

To all Master's, Professional Studies, and Doctoral Vocal Performance Majors:

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year at Manhattan School of Music.

The Opera department's performances for the coming year will include:

Fall semester--

Opera Scenes--repertoire TBA

Full opera--*PÉNÉLOPE* by Faure

Spring semester—

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO by Mozart

Educational Outreach performances-- Solo introductions; DISCOVER Opera; and a Young People's opera, TBA.

Scholarship students please note: it is the policy of the department that all scholarship students must audition for all opera auditions and accept whatever role offered at the discretion of the department.

Auditions for the Opera department will be held August 25-28th in Borden Auditorium. **New students** should email Silas Huff at shuff@msmny.edu for an audition time on Tuesday, August 25th. Appointment times will be emailed to all new students no later than June 26th, 2009. Some new students may be assigned to audition Wednesday, August 26th if additional time is needed.

Returning students who did not complete an informational audition in May should also contact Silas for an audition time on Wednesday, August 26th.

Students should prepare the following repertoire for each audition they are given:

General Auditions (August 25th/26th)—an aria in any foreign language, an aria in English and a musical theater song (you may substitute an English art song if needed for any audition).

Opera Callbacks (August 27th)—an aria in French, an aria in English, and a musical theater song.

Opera Scenes Callbacks (August 28th) an aria in Italian, an aria in English, and a musical theater song.

At the opera auditions, students will also be considered for placement in **Dona Vaughn's Opera Lab** (Advanced Professional), **Dona Vaughn's Opera Workshop** (Performance Technique), and **Mignon Dunn's Opera Workshop** (Opera Scenes).

Other ensembles and vocal classes for which you may audition or be placed into, depending on ensemble enrollment availability, are listed below. Please follow the instructions for each individual offering.

OPERA ENSEMBLE

Contemporary Opera (Ensemble) Instructor: Miriam Charney

(Tu 4-6:00 pm, Rm. 509, preferably for full year or by semester with permission of instructor)

Fall semester—explore contemporary opera – from Janacek and Britten to living composers - practice specific techniques for learning and study with instructor, guest composers, and singers. Performance of arias and duets.

Spring semester—Continue exploration and development of study and vocal techniques. Performance of scenes from contemporary opera

Auditions—Tues, Sept. 8th, 4-7:00 pm in Rm. 606.

Repertoire— aria or song you love to sing (any language, any period) and one ARIA (not song please!) from an opera written in the 20th/21st century (no Menotti, please). One of the selections should be in English, but it need not be the contemporary one.

Sign-up—With Carolyn Bronson x4034 (in Dean Merryman's office, Rm. 119)

VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Baroque Aria Ensemble Instructor: Ken Cooper

(Tu OR Thurs. 4-6 pm as assigned by faculty) Rm. 322

The Baroque Aria Ensemble offers MSM instrumentalists and vocalists a unique opportunity to work together, exploring the repertoire of 18th century opera, cantata, oratorio, concerto and chamber music. In addition to vocal and instrumental coaching, Dr. Cooper provides instruction in diction and acting, guidance in performance practices of the Baroque and Classical styles, improvisation, ornamentation and ensemble skills in preparation for professional work in this field.

Fall semester dress—Dec. 6-9, performance: Dec. 10.

Spring semester dress—April 13-19, performance: April 20.

Sign-up—With Lynne Normandia x4433 (Manager, Chamber Music & Ensembles, Rm. 201)

Vocal Performance Ensemble Instructor: Cynthia Hoffman

(Th 4-6:00 pm) Jewish Theological Society/ Broadway and West 122nd Street

A master class designed to enhance performance skills and communication through music, acting, and stage movement principals. The Alexander technique is also applied. Opera arias and song repertoire will be performed.

Sign-up—With Lynne Normandia (Manager, Chamber Music & Ensembles, Rm. 201)

Revealing the Actor Singer Within (Ensemble) Instructor: Catherine Malfitano

(M 6-8:00 or 8-10:00pm for full year)

The aim of this class is to help the singer integrate both music and drama, through imagination, creative preparation, and the transformation of nervous or fearful energy into purposeful, passionate, and potent performing energies. "Revealing the Actor Singer Within" is the pathway to embracing constant growth, eternal questioning, and abundant confidence, moment to moment in a flourishing singing-acting career.

Auditions—Tues, Sept. 8th, 6-10:00pm and Wed, Sept. 9th, 7-11:00pm, Rm. TBA.

Repertoire—Two pieces that you love to sing; one in English and one in another language.

Sign-up—With Lynne Normandia (Manager, Chamber Music & Ensembles, Rm. 201)

American Musical Theater Ensemble Instructor: Carolyn Marlow

(F 4-7:00 in fall, and T 4-6:00 and F 4-7:00 in spring)

Members learn the style of musical theater performance, audition technique and repertory, and scene technique. The second semester is entirely devoted to the spring production which is usually a musical revue. The performances take place in Borden Auditorium, usually in mid May. There are three performances with no double casting. Some past productions include *Side by Side* by Sondheim, *September Songs* (Kurt Weill), *Defying Gravity* (Stephen Schwartz), *An Evening with George and Lenny* (Gershwin and Bernstein), and *Into the Woods*.

Musical Theater Lab (Ensemble) Instructor: Carolyn Marlow

(T 3-5:00 in the fall)

Very similar in format to the first semester of **American Musical Theater Ensemble**, the main goals of **Musical Theater Lab** are that students learn solid musical theater technique and build their musical theater repertory. There is a small studio performance at the end of the semester. Members of **AMTE** and the **LAB** are selected from the same Fall audition.

Auditions—Fri, Sept. 11th, 4-7:00 pm in Rm. 606 and 607, and Tues, Sept. 15th, 3-5:00pm call backs in Rm. 607.

Repertoire—Two contrasting pieces from musical theater: one ballad (slow song) and one up-tempo (fast or lively song).

Sign-up—With Lynne Normandia (Manager, Chamber Music & Ensembles, Rm. 201)

French Vocal Chamber Music (Ensemble) Instructor: Gait Sirguy

(Tu 4-6:00 pm) Rm. 412

French vocal chamber music for 2, 3, or 4 solo voices, a cappella, as well as with instrumentalists, encompassing the entire spectrum of the melody period from the 19th century to the present. Major emphasis is on the French performance style as well as the individual interpretation of composers. Good French diction and aptitude for contemporary music are helpful for this class.

Sign-up—With Lynne Normandia (Manager, Chamber Music & Ensembles, Rm. 201)

VOCAL ACCOMPANYING

Songs of the Romantic Period (Ensemble) Instructor: Raymond Beegle

(Th OR Fr, 5-7:00 pm) Rm. 415

This is a performance class focusing on German, Russian, and French songs for solo voice and piano. Songs in other languages, however, are also welcome. Rehearsal techniques, diction, style, and ensemble issues will be presented in a way to prepare both singer and pianist for future professional collaboration.

Sign-up—With Lynne Normandia (Manager, Chamber Music & Ensembles, Rm. 201)

NEW: Russian Romances and Ballads (Ensemble) Instructor: Raymond Beegle

(Tue 5-7:00) Rm. TBA

A survey of the great Russian song literature with an emphasis on the romances and ballads of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. Works of Glinka and Rimsky-Korsakov, etc. will be included, as well as more recent songs of Shostakovich and Prokofiev. There will be an optional opportunity to learn duets, trios, and quartets for those who are interested. A fundamental knowledge of the Russian alphabet will be presented so that the student will never again have to rely on confusing transliterations.

Sign-up—With Lynne Normandia (Manager, Chamber Music & Ensembles, Rm. 201)

Vocal Accompanying Seminar (Class) Instructor: Warren Jones

(Tu 8-9:50, Rm. 606; F 12:30-1:50, Rm. 322)

Repertoire—Mr. Jones wants to hear some beautiful singing (aria or song) less than five minutes....no exceptions! For the past 2 years, the class has studied/surveyed a potpourri of styles and repertory according to the needs/wishes of the singers involved. The class will NOT be doing a complete opera.

Auditions—Mon, Aug. 31st, or Tuesday, Sept. 1st, in Rm. 606.

Sign-up—With Carolyn Bronson (in Dean Merryman's office, Rm. 119)

Vocal Accompanying Seminar (Class) Instructor: Ken Merrill

(Tu 2-3:50 pm, Rm. 322)

Fall semester—Wolf's *Spanisches Liederbuch*.

Spring semester—Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* or assorted scenes, ensembles, etc. from Puccini operas.

Auditions—Tues, Sept. 8th, from 2-5:00 pm in Rm. 322.

Repertoire—German lied, preferably by Wolf.

Sign-up—With Carolyn Bronson (in Dean Merryman's office, Rm. 119)

Vocal Accompanying Seminar (Class) Instructor: Tom Muraco

(Fri. 2-4:00 pm, Rm. 322)

Mr. Muraco usually selects an opera based on the singers accepted into the class.

Fall semester & Spring semester—Full opera.

Auditions—Mr. Muraco will hear singers at the Opera department's general auditions.

Repertoire—use the requirements for the opera department's general auditions.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Guitar and Voice Duo (Ensemble) Instructor: Coaches and times various.

In the style of a master class, two groups of singer/guitar duos will meet together with their coach for one hour per week, with each duo receiving ½ hour of coaching. This chamber music option would allow you to sing a variety of repertoire, including classical art songs, with guitar as the accompaniment.

Sign-up—With Lynne Normandia (Manager, Chamber Music & Ensembles, Rm. 201)

If you have any questions about auditions, please email me before Friday, June 26th, 2009 at gostrowski@msmny.edu. I look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Sincerely,

Gordon Ostrowski

Assistant Dean/Opera Producer