

The Voice Division of the Towson University Department of Music regularly includes education in vocal health for those students taking applied lessons. Below is an outline of courses, seminars and masterclasses offered by the Division over the last several years in this regard.

All Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance students [B.M.] are required to take MUSC 442/542 – Vocal Pedagogy. The objectives of this course are as follows:

- To comprehend and discuss the philosophy and psychology of singing as well as the integration of the body and mind in the act of singing.
- To gain a basic working knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the vocal instrument including respiration, phonation, registration, resonance, and articulation, and other body structures used in singing and to use this knowledge and vocabulary in the evaluation of various pedagogical approaches described in the textbooks and supplemental readings.
- To understand the broad historical context of vocal pedagogy and pedagogues and the art of singing.
- To practice this knowledge through actual voice teaching and to discuss one's pedagogy and teaching with the class through video examples of your lessons.
- To write an assessment of oneself as a teacher based upon the one-on-one teaching and to write an evaluation of one's teaching partner.
- To attend two lessons by two different professional voice teachers.
- To research an area of vocal pedagogy as assigned to a small group and present your research in class as a group with appropriate handouts, bibliography, study guides, audio-visual aids etc...
- To gain knowledge about vocal pedagogy by attending a field trip to visit medical professionals and/or through visitations by medical professionals to class.

While MUSC 442 provides voice students an extensive one-semester experience in vocal pedagogy and vocal health, the Voice Division provides many other opportunities for its students as well. As mandated by NASM, the Division offers some experience in vocal health at least every other academic year. Health care professionals from the Milton J. Dance Head and Neck Center at Greater Baltimore Medical Center [GBMC] have come to present to our students on a consistent basis for the at least the last fifteen [15] years. These visitations by doctors, speech language pathologists, physical therapists, and hearing specialists have led to Towson students

being invited to GBMC for free voice screenings. Rapport with Towson voice faculty and the community of physicians and health care providers is strong.

To address those students, and especially Music Education students, who do not take MUSC 442 – Vocal Pedagogy, because it is not required of their degree program, the Voice Division regularly schedules at least one seminar in basics of vocal anatomy and physiology and care of the voice. A similar presentation is made to teaching professionals at Towson's annual High School Choral Festival. Still further, one of the Division's faculty members was a keynote speaker in 2014 at a peer-reviewed conference in vocal health presented by the MedChi Institute of Maryland.

The Voice Division has also regularly included workshops for our students in Alexander Technique which directly relates to vocal health and whole-body awareness. In Fall 2012 Ms. Nancy Romita (Certified Alexander Specialist) gave a half-day seminar and experiential class in Alexander Technique and its application for singers. In AY 13-14, the Department of Music hired an adjunct professor certified in Alexander to work with voice students in stage performance of opera and song repertoire. This same Alexander teacher is also working with instrumentalists in small-group workshops on the technique.

All voice faculty within the Division as well as Towson's Director of Choirs are regularly addressing vocal health within lessons and ensembles. Additionally, MUED 210 – Voice Class is a course required of instrumental majors in Music Education that focuses on healthy vocal production and vocal health concepts for this group of future music educators. .

Below is a specific list of activities conducted by the Voice Division between Fall 2011-Spring 2014. As previously mentioned, similar activities have been offered throughout the period since the Department's last self-study and reaccreditation.

- 1) Workshop with Kristen Handy on Physical therapy for artists focusing on posture, alignment, stretches, and exercises of our instruments (spring 2011)
- 2) Alexander Technique classes with Nancy Romita (Fall 2012)
- 3) Vocal Pedagogy workshop for Music Education Majors with Dr. Phillip Collister (Spring 2013)
- 4) Alexander Technique workshops in MFTS with Marsha Becker (Fall 2013)
- 5) Vocal Pedagogy workshop at the TU High School Choral Festival for local high school teachers with Dr. Phillip Collister (Fall 2013)
- 6) Alexander Technique workshops for all voice students with Marsha Becker (Spring 2014)
- 7) Johns Hopkins Voice Center at GBMC - Dr. Kenneth Fletcher and Barbara Messing - Presentation on vocal health, production, prevention and treatment. (Spring 2014)
- 8) Dr. Phillip Collister was a keynote speaker at The Performing Arts Medicine Committee of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society Vocal Health Day 2014.
- 9) Weekly masterclasses with our current voice faculty that focus on vocal technique, healthy vocal habits, posture and presentation (every semester)
- 10) Vocal Pedagogy course for all BM voice majors offered every other fall semester ('12, '14)