

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Music Department Course Syllabus

Course: Opera Workshop Credit: 2 half Carnegie Units, Elective

Course Description

Opera Workshop is an advanced course for singers interested in exploring opera. After an introductory unit on listening and the great singers, and touching on the history of opera from its beginnings, the course will focus on the preparation and performance of opera scenes and/or an opera production appropriate for young audiences. Each class member will be assigned roles to learn and will be expected to give time outside of class for staging and production rehearsals. The class will perform as appropriate.

Content Standards

Six DCPS Music Content Standards are basic to the core skills, concepts and knowledge needed for Opera Workshop:

- Students sing alone and with others a varied repertoire of music representing diverse genres, styles and cultures
- Students read, notate and interpret notational symbols for rhythmic and melodic patterns
- Students listen, analyze, compare and describe different forms of music
- Students critique their own performance and the performances of others
- Students identify, investigate and interpret relationships among the principals of music and other disciplines
- Students explore a variety of heritages from music of many cultures

Course Outline

After a series of listening and reading assignments, and an exploration of the history of opera, students will be assigned opera roles to prepare and memorize. Scenes will be staged for production. Each student is expected to display a grasp of the fundamentals of singing – correct posture, breath management, vowel

production and consonant production, in addition to vocal flexibility and the ability to interpret music with expression and appropriate style, and also the fundamentals of staging and basic acting techniques. Each student is expected to learn his or her assigned role quickly and thoroughly.

Grading and Evaluation Procedures

Student grades are based on attendance, readings and written work as assigned, tests, and participation in class, rehearsals and performances. A positive attitude and thorough preparation of music are also essential to the final production and will be evaluated.

All students are expected to treat each other and their teachers with respect and to follow the guidelines given in the Vocal Music Department Handbook and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Community Handbook.