UNC VOICE STUDENT HANDBOOK

We are glad you have chosen to come to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to receive vocal instruction. The voice handbook is designed to serve as a reference if you have questions about procedures and your responsibility as a voice student.

**VOICE FACULTY**

Dr. Jeanne Fischer, Area Head of Voice, KMB 2129, [fischerj@email.unc.edu](mailto:fischerj@email.unc.edu)

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Currently serving as Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences: Dr. Terry Rhodes

**CHORAL FACULTY**Prof. Susan Klebanow, Director of Choral Activities

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Dr. Daniel Huff, Area Head of Music Education; Glee Club Director

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**TOPICS COVERED IN THIS HANDBOOK:**

**Applied Lessons**

**Lesson Attendance Policy**

**Studio Class**

**Accompanists**

**Recital Attendance**

**Divisional and Departmental Recitals**

**Student Recital Policy (degree or non-degree)**

**Major and Minor Juries**

**Voice Levels**

**Choral Ensembles**

**Opera Theater**

**APPLIED LESSONS**

During their first week of school all voice majors will sing for members of the voice faculty in order to receive placement in one of the applied voice studios. (This includes students who auditioned in January/February). Please contact Dr. Fischer for further information if you have not received a letter of orientation by August 1st.

All incoming students with a teacher preference must submit it in writing to **Dr. Jeanne Fischer, (fischerj@email.unc.edu)** **prior** to singing for the faculty.

Once you have received your teacher assignment, please email your class schedule and your phone number to your professor. Your professor will then assign you a lesson time and contact you with additional information and your syllabus.

MUSC 102 students need to fill out the applied lesson form and give it to your teacher in order to register. (Forms are in the music registrar’s office, Angeline Warren in Hill Hall).

All students taking MUSC 202 and 302 must register online for applied lessons.  **Jeanne Fischer, section 2  
Melissa Martin, section 3  
Marc Callahan, section 4  
Timothy Sparks, section 5**

**LaToya Lain, sec. 6**

**Gene Galvin, section 7**

You will receive a practice pass from your applied instructor which allows you access to music department events or concerts free of charge. You also need to have it with you when using the practice rooms.

Students interested in the Beginning Voice Class, MUSC 111, Section 1, may register themselves online. The other voice class, MUSC 111, Section 2, is by audition or permission of instructor. Please be aware that all voice lessons, whether group or individual, have additional fees associated with them. You must maintain a grade of C or better in voice lessons to be able to continue to re-enroll each semester.

**LESSON ATTENDANCE POLICY**

It is your responsibility to attend all scheduled applied lessons. If more than 5 lessons (excused or unexcused) are missed in a semester, a student will receive a failing grade for that term. The grade of incomplete is given for medical reasons only. It is your instructor’s decision whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

If your professor must miss a lesson for a professional obligation, your lesson will be covered by a rescheduled lesson or in a manner deemed appropriate by the area (guest artist masterclass, vocal coaching with another professor, etc.).

**STUDIO CLASS**

Studio class is part of your voice lessons and **must** be attended every week. Do not schedule classes or work during this hour. The studios meet on either Mondays at 3:35 pm or Fridays at 12:20 pm. The locations for studio classes change each semester.

**DIVISIONAL AND DEPARTMENTAL RECITALS** are held on Wednesdays from 3:35-4:30 PM in Person Recital Hall (Divisional) and Moeser Auditorium (Departmental). For students taking MUSC 202, attendance is **required** for both Divisional and Departmental Recitals as a part of your voice grade. Divisionals provide students with an opportunity to sing for the entire area. All first- and second-year MUSC 202 students are expected to perform once per semester. All juniors and seniors are expected to perform twice per semester. If time permits, students will be submitted to perform on additional Divisionals.

Departmentals are held two times per semester as an opportunity for junior and senior voice area students to participate on a music department program. Students are expected to sing on Departmental Recitals with selections that have previously been performed on Divisionals.

**ACCOMPANISTS**

**It is the student’s responsibility to secure a pianist for lessons, studio classes and other performances**. You are expected to rehearse weekly with your accompanist. The voice area maintains a list of approved accompanists in the Chapel Hill area and will provide it to you at the beginning of each semester. Whenever possible, this should be the same person for at least one semester, preferably an entire year. Pianists are expected to come to the second ½ hour of your lesson on a weekly basis, and also have a weekly rehearsal with each of their singers. When you engage a pianist, you are responsible for paying them weekly for lessons, rehearsals and other events. Any student who does not pay their pianist in a timely fashion will not be allowed to continue to enroll in voice lessons. Failure to attend regular weekly rehearsals with your pianist will also result in students not being allowed to re-enroll in lessons.

It is important that you notify your accompanist well in advance of any changes in schedules or upcoming performances including Divisional and Departmental Recitals, Master Classes and NATS auditions (The National Association of Teachers of Singing).

**RECITAL ATTENDANCE**

Students are provided with a list of required concerts at the beginning of the semester. **Failure to attend the required performances will negatively affect your final grade**. Attendance at other faculty and student recitals (outside the voice area) is strongly encouraged but does not count toward satisfying the requirement. In order to receive credit at required recitals you must attend the entire performance. If for any reason you must miss a required concert, you need to check with your teacher prior to missing the performance to determine an appropriate substitution.

**SCHEDULING A RECITAL** A student may present a recital only with the approval of his/her voice instructor and a successful hearing with the teacher and two other voice faculty members.

**Majors (Music 202 voice students) whose teachers have approved a recital** should register for Music 302. Two students may share a recital and both receive credit for Music 302 as long as each presents the equivalent of 22-25 minutes of music. Music 302 may be counted for UNC’s Experiential Education (EE) requirement. The student is required to pass a hearing, three weeks in advance of the proposed recital date, with three attending faculty members.

**Minors and Non-Majors (Music 102 voice students) wishing to present a recital** should register for Music 102. The recital for non-majors and voice minors does **NOT** count towards UNC's Experiential Education (EE) requirement. **Non-degree recitals must be approved by the Area Head of Voice prior to scheduling.** Three voice teachers need to be present for the hearing, three weeks in advance of the proposed recital date. Non-majors follow the same hearing procedure in accordance with the major recital requirement.

In all cases, recital repertoire should be discussed and confirmed with your teacher. Recitals may include up to 2 solo arias (oratorio or opera) and 1 optional ensemble. Other options, including musical theater, may be selected with the approval of the studio voice teacher and the Area Head of Voice.

The student assumes financial responsibility for the printing costs of the program.

**FACILITIES**

Recital dates must be approved in advance by your teacher and your accompanist. Recitals can be scheduled online, and you must cc your teacher on the confirmation. Due to the demand on our facilities, recital spaces may be reserved on a rolling basis which gives priority first to senior music majors, then juniors, followed by non-major recitalists.

Non-Majors may sign up for an on-campus recital venue on a rolling deadline after all majors have had the opportunity to sign up first.  Non-Majors also have the option to locate a venue outside of the music facilities in order to present the recital and will be financially responsible for the costs associated with renting a facility.

On-campus Recitals are held in Person Recital Hall, Moeser Auditorium, Hill 107, or the Kenan Rehearsal Room.

**JURIES FOR RECITALISTS**

Students presenting a recital in a given semester may be exempt from presenting a final jury. If the recital occurs before Fall Break or Spring Break, the student is expected to present a jury consisting of new works as determined in consultation with your teacher. If the recital occurs before Fall/Spring Break and the student is also singing a major role in the UNC opera or a professional equivalent, the student may be exempt from presenting a jury.

**RECITAL HEARINGS**

All students presenting a recital must present and pass a **hearing**, three weeks in advance of the proposed recital date, where three attending faculty assess whether the program is performance-ready. The student must also bring to the hearing 3 copies of a written draft of their program (examples and instructions are on the UNC Voice page) with all the cover information and translations.

In the hearing, the student will select the first piece and the faculty will hear as many pieces as necessary to assess the student’s preparedness. The student must also be ready to translate every piece that is in a foreign language.

**102 AND 202 JURIES** At the end of each semester, all students are expected to present a jury (individual singing examination of the songs you have prepared during the semester). The exam is graded by the voice faculty. Failure to meet the specified number of songs required for your examination will result in a lowered applied grade.

•The examination will take place in one of our performance venues (for example: Person Recital Hall and Person Choral Room) on Reading Days and possibly an exam day, if scheduling necessitates.

**• Music 202 students** are expected to present a minimum of 6 songs (first year/sophomore) and 7 songs (juniors/seniors). **\* Music 102** students present at least 4 pieces. These pieces should be of contrasting styles and languages.

• Jury sign-ups occur at least two weeks before juries. 102 students have a 10-minute time slot and 202 students have a 12-minute slot.

• Send your jury form electronically to your teacher at least 1 week prior to the last day of classes. Please fill the form out completely (title of piece, work it is from and composer). Please save and send the form as a Word document, not a pdf or any other form.

• You will be asked to recite a poetic translation of one of your songs. Please make sure you are not presenting a singing translation but rather, a literal word for word rendition.

**• Be sure to dress professionally for your jury. Casual attire is not appropriate.**

**VOICE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS FOR MUSIC 202 AND 302**

Level I (First Year): Represents a study of English and Italian song in your lessons. The stressing and comprehension of basic posture, breathing, phonation, resonation, and articulation (particularly as related the study of Italian diction). A study of phonetics should be undertaken. A performance on one Divisional Recital is required.

Level II (Sophomore): A study of either French or German diction and literature in your lessons is required. The study of vocal literature should now include opera and oratorio. A performance once per semester on Divisional Recital is required.

Level III (Junior): A study of either French or German diction and literature in your lessons (whichever one was not studied on level II) is required. There should be a study of interpretation and style with regard to nationalities, specific periods, and composers. Students are required to perform twice per semester on Divisional Recital. For BM performance majors, a half (junior) recital should successfully demonstrate proficiency including at least three languages (French or German, Italian and English with appropriate substitutions made by teacher i.e. Latin, Spanish, etc.). The recital should include songs (and arias) from the major style periods; Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th Century.

Level IV (Senior): Attention should be given to cycles and other extended groups of songs for the particular voice. Performance twice per semester on Divisional Recital or Departmental Recital, is required (see above). A Half or Full senior recital is required (see above for specific requirements). The specific content of the senior recital is determined by the student’s applied voice teacher.

**CHORAL ENSEMBLES** UNC has several opportunities for University, and Department of Music students to have wonderful choral experiences. The choirs are Carolina Choir, Chamber Singers, directed by Professor Susan Klebanow (Director of Choral Activities), UNC Soprano/Alto Glee Club, directed by Professor Laura Alexander, and UNC Tenor/Bass Glee Club, directed by Dr. Daniel Huff. To find out more about current offerings, audition requirements, performance information, etc. visit the Choral web page. <http://music.unc.edu/ensembles/choral> Students audition for choir placement in August (the first week of school) by signing up for an audition slot online via the Music website.

**UNC OPERA.** The UNC Opera Theatre is open to all UNC Voice students. Our active opera program is directed by Dr. Marc Callahan and offers many opportunities to perform, and learn about opera. To find out more about current productions and opera scenes program, visit the UNC Opera web page. <https://music.unc.edu/undergraduate/ensembles/opera/>

Announcements regarding auditions will be sent out on the UNC voice listserv.