Welcome and welcome back! As we begin the semester I look forward to some wonderful singing and a lot of progress by each of you. Your grade will be made up of several components, detailed below. Please be sure to read this thoroughly and let me know if you have any questions.

**Course Objectives:** To develop a strong and healthy vocal technique as well as excellent musicianship. For those music majors, we will also focus on preparation for a successful career in performance or music education.

**Attendance:** This is the easiest 10 points of each lesson. Show up, on time, ready to sing with your music and supplementary materials. At your scheduled lesson time don’t knock, just come in and quietly take a seat. Listen to what is happening with the current lesson; you will be able to learn a lot in a few minutes of listening to someone else work.

Music Department policy is that lessons cancelled or missed by the students do not have to be made up. However, there are times that serious illness or emergencies arise. In that rare instance, I will do my best to schedule you a make up lesson later in the semester, as time permits. Additionally, when I say ill, I mean in a state that you cannot stand up. If you have a cold or a scratchy throat there are plenty of things we can work on, so come to your lesson as scheduled. If you are late to your lesson, it will still end at the scheduled time, as there is another student arriving after you and it is not fair to extend your lesson into their time. You will be docked points in direct proportion to the tardiness of your arrival time. So be on time!!

Periodically I may have conflicts due to performance obligations or other concerns. If this is the case, I will always make up all lessons missed.

**Practice and weekly grading:** You must practice daily! There is no other way to improve your technique than by careful attention to detail while you practice. Each week you will be graded on tone quality, vowel purity, diction, comprehension of text, rhythmic accuracy and expression of the music. You will also have sight singing assignments that will be graded weekly, again a technique that must be practiced daily.

**Listening assignments:** You will have weekly listening assignments. You will need to keep a record of what is on each CD or album, and your impressions of the style, voice quality and some specific remarks on your favorite selection from the recording. You will keep this log in your staff paper notebook, and it will be checked and graded at each lesson. Simply listing the track number is not sufficient, the listings are to include the title of the recording, title of each track, the composer (if it is not the same for the entire recording), the performers and conductor. Follow this listing with your personal observations.
This is meant to be a helpful resource for you in the future when you will be choosing your own repertoire.

**Materials:** You will need a small tabletop mirror, 3-4 inches in diameter, a small staff paper notebook (or you can print out full size staff paper and put it in a binder), and a metronome. I recommend a metronome that is battery powered and small. It is nice if it has some visual cue, not just audio, as they can be hard to hear when you are singing full voice. We will work mainly from anthologies or collections. It is important that you have original copies of everything you sing. You will also need a pianist copy for each piece. We will discuss this further in your early lessons. Pencils, pencils, pencils!

**Studio class:** There will be a mandatory studio class at the end of the semester (tentatively April 23 or 24th, time TBA in Peter). Your pieces will need to be memorized for this performance, and you will be graded on all aspects of the presentation.

**Performance Class, Juries and Recitals:** Voice majors must each do a Performance Class each semester (unless it is our first semester together), you are also required to do a jury – for which all aspects of your performance will be graded. Recital requirements: if you are a BM in Performance – you have a requirement of a Junior half recital and a Senior full recital, BM in Music Ed – Senior half recital, BA Music – optional recital. You are responsible for your recital notes – requirements of which we will go over on an individual basis. All aspects of the recital will be graded.

**Voice majors Sophomore and above:** You will choose a book about such topics as a classical vocal musician, opera, choral organization, a music educator or the business side of a performance career. Upon completion of the book, you will write a one-page summary including personal impressions and opinions of what you have learned. This summary is due no later than March 28, 2006.

Please keep in mind that each of you come to the studio with a different level of experience and talent. Even though you will be graded each week using the aforementioned criteria, there is always more to be considered when determining your final grade. Some of the other areas I will be evaluating are how your musicality has improved, your effort over the semester, as well as how you have grown artistically. These are not things that I will grade each lesson but they will factor into your final grade and they will mostly likely be weighted differently for each of you.

**Honesty policy:** I am obliged to mention, that you are held to the same, strict, college standards in your voice lessons with regard to the honesty and integrity of your work as in any other course at Moravian College. If you are unfamiliar with this policy, please review that section of your Student Handbook.

**Here’s to a great semester!**