MU310.1 AND 200.1
STUDIO VOICE
2009-10 ACADEMIC YEAR

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Regular hours Tuesday-Thursday 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
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OVERVIEW: Welcome! My goals for you this term are basically a continuation of that which we began in the fall: developing your vocal instrument, and helping you discover the many facets thereof. Additionally, we will embark on a study of repertoire that will assist you in your development as a performing artist. If you are a major, obviously, we have a performance class and a jury for which we must now begin preparation; time passes quickly! Also, two of you have recitals upcoming! Hence, it promises to be a busy but exciting term. As always, a few housekeeping issues to be covered:

ABSENCE and LATENESS:
Bear in mind that we have only 13 meetings throughout the semester. Though it does not always seem so, time passes quickly, and before you know it, it is soon performance class time or jury time, leaving everyone in panic mode. Therefore, it is imperative that you make it to each of our weekly times. I am always aware that there are going to be times that there will be factors present which will prohibit our meeting. I have been here a long time, and am well aware of the various problems which can and do occur. Hence, should something occur (illness, etc.) which precludes you from attending a lesson, all that I ask is that you kindly let me know of your absence as soon as possible. Now that I am somewhere in the late 1990s and actually own a cell phone, this is probably the best way to notify me that you have a problem. As long as I am aware that you may not be able to make it, that’s fine. These I refer to as EXCUSED ABSENCES, and I will always try and make them up at some point. However, if you just don’t show up, that becomes a horse of an entirely different color, and this results in an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE. I am then required by the College to issue you a score of ZIP! ZERO! NADA! UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL NOT BE MADE UP…PERIOD! IN ADDITION TO THIS, THREE UNEXCUSED LATENESSES COUNT AS ONE UNEXCUSED ABSENCE AND WILL RESULT IN THE SAME SCORE: ZIP! ZERO! NADA! As with absences, if you realize that you may be late, fine; just kindly let me know in advance. Call the studio or my cell phone—I am on the air virtually 24/7. ‘Nough said about this. Don’t make me resort to these sordid tactics, mkay?

GRADES AND SCORING: Grades will continue to be awarded as in the past. I complete a scoring sheet after each of your lessons and your semester performance class performance. At the end of the semester, I will average the sum totals of each lesson and divide by 13, and that in turn becomes your score. You are free to see your scores at any time in the event that you wish to know how you are progressing. As always, my overriding concern is your continued development as a singer, and that you continue onward in your development to become the best performer that you can be once you leave Moravian and go out there on your own.
PRACTICING: There have been questions over the years about this area, and there are many answers. A curious thing about singers is that there have been, are now, and always will be varying areas of natural talent, dexterity, etc. Some need to practice more, some less. The bottom line to all of this is: NO SLACKING! The performing arts, and singing in particular, is an extremely cut-throat industry, and people would murder your Grandmother to grab a role, etc. out from under you. It is therefore imperative that once you begin performing out in the real world you possess every attribute which will make you successful. This is simply not possible, sorry to say, without spending a good deal of time in the practice room. Some folks need a great deal of time, some less so. However, those who have become immensely successful in this business always base their success on practicing at least 5 out of 7 days per week. Hence, I would like each of you to practice AT LEAST FIVE DAYS PER WEEK! This is NOT excessive. If you don’t practice, you will be waiting tables at Appleby’s until you are old and gray. The only way around this lousy fate is for you to practice and become the best singer you can be. For voice performance majors, I expect 5-7 hours per week; for majors (Music ed., sacred music), 4-5 hours per week; for minors, 2-3 hours per week. This is no means excessive. In addition, I WANT YOU TO KEEP A PHYSICAL RECORD OF THE DAYS AND TIMES YOU PRACTICE, AND I WILL MONITOR IT FROM TIME TO TIME. Kindly procure a notebook or reasonable facsimile and keep a log of the days and times you spend time rehearsing in the practice room. In addition, a notebook can be helpful with your studies for questions, etc. and other stuff that may come up during your lesson. Look: practicing is a necessary evil! There simply is no other way to give yourself every opportunity to rise to the top of your profession. Trust me on this one; I’ve been there and done it. There have been performances with which I have struggled due to a lack of practice time. I did not become the best singer I could have as soon because I prioritized poorly when I was your age. Don’t leave yourselves suffer the same fate. You will also not suffer the ill effects of performance anxiety as much, as the better prepared you are for a public performance, the better it will go and the less anxiety you will experience as a result.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR, MORAVIAN COLLEGE: Any student who feels that they are becoming overwhelmed and, hence, irreconcilably lost in a particular field of study is asked to contact that Department Chair (in this case, Mr. Barnes), who will put you in touch with the learning center, which can provide you with excellent extra assistance. This is an excellent resource for you; don’t hesitate to use it.

ONE LAST THING: I am here as a resource in assisting your development as a singer. If there is something I can do to assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to utilize my services! That, more than anything else, is what I am here to do! Have a good semester. G.O.