21 credit. Implemented by Music Department Fall 2019.*

### Juries

Each voice student registered for MUS 171 will sing a memorized jury for the voice faculty to evaluate student progress at the end of every semester.

Students must create an account and submit a jury form three weeks prior to the final jury: <https://drake.jury-system.com/>

Studio teachers must ensure that their students have completed the form by the required deadline. *Those students who do not complete and submit the on-line form by the deadline will not be allowed to jury.* Students will be able to access their electronic comments immediately after the completion of their sung jury.

Jury times are scheduled by a voice faculty member and posted on the FAC second-floor bulletin board approximately two weeks before juries. Students should plan to reserve Friday 8 am - 6 pm, and Saturday 8am - 2 pm, preceding final exam week.

- B.M. Vocal Performance 15-minute jury
- Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies in Business, Bachelor of Arts in Music 10-minute jury
- Minors and Non-Major Choral Participants (NMPs) 5-minute jury

The first song performed for the jury is the student's choice. Students should consult with their studio teacher.

The faculty, from pieces listed on the jury sheet, will select the rest of the repertoire to be performed.

***Exempt from Voice Juries:***

\* Students who present a recital hearing (full junior recitals, full senior recitals) are exempt from performing a jury during that semester.

\* Students who perform a *substantial* lead role in the Drake Opera Theater Production will be exempt from performing a jury during that semester. All voice faculty will discuss and determine with the guidance of the Director of Opera Theater, which roles will qualify for such an exemption.

**Performance/Rehearsal Facilities Scheduling:**

To reserve a room in FAC or Sheslow or on campus, you must first check availability on <https://ems.drake.edu/EmsWebApp/> and then make a reservation. Final confirmation of the event will be made by contacting the Fine Arts Facilities Manager [Jacob.Lemons@drake.edu](mailto:Jacob.Lemons@drake.edu)

NOTE: Student recitals require the written approval of the studio voice instructor before the request is accepted - See **Recital Program Procedures** below.

**Recital Program Procedures:**

The opportunity to present a recital is determined in consultation with a student's applied teacher. For a student to schedule a recital, the student must complete the *recital request form*. PLEASE direct students to the Drake Music Dept. Webpage for complete details and the most current policies:

<https://www.drake.edu/theatre/currentstudentresources/recitalpolicies/>

Please note that the form requires the instructor's written approval. It is the responsibility of the applied teacher to ensure that the proposed date, time, and location have been reserved with the Fine Arts Facilities Manager [Jacob.Lemons@drake.edu](mailto:Jacob.Lemons@drake.edu)

Events that have been approved and published cannot be altered, rescheduled, or deleted without the approval of the Recital Committee. Only under extreme circumstances will the committee approve an alteration.

- First year students are not allowed to present recitals
- Sophomore students may only present a joint recital. Should a sophomore student not be able to secure a joint recital partner, the recital may not be presented as a solo recital. Sophomore recitals cannot be scheduled in a major performance location on campus and the department will not provide programs. Sophomore recitals are not eligible for MUS 21.
- Junior and senior students may present a joint or full recital. Note that junior/senior level status is determined by one's standing in theory classes.

Students completing a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance are required to present a full recital as their senior capstone experience (see below for details).

Reminder: Students who present a full junior and/or senior recital are exempt from performing a jury during that semester.

**Recital Hearings for Solo Senior & Junior Recitals:**

Students who schedule a full senior or junior recital are required to present a pre-recital hearing at least three weeks in advance of the recital date. Three voice faculty members (including the student's applied teacher) must attend the pre-recital hearing that will assess the quality of the student's recital preparation and performance competency.

The studio teacher must arrange the recital hearing (time, studio location, 3 faculty members, accompanist, singer) during the voice area meeting held the second week of classes in the semester in which the recital will be presented.

At the hearing, students should present a final copy of their recital program, notes, and recital hearing form to each faculty member present at the hearing. Dress is professional. The student will choose the first selection, with the voice faculty choosing the subsequent pieces. Students should be prepared to sing 5-6 selections. All recital music is to be memorized at the time of the recital hearing.

**Recital Program Printing Policy:**

Current procedures regarding the checklist and responsibility for submittal of recital programs for printing by the Music Office as well as formatting for all vocal recital programs may be found on-line. Please view the Drake Music Department main page or visit <http://www.drake.edu/music>.

For any questions/concerns regarding this policy, please email those inquiries to [musicadmin@drake.edu](mailto:musicadmin@drake.edu).

- [jorge.romero-castro@drake.edu](mailto:jorge.romero-castro@drake.edu) Admin. Assist.

The following recital forms can be found on the Drake web site, as well as all policies and procedures:

- Recital Hearing Form
- Recital Request Form
- Recital Template
- Request for Space
- Style Guide for Vocal Programs- PDF that includes ALL formatting necessary to create a program.
- <https://www.drake.edu/media/departments/offices/music/forms/VocalStyleGuide.pdf>
- Recital Checklist

**Recital Repertoire Requirements:**

Recital programming is chosen in consultation with the student's applied teacher. Sophomore and junior recitals are encouraged to program standard classical repertoire in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, or other foreign languages in preparation for the senior recital. Seniors Capstone requirements are listed below.

### **Senior Capstone Recital - BM in Vocal Performance degree:**

Each Drake University student completes a senior capstone experience. Capstones allow each student to demonstrate the capacity to bring information, skills, and ideas to bear on one significant project. Recital programming is decided upon in consultation with the appropriate applied teacher.

### **SENIOR CAPSTONE: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- The program must include repertoire in English (art song), as well as two of the three Romance languages: German, French, Italian, with programming decided upon in consultation with the appropriate applied teacher
- All programs must include program notes. Students should have at least 5 bibliographic sources that are not from on-line information such as Wikipedia. Journal articles accessed from library databases are acceptable.
- BM in vocal performance degree candidates must present a completed copy of a program and notes to be reviewed by the voice faculty at the time of the hearing.

Please see Vocal Recital Style Guide on-line for complete details.

<https://www.drake.edu/media/departmentsoffices/music/forms/VocalStyleGuide.pdf>

### **Sophomore Checkpoint:**

All voice majors in their fourth semester jury (sophomore year) will be evaluated by voice faculty in terms of their vocal and academic progress and suitability to continue to upper-level voice study. The voice faculty will recommend continuation, discontinuation, or probationary status based on the spring sophomore jury and the recommendation of the individual's applied studio teacher. If probation is recommended, the student will be allowed one semester to address deficiencies. The fifth semester jury will be the final opportunity for continuation approval.

### **Drake Choir:**

<https://www.drake.edu/music/ensembles/choruses/>

Please consult Dr. Eric Barnum, Director of Choral Activities, with any questions pertaining to auditions and the chorale program.

### **Drake Opera Theater:**

<https://www.drake.edu/opera/>

All students who are pursuing a B.M. in Voice are required to audition for the opera every year and are required to be enrolled in opera both semesters. All music majors with a voice emphasis, including Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies in Business, and Bachelor of Arts majors are encouraged to audition. Opera auditions are held at the beginning of every fall semester. All students who audition in the fall may be considered for roles in both fall and spring productions, including full productions and opera scenes. Specifics regarding Drake Opera Theater can be found in the Drake Opera Theater Syllabus. Email the director [Christine.Blanner@drake.edu](mailto:Christine.Blanner@drake.edu) with any questions.

### **Drake Vocal Jazz MUS 147:**

Drake Vocal Jazz is an auditioned group that consists of approximately sixteen vocalists stemming from a wide variety of academic majors, including music, across campus. The performance-oriented ensemble explores a diverse range of vocal jazz literature that fosters vocal, harmonic, and rhythmic development as well as cultural and historical awareness. On and off-campus performance opportunities include concerts, jazz clinics, masterclasses, solo and ensemble singing, and collaboration with jazz combos or ensembles. Auditions take place prior to the start of the Fall academic semester. This ensemble does not fulfill scholarship requirements. Further questions may be directed to Dr. Ann Cravero, Director of Drake Vocal Jazz Singers.

**Studio Reassignments:**

A student wishing to request reassignment must complete the *Studio Voice Reassignment* form and submit it to his/her current studio voice teacher. *Students should first discuss their desire to change studios with their current studio teacher.* The current studio voice teacher will then meet with all full-time voice faculty members to discuss the request and course of action that will ensure optimum vocal and musical growth for the student. A request does not guarantee that the student will be placed in his/her studio of choice. The current voice instructor will inform the student of the placement outcome.

Updated on 09/16/24 AKC