

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Sight Singing I

I. Syllabus

Instructor: Sesheida Young

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Course Descriptions: This course is the first of two years (possibly three for vocalists) in training of fundamental aural and sight singing skills.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to develop skills in perception and performance of music, which are essential to the overall development of successful musicians. Students will demonstrate, recognize and apply/perform learned techniques and ear training qualities. These assessments will be based on the following topics:

Vocabulary-

- Dorian, supertonic, etc.
- Interval
- Staff and all definitions of anything on it
- Accidentals
- Note Values
- Time and Key Signatures

Rhythm-

- Anything in 4 > Simple meter (groupings)
- Division, subdivisions, ties, dots, and rests
- Counting systems
- Steady Tempo, Metronome, Conducting (3+4 pattern)

Interval/Pitch-

- Identify through singing, hearing, and notating all ascending intervals
- Movable "DO"
- Solfege w/ intervals
- (2-3) Part Singing

Scales/Chords-

- Write Major Scales with and without given key signatures
- Sing any Major Scale orienting from any pitch
- Given one pitch in scale, find any other pitch
- Major Scale formula/key signatures
- Chromatic and Pentatonic Scales
- Primary Chords (I, IV, V, V7)

Sight Singing

- Singing diatonic melodies without chromatic alteration
- Sight-Singing Tendencies (Rudiments)

- Singing melodies using steps and skips
- Rhythmic, Pitch, Solfege Speed Drills
- Prediction Drills

Dictation

- Prediction Drills
 - Rhythmic Dictation
 - Melodic Dictation
 - Interval Dictation
- (All coinciding with previous ideas of rhythm and pitch)

Application to Repertoire

- Pick a vocalise (vocal exercise) to be read and sung in jury
- Pick from contemporary pieces to associate with intervals, rhythms, melodies

Teaching Strategies: Demonstration, modeling, guided practice, and lectures are the primary teaching strategies used. For this reason, **it is of paramount importance that students attend all classes, proactively participates and is on time to pass this class.**

Assessments*: (Utilizing Objectives listed above)

- Pitch notation: timed note reading and key signature drills
- Rhythm: clapping and counting rhythm drills
- Sight Singing: Rhythmic and melodic dictation; sight singing quizzes
- **Scheduled dates of assessments are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and/or in the event of extenuating circumstances, i.e., school closures, unscheduled activities, etc.*
- **Juries:** Juries will be a determining factor the overall assessment of the student's mastery of the class.

Required Materials: Each student must bring the following items to class daily and will be graded on having materials:

- Section in one inch three- ring binder
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Loose leaf paper
- Blank staff paper, hole punched (Ms. Young will provide)

Grading*:

Participation----10%

Practice and Application----50%

Assessments----40%

**Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, department or administration with prior written notification.*

Course Requirements:

1. Students must be present and arrive on time for class.
2. If a student is tardy to class he or she must present a tardy pass for review of the school attendance officer in accordance with DCPS policy. **Excessive tardiness will affect student's grade and could result in failure of the course.**
3. Students should be prepared with the required materials for each class and will be graded as such.
4. Students will be required to maintain a note book.

II. Classroom Policies

Behavior: In addition to classwork, assessments, etc., the student will be graded on attitude and behavior.

- Expectation and Consequence ○ Each student will follow the rules, expectations, policies and guidelines set by District of Columbia Public Schools, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Dr. Holmes, Mr. Daniel and Ms. Collins. Classroom Expectations will be provided by Ms. Collins and posted in her classrooms. Students who fail to meet these criteria will receive a warning, followed by daily point deduction which could result in failure for that day. If the student continues, they will automatically receive 0 points for the day and will complete a handwritten essay on the subject of Ms. Collins' choosing and/or a theory/sight singing packet provided by Ms. Collins for partial points towards classwork. The assignment will be completed during class time with the students Department Chair. The parent/guardian will then be notified and record will be made on the Aspen grading system. Continuous negative behavior will not be tolerated. Please also note that any student not meeting the DESA dress code will be sent to Dr. Holmes or Ms. Hollis.
- Absence/Unexcused Absence ○ Students who miss class will be reported to the attendance officer in accordance with DCPS policy. Students with excused absence will be required to complete all make up work. If it is found that the

student in question is unexcused, the parent/guardian on file will be notified, record will be made in Aspen and the student will be required to make up missed work for partial credit. In addition, the student will complete an essay and/or separate assignment of Ms. Collins' choosing to be counted towards the student's participation grade.

- Tardiness ○ Students who have a valid tardy pass will be required to make up any missed materials (as possible). Students who are tardy without a tardy pass will be required to complete an essay/assignment on the subject of Ms. Collins' choosing in addition to missed classwork (as possible) for partial credit. In the event of a pop quiz at the beginning of class, tardy students without valid passes will receive a zero for that quiz.

1. Daily Classroom Expectations

- Be present, on time and prepared
- Listen quietly
- Raise your hand to speak
- Provide full attention to Ms. Collins and classmates
- Be respectful of yourself and others
- Be responsible for your own learning and behavior
- Fully participate in all activities and discussions
- No food, drinks, gum, candy, electronic devices or cosmetics/personal grooming during class
- Leave the room better than you found it; straighten chairs and stands
- No students permitted to sit at teachers desk under any circumstances

Any and all information on this Syllabus and Course Policies is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, department or administration with prior written notification. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Young at Sesheida@gmail.com.

Thank you for reading this in its entirety; I am looking forward to a productive year! Please sign below and return next class for a homework grade.

I, _____ (print name) have read the course Syllabus and Classroom Policies for Sight Singing and agree to the terms and conditions presented.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____