

Opera Workshop Course Outline 2017-18

This course outline refers to Western University, Don Wright Faculty of Music, undergraduate courses (2970, 3970, and 4970) and graduate ensemble course (9528 or 9546).

***Note.** The early drop date for this course is October 6th, 2017. See the MPS Performance Handbook for Western University’s standard policies on illness and absence accommodations. Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy – specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence:

- <http://music.uwo.ca/current-students/undergraduate/acad-counselling.html>
- http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf
- http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html (Health and Wellness)

***Note.** Texting and the use of electronic devices are not allowed during rehearsals, except in the backstage area during production weeks.

1. Course Description

“Performing and technical aspects of the production of opera, including musical and dramatic interpretation, stage movement, techniques of stagecraft, lighting, scene construction, make-up, costumes.”

The Opera Workshop takes place – according to the calendar – on Mondays from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. During production, other times are also required in order to fully prepare for the performances. Rehearsals/coachings will also be scheduled on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., Fridays from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., and some Saturdays during the Fall Semester leading up to the production of *Carmen*. There will also be music/staging rehearsals for *The Pirates of Penzance* scheduled during the second week of December 2017 **for principles only**. There will be rehearsals for *The Pirates of Penzance* on all Saturdays in January 2018 starting after January 8th.

If the participants are unable to attend these extra times (during production) due to a schedule conflict with another class, we will attempt to adjust the schedule to accommodate. It should be noted, however, that we may also have to adjust the participant’s role/assignment, as well. The venues and times for these rehearsals are listed in the **Master Schedule**, which is part of this document.

Participants must inform Professor Baerg if they are unable to participate in all of the times listed above, as well as in the Master Schedule, **within one week** after the role assignments for the year have been posted. It is essential that participants in the Opera Workshop are available for all of

their calls. All members of the Opera Workshop will be required to participate as assigned following acceptance into the course. This may include roles in the various productions, chorus assignments, assistance in stage management, and the technical areas of production: costumes, makeup and hair, stage crew, or production assistance.

Master students and Doctoral students/candidates are expected to display leadership and mentor/support the other members of the company.

All members of the Opera Workshop should note that casting is always subject to change, if the singer is deemed to be unprepared or otherwise unsuitable for the role. These changes will be at the discretion of the producer, head coach, stage director, and music director. The student's vocal teacher will be consulted as is deemed appropriate.

Casting for the Opera Workshop will be posted **within seven days** following the end of auditions in September 2017.

2. Course/Production Participant Responsibilities

Opera is a collaborative art form, and knowledge of how it is produced – in all of its technical areas and at all levels – is invaluable to the aspiring performer. It is the student's responsibility to take advantage of all of the opportunities available for increasing that knowledge as provided by the Opera Workshop experience.

Members of the Opera Workshop are expected to know their words and music when they arrive for a coaching. Preparing the music to this initial level is the personal responsibility of the student. Coaches are **NOT** expected to teach notes and rhythms to the singers, but will correct inaccuracies and rehearse music for style, diction, and memory. Understudies/covers should plan on attending all musical and staging rehearsals. Coachings and some staging rehearsals will be offered to the understudies, where possible in the schedule, once those performing the roles have been prepared. Understudies in past years have been asked to take over roles, and all current understudies should bear that in mind.

***Important Requirement.** All members of the Opera Workshop are required to provide a short 150-word biography and a head-shot picture **before September 29th, 2017**. This information will be used for the program and promotional purposes.

***N.B. The following dates are mandatory for music to be memorized:**

- *Carmen* (principles) – October 11th, 2017
- *Carmen* (chorus) – October 16th, 2017
- *The Pirates of Penzance* (principles) – November 17th, 2017

- *The Pirates of Penzance* (chorus) – December 1st, 2017
- Spring Gala: Favourite Scenes – February TBD, 2018

***Note.** If music has not memorized by the date(s) specified, role assignments may be changed and marks will be adjusted accordingly.

Members of the Opera Workshop are required to be on time for all coachings, be available **at least ten minutes** before their call for all staging rehearsals, and be available **at least 15 minutes** before all orchestra rehearsals. Costume fittings and makeup times will be posted, and punctuality is required for these calls, as well. If a student is unable to attend any of the above, they must inform the coach or the stage manager of the production **at least twelve hours in advance** of their absence. Sending an email or leaving a telephone message immediately prior to an absence does **NOT** constitute sufficient notice. All opera-production preparation requires a great deal of organization, and we cannot afford to lose valuable coaching/rehearsal time. Students will be excused for reasons of illness, personal emergency, and religious accommodation, in addition to other reasons as appropriate to the policies of Western University. If the reason for absence cannot be confirmed, the role assignment may be altered at the discretion of the producer/director/music director. Please note that coachings missed for any reason will be made up only if scheduling allows, and the missed coaching in question will be offered to someone else.

All members of the Opera Workshop should be aware – and always remember – that our artform relies on the good will and volunteer effort of many to be a success. The collegial attitude and manner of participation should always reflect our gratefulness for their continuing assistance. This includes members of both our university and local communities.

If a member of the Opera Workshop is unable to take part in movement/choreography classes for reasons of a physical difficulty, she/he should let the producer know **as soon as possible**. The producer may request confirmation in accordance with Western University's standard policies.

3. Grading Scheme

The following will be considered when the final marks are awarded in this course:

- Punctual attendance at all scheduled calls (**10 %**)
- The level of the knowledge of the music when it is brought to coachings/rehearsals, as well as participation in production-based assignments (**25%**)
- Level of memorization of assigned music by the assigned date (**30%**)
- Participation in the assigned performances, excluding performances missed due to illness or other acceptable reasons (**30%**)
- Collegiality, as it affects the other members of the performing troupe and their abilities to

perform their responsibilities (5%)

4. Course-schedule Information

The attached Master Schedule (part of this document) will be subject to changes in emergency situations, and will be changed after consultation with those affected by said changes. The weekly schedule will be sent to all members of the company via email before 12:00 p.m Saturday for the following week. It will also be available on the Opera Workshop's website (<http://wuoperaworkshop.ca/>). Finding out what is on the schedule is the students responsibility.

If a student is unable to come to a coaching due to illness, the understudy will be considered first for the timeslot; after that, the time will be re-assigned at the discretion of the coaching staff and producer. Coachings missed without reasonable excuse **will NOT be re-scheduled**, and the music preparation will be the responsibility of the student.

All students who have been accepted into the course must immediately and carefully check the Master Schedule for potential class conflicts. If these conflicts will cause difficulty with the fulfillment of your responsibilities listed above, you must make the producer aware of these conflicts. It is **the student's responsibility** to make these conflicts known **well in advance**, so that arrangements can be made to assist the students with requests for absence from the conflicting event/class and ensure their presence at Opera Workshop rehearsals and performances. All members of the Opera Workshop must be available as called during the two weeks prior to all dress rehearsals and continuing through the performance period. Please note that all students will not be called to all of the scheduled rehearsals, but must be available if required. The master schedule covers all activities during the Opera Workshop season.

5. Production Personnel 2017-18

- Coordinator of Western Opera
 - Professor Theodore Baerg
 - E-mail – tbaerg@uwo.ca
 - Office telephone – Ext. 85388
 - Office no. – MB (307)
- Opera Production Coordinators
 - Jennifer Cyr, Adam Iannetta, Chad Louwerse, and Jorge Trabanco
- Music Director (*Carmen*)
 - Simone Luti
- Music Director (Spring Gala: Favourite Scenes)
 - Simone Luti
- Music Director (*The Pirates of Penzance*)
 - Tyrone Paterson
- Stage Director (*Carmen*)
 - Allison Grant
- Stage Directors (Spring Gala: Favourite Scenes)
 - Chad Louwerse and Jennifer Cyr (with Professor Theodore Baerg)
- Stage Director (*The Pirates of Penzance*)
 - Professor Theodore Baerg
- Choreographer
 - Miranda Wickett
- Head Coach
 - Simone Luti
- Repetiteurs
 - TBA
- Stage Manager(s)
 - TBA
- Costume Design and/or Co-ordination
 - Julie McGill
- Set Design
 - Eric Bunnell
- Lighting Design
 - TBA
- Theatre/Performance Location Coordinator
 - Louis D'Alton and Bryan Hart

MASTER CLASS SCHEDULE UWOPERA 2017-18

NOTE THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS PART OF THE DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
OPERA WORKSHOP CLASS OUTLINE

Carmen
Pirates of Penzance
Gala

Venues Music Building 27, 227, 140, 254
Coaching TC 10, MB 307
Paul Davenport Theatre PDT

****NOTE: SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO ACTIVITY CHANGES ON THE WEEKLY
SCHEDULE****

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY/Call	LOCATION
9/11	6-10	Auditions	MB 227
9/12	6-10	Auditions	MB 227
9/14		Casting Posted	
9/18	6-9:00	Class Full Company And Measurements TBA Coaching Carmen TBA	MB 27
9/19		Coaching Carmen	MB 227, TBA
9/22	4-7	Coach Carmen	TBA
9/25		**There will be costume measurements on this evening for full company	
	6-9:30	Costume Measurements	MB 254
		ALL Cast <u>must</u> be measured at this time.	
	6:30-9:30	Coach Carmen	227
	6-6:30	Cast Meeting Carmen	27
	6:30-7:30	Carmen Chorus Rehearsal	27
	6:45-7:30	Cast Meeting Pirates/Gala	227
9/25	6-7:30	Coach Carmen Chorus Rehearsal Carmen	227, TBA 27
9/26		Coach Carmen	227, TBA
9/29	4-8	Coach Carmen	TBA
	4-6	Carmen Chorus Rehearsal	27
10/2	6-9:30	Coach Carmen	TBA
	6-9	Orca Reading	MB 27

	6-7:30	Pirates Dialogue/Music Meeting	254
10/3	6-9:30 6-8	Coach Carmen Carmen Chorus Rehearsal	TBA 227
10/6	4-7	Coach Carmen All Principles	MB 27
10/9		No Call Thanksgiving	
10/10-13		Stage Carmen During the Day All Principles Called Rehearsals 10-1 and 2-6	
10/14	1:30-5	Stage Carmen	MB 27
10/16	6-9 6-9 6-9	Stage Carmen Carmen Chorus Carmen Orca reading	227 254, TBA MB 27
10/17	6-9:30 6-9:30	Stage Carmen Full Company Coach Carmen	227 140
10/20	4-9	Stage Carmen	27
10/21	1:30-5:30/6:30-10:30	Stage Carmen	27
10/23	6-9:30	Stage Carmen Full Company Carmen Orca Reading	227 27
10/24	6-9:30	Stage Carmen Full Company	227
10/27	4-9	Stage Carmen Full Company	27
10/28	1:30-5:30/6:30-10	Stage Carmen	27
10/30	6-9:30 6-9	Stage Carmen Full Company Coach Pirates Carmen ORCA Reading	227 254 MB 27
10/31	6-10 6-9:30	Stage Carmen Coach Pirates	227 254,140
11/3	4-9	Stage Carmen	27
11/4	1:30-5:30/6:30-10	Stage Carmen	27
11/6	6-10 7-10	Stage Carmen Full Company ORCA Reading	PDT MB 27

11/7 6-10	Run Carmen Full Company Coach Pirates	PDT 254/140
11/8 6-10	Run Carmen	PDT
11/9 6-10	Run Carmen	PDT
11/10 3:30-6:30 7:30-10	Carmen@ Orca Sitz Probe	PDT
11/11 10-12:30 1:30-4	Carmen ORCA Runs	PDT
11/12 6-10:30	Carmen @ Piano	PDT
11/13 5-10:30	Carmen @ Orca	PDT
11/14 6-10	Dress # 1 Carmen @ Orca (at 7)	PDT
11/15 9-1:30	Dress # 2 Carmen @ Orca (at 10)	PDT
11/16 6:30-10:30	Carmen #1 8pm curtain	PDT
11/17 6:30-10:30	Carmen #2 8 pm curtain	PDT
11/18 6:30-10:30	Carmen #3 8 pm curtain	PDT
11/19 12:30-4:30	Carmen #4 2 pm curtain	PDT
11/20 6-9	Pirates Music/Dialogue	27,227
11/21 6-9	Pirates Dialogue/Music	227,254
11/24 4-9	Pirates Staging/Dialogue/Music	27/227
11/27 6-9:30	Pirates Chorus Music Pirates Dialogue @ Baerg	27 227
11/28 6-9:30	Pirates Chorus Music @ Paterson Pirates Dialogue @ Baerg	227 254
12/1 4-9	Pirates Music @ Paterson	27
12/2 2-5 6:30-9:30	Pirates Choreography Full Company Pirates Staging	27
12/4 6-9:30	Pirates Staging @ Chorus	27
12/5 6-9:30	Pirates Staging Principles	227

12/11-15 **Daytime Pirates of Penzance Principles Staging Rehearsals** 10-1/2-5

2018

Note that there will be Gala Music Rehearsals During January TBA

1/8	6-10 6-9	Pirates Staging @ Chorus Orca Reading with Paterson	MB 227 MB 27
1/9	2-5 & 6-10	Pirates Staging @ Chorus	PDT
1/12	4-9 5-8	Pirates Staging @ Chorus Orca Reading with Paterson	PDT MB 27
1/13	2-5 & 6-10	Pirates Staging @ Chorus	PDT
1/15	6-10	Pirates Staging @ Chorus Orca Reading with Paterson	PDT MB 27
1/16	6-10	Pirates Run Full Company	PDT
1/17	6-10	Pirates Run Full Company	PDT
1/18	6-10	Pirates Run Full Company	PDT
1/19	3-6:30 7:30-10	Orca Reading with Paterson (Orca 4-6:30) Sitzprobe #1 Full Company	PDT PDT
1/20	1:30-5 6-10	Sitzprobe # 2 Full Company (Orca 2-5) Orca Run Full Company (Orca 7-10)	PDT PDT
1/22	6-10	Pirates Staging @ Orca (Orca 7-10)	PDT
1/23	6-10:30	Pirates Dress # 1	PDT
1/24	9-1:30	Pirates Dress # 2	PDT
1/26	6-11	Pirates Performance #1	PDT
1/27	6-11	Pirates Performance #2	PDT
1/28	12:30-5	Pirates Performance #3	PDT
2/2	6-11	Pirates Performance #4	PDT
2/3	6-11	Pirates Performance #5	PDT

2/4	12:30-5	Pirates Performance #6	PDT
2/5	6-9	GALA Music	27, 227
2/6	6-9	GALA Music	227,140
2/9	4-8	Gala Music/Staging	27,
2/12	6-9	Gala Music/Staging	27, 227
2/13	6-9	Gala Music/Staging	227/140
2/26	6-9	Gala Staging	27, 227
2/27	6-9	Gala Staging	227
3/2	4-8	Gala Staging	27/227
3/3	1:30-5:30	Gala Staging	27
3/5	6-9	Gala Staging	27
3/6	6-9	Gala Staging	227
3/9	4-8	Gala Staging	27
3/10	2:30-5:30	Gala Staging	TBA
3/12	6-9:30	Gala Runs	PDT
3/13	6-9:30	Gala Runs	PDT
3/14	6-9:30	Gala Dress	PDT
3/16	6:30-10	Gala # 1	PDT
3/17	6:30-10	Gala # 2	PDT

END OF UWOPERA SEASON

AVAILABILITY/ROOM ASSIGNMENTS/DAYS/TIMES

Monday MB 27,227,254 6-10
 Tuesday MB 227, 254,140 6-10
 Friday MB 27, 254, 227 4-9
 Saturday MB 27 (Afternoon/Evening)
 Coachings also occur in TC 10 and MB 307 as necessary

PDT as per the schedule