

Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
Course Syllabus

Course Number: **Vocal Tech I & II 4201**

Teacher: Nathan D. Myers

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday by appointment

BTW Campus Room: 230

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Vocal Tech I
 - *15 American Art Songs w/CD* (G. Schirmer Edition.) in the appropriate range
 - *Twenty-Four Italian Art Songs and Arias w/CD* (G. Schirmer Edition) in the appropriate range
- Vocal Tech II
 - *Favorite French Art Songs Volume 1 w/CD* (Hal Leonard) in the appropriate range
 - *Favorite German Art Songs Volume 1 w/CD* (Hal Leonard) in the appropriate range

OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of Vocal Technique Class is to expose students to healthy vocal technique for both solo and ensemble singing. As a part of their studies, students will explore language diction for singing in English, Italian, German and French. Students will participate in regular exercises that encourage them to listen critically to musical presentations of others as well as their own. Students will study technical aspects of singing including breathing, posture, core engagement, facial expression and be introduced to beginning concepts in dramatic interpretation.

REPERTOIRE:

To be chosen by teacher in collaboration with student and student's private voice teacher with respect to the focus language of the given semester and the student's individual performance level.

EXPECTATIONS: All voice students are expected to do the following

- Practice assigned song(s) regularly. Individual practice sessions should include notes, rhythms, text as well as dramatic interpretation.
- Prepare music to the best of their abilities including complete (and timely) memorization of assigned song(s).
- Regularly listen to recordings of singers singing assigned song(s) when possible in order to get an idea of style.
- Attend live performances and regularly visit Internet sites and on-line resources specifically targeted towards developing singers.
- Attend regular weekly lessons with private voice teacher.
- Take good care of their physical, mental health & fitness.

Major Performance Dates: Dates are subject to change

- Tuesday, October 13, 2015 - Vocal Tech II Black Box Recital (4:30 -6:00pm)
- Wednesday, October 14, 2015 - Vocal Tech I Class Recital
- Friday, October 30, 2015 - TDO Opening Night Great Scott (8pm)*
- Friday, November 6, 2015 - TDO **Tosca** (7:30pm)*
- Friday, December 4, 2015 - TDO Becoming Santa Claus (7:30pm)*
- Saturday, December 5, 2015 - BTW Opera Workshop AMAHL (2pm &7pm)
- December 14 – 18, 2015 - Vocal JURIES
- Saturday, January 30, 2016 - Pre-UIL Solo/Ensemble (ALL DAY)
- Saturday, February 6, 2016 - UIL Solo/Ensemble @Townview H.S. (ALL DAY)
- Friday, March 4, 2016 - TDO Manon (7:30pm)*
- March 7 – 11, 2016 - Vocal Tech I Classroom Recitals
- Tuesday, April 12, 2016 - Vocal Tech II Black Box Recital (4:30 -6:00pm)
- Friday, April 15, 2016 - TDO Showboat (7:30pm)*
- Thursday, May 19, 2016 - BTW Opera Workshop **The Mikado** (7:30pm)
- Friday, May 20, 2016 - BTW Opera Workshop **The Mikado** (1:30 & 7:30pm)
- Saturday, May, 28, 2016 - Texas State Solo/Ensemble (UTAustin)

(*Optional based on availability)

PERFORMANCE OBSERVATIONS/CRITIQUES:

Per semester, each student is required to attend at least 5 live performances in which he/she is NOT a performer and complete a 1-page written review of each performance. 2 MET Live Broadcasts may count. Attending a production more than once does NOT count more than once unless there is a significantly different cast for the second performance. Students are to provide a ticket stub and playbill/program with the Observation assignment for full credit. Guidelines for acceptable written format of observation will be given separately.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

- 40% Classwork/Homework
- 30% Tests
- 20% Projects
- 10% Six-Weeks Exam

The grades will be calculated according to quality of work each student presents throughout the semester. Special attention will be paid to preparation, memorization, stage presence, vocal quality, as well as overall attitude and level of engagement and development throughout each grading period.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All students enrolled in Vocal Tech I & II are required to check message board located on the second floor just outside of Room 230 for general announcements.