Course Description: This is a course in vocal technique and literature. Students develop rudimentary vocal skills and apply them to various types of vocal literature. The course is designed as an introductory series of courses for students who do not intend to major in voice.

Text, References and Supplies: The texts are assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Goals and Objectives: Upon successful completion of this instruction, students will:

A. Develop Vocal Technique in the areas outlined below: (the cultivation of a pleasing, efficient vocal production—one which is free of destructive vocal habits).

1. Breathing: Students study correct breathing techniques in order to develop abdominal and costal support of the vocal mechanism.
2. Phonation: Students learn to coordinate the breath with the vocal mechanism, eliminating glottal and breathy phonation.
3. Resonation: Students learn to develop an efficient vocal sound. A vocal tone which is focused, i.e. not "spread" over too manypartials; but "tuned" or "centered" on each vowel, with particular attention to the cultivation of the "singer's formant".

B. Learn important vocal literature as outlined below:

1. Students will be required to perform a variety of literature from differing style periods in order to expand their own performance abilities and horizons.
2. Performance class will meet every other Friday at 12:00 PM, so that students may practice their own performance skills as well as listen to the performance of other students.
Student Contributions and Class Policies:

A. Private lessons (one-half hour per week)
   1. Technical work will be assigned to each student by the instructor. This work will be designed to strengthen students' vocal weaknesses, and condition their vocal musculature.
   2. Literature will be assigned students based on their current vocal abilities. As students progress technically, more challenging literature will be assigned.

B. Practice
   1. Students should practice at least 45 minutes per day. This practice should consist of assigned vocal exercises and preparation of literature.
   2. Students should learn literature on their own, without help from the instructor. This develops musical literacy skills. Students whose reading skills are limited should bring a blank cassette tape with them to lessons, so that literature can be recorded for practice. Cassette tapes of literature assignments can be purchased in the college bookstore.
   3. Accompanists are not provided by Midland College. If you desire an accompanist for a lesson or a performance, you must hire one independently. Talk to the instructor for suggestions or advice on accompanists.

Evaluation of Students:

A. Attendance
   1. Students who are absent without excuse more than three consecutive times, or who have more than six total unexcused absences are in danger of failing the course. Please speak with the instructor if you must be absent excessively.
   2. There are no "excused" absences. A warning letter will be sent to students with excessive unexcused absences by the Dean of Students. Individuals who receive a warning letter should talk to the instructor immediately, or withdraw from the course. STUDENTS ARE INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DROPPING A COURSE. Individuals who have excessive unexcused absences after the withdrawal deadline for the current semester will receive a grade of "F" for the term.
B. Juries and Recitals

1. The instructor will determine whether a student is ready to perform on a weekly recital.
2. Jury examinations will be held on the last class day of the semester. In order to present a jury, the jury literature must be memorized by that semester's withdrawal deadline date. Juries are optional for half-hour lessons.
3. Each individual instructor is responsible for assigning final grades. Talk to your instructor in order to ascertain his/her expectations for the course. Generally, your grade will reflect how much the instructor feels you have improved vocally during the term. As long as you practice and learn the assigned literature, you should have no problems passing the course. Sometimes, an instructor may decide to assign a numerical score grade for each lesson. Talk to your instructor regarding this option.

C. Web-Enhancement: This is a web-enhanced class. Students will be encouraged to benefit from the materials posted on the course website. Here are the directions for accessing the course Blackboard site: The initial web address is www.midland.edu/blackboard Once the site is reached, click on the log on symbol. You do not need to log in. On the log-in page, click on the preview symbol. You will be directed to a page that says “welcome, guest.” Click on the Courses tab displayed in the upper left-hand corner of the page. On the right hand side of the courses page, you will see a series of links for the college's academic departments. Click on the “Fine Arts and Communications” link. Once the Fine Arts and Communications page is loaded, click on the folder named “Voice INSTRUCTION.” You will notice that there are several links for courses. Your link is called Voice Instruction. Click on this link in order to access the web-enhanced site. You probably will not be able to access the other Music sites. Once you are logged on to the course site, the announcements will explain where you can locate MP3 files and course information. Please contact me if you have questions or problems logging on.

Evaluation Techniques

A. Attendance: See IV. A. above

B. Literature must be learned and performed effectively (to the satisfaction of the instructor)
C. Students must show evidence of interest and improvement. Please come to lessons prepared to sing-YOU MUST TAKE TIME TO WARM-UP VOCALLY BEFORE EACH LESSON!!! Your grade will reflect the amount of time you have practiced during the term, so don't waste our time and yours. Take time to prepare and practice. You'll be very satisfied with the results!

Course Outline:

A. Technical work (half the time of each lesson will be devoted to vocal technique.)

1. Breathing exercises are designed to develop abdominal and costal breathing habits, coordinating the breathing apparatus with the vocal mechanism.
2. Scales and arpeggios are used to coordinate the vocal registers, insuring that the voice maintains a consistent timbre throughout its range.
3. Vowel exercises insure sympathetic resonation within the vocal tract, maintaining clarity of diction while cultivating the voice's characteristic high resonance, the singer's formant.
4. Literature often presents technical difficulties which students must practice in order to sing with ease and confidence.

B. Literature requirements

1. Literature from a variety of style periods will be assigned so that students will be exposed to a variety of differing musical styles.
2. The instructor will be responsible for determining the amount and type of vocal literature assigned.
3. Literature will be assigned at the beginning of each semester. Students will be required to memorize the requisite amount of songs by the semester's end.

Instructor Information: Dr. Michael Jordan
Office: 139 AFA
Phone: 685-4647 (W)
E-mail: mjordan@midland.edu