MUS 304
Advanced Vocal Studies
S1 Day 2016
Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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# General Information

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<th>Unit convenor and teaching staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Convenor</td>
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<td>Diane Hughes</td>
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- **Credit points**: 3

- **Prerequisites**: MUS205 and MUS206

- **Corequisites**:  

- **Co-badged status**:  

**Unit description**

Building on MUS206, this unit enables singers to explore various contemporary music practices of vocal recording and performance at an advanced level. This includes further development of the creative skills introduced in the intermediate level of vocal studies. Vocal processing and technological applications on the singing voice are explored. The unit provides students with experience in a recording studio, singing in an audition component and structuring individual performance showcases. Students will be allocated studio time to record. With a focus on the singer as artist in lectures and practical tutorials, students engage in critical listening and thinking.

# Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/](http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/)
Learning Outcomes

1. Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
2. Apply effectively and analyse the use of technology to the singing voice in live performance and in recording
3. Identify and maintain vocal integrity in recording processes
4. Analyse and integrate vocal audition requirements
5. Collaborate with an accompanist
6. Maintain vocal health and vocal care strategies

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative exercises</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 4 - 21/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal recording processes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Mid-session break &amp; Wk 8 - 2/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audition processes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Week 9 - 9/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic strategies</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Week 12 - 30/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal performance</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 13 - 6/6 and 7/6</td>
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Creative exercises

Due: **Week 4 - 21/3**

Weighting: **10%**

Students sing a selection of the vocal exercises (set, individual and creative).

Set singing exercises will be assessed in tutorial times (where possible) on individual demonstration of the following criteria:

- implementation of appropriate vocal technique
- creative elements
- musical elements (e.g. dynamics, phrasing and syncopation)
- the use of technology where appropriate
- stylistic integrity
- artistry
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
- Maintain vocal health and vocal care strategies

**Vocal recording processes**

**Due:** Mid-session break & Wk 8 - 2/5  
**Weighting:** 20%

During an allocated one hour time session during the mid-session break (with a thirty minute allocation of mixing time), students sing in a recording studio, record a song and then analyse the recording post-session taking into account preparation, the recording process and the recorded product.

Students will be assessed on the following criteria:

- singing during a recording session  
- suitability of the recorded accompaniment or the accompaniment of one instrument. (Please note that no additional time will be allocated for recording an instrumental backing and the vocals must be completed within the one hour time allocation.)
- implementation of appropriate vocal technique  
- creative elements  
- individual interpretation and expressive techniques  
- musical and stylistic integrity  
- demonstration of vocal effects in relation to the recording  
- use appropriate terminology in session and in analysis

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity  
- Apply effectively and analyse the use of technology to the singing voice in live performance and in recording  
- Identify and maintain vocal integrity in recording processes  
- Maintain vocal health and vocal care strategies
Audition processes
Due: **Week 9 - 9/5**
Weighting: **20%**

Students select an audition scenario and prepare to participate in an audition. The scenarios will be discussed in lectures and tutorials.

Students will be required to provide accompaniment (live piano, guitar or recording backing track) in an appropriate key. Students may accompany themselves if they feel that it is appropriate to the assessment task/scenario.

Students will be assessed on the following criteria:

- performance in and for a 'structured audition'
- preparation
- presentation and confidence
- suitability of material
- the application of appropriate vocal technique
- musical integrity including interaction with the accompanist
- stylistic integrity
- artist bio
- Auditions will include a verbal and written artist 'bio' component (including photo). The bio needs to be handed in during the audition with a signed cover sheet.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
- Analyse and integrate vocal audition requirements
- Collaborate with an accompanist
- Maintain vocal health and vocal care strategies

Artistic strategies
Due: **Week 12 - 30/5**
Weighting: **20%**

Students maintain a reflective journal in relation to their own vocal and musical artistry beginning in Week 1 and concluding in Week 12. It is expected that students will spend an hour each week reviewing their progress during that week and implementing individual
strategies for the following week. Specific questions for consideration will be discussed in the weekly lectures.

Students will be assessed on the following criteria:

- individual goals and strategies
- information on weekly progress, singing activities and readings
- evidence of reflexivity
- referencing where appropriate including discography

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
- Maintain vocal health and vocal care strategies

Vocal performance

Due: Week 13 - 6/6 and 7/6
Weighting: 30%

Students individually perform two songs as a micro-set (maximum of 10 minutes) that includes spoken dialogue (patter) about their artistry and songs and the use of reinforced sound ad other technologies where appropriate. In addition to the demonstration of artistry in performance, students will be assessed on the continuity and integrity of their performance set.

Students will assessed on the following criteria:

- the performance of two to three contrasting songs as a micro-set/showcase (maximum performance time of 10mins)
- presentation
- the application of appropriate vocal technique
- creative elements
- individual interpretation and expressive techniques
- musical and stylistic integrity
- the use of reinforced sound equipment and other technologies where appropriate
- Students are required to introduce themselves, their artistry and their repertoire as part of their performance and engagement with their audience.
- It is the responsibility of students to provide their own accompaniment. Students may perform with live accompaniment or to recorded backing tracks.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
- Apply effectively and analyse the use of technology to the singing voice in live performance and in recording
- Maintain vocal health and vocal care strategies

**Delivery and Resources**

It is the responsibility of students to ensure that backing tracks do not breach copyright legislation, are obtained legally and are not pirated copies. Please note, you may not repeat a song sung in a previous vocal studies unit for any of the assessment tasks. Each assessment task requires a different song/s.

For all written work, students are required to use APA referencing system for all in-text referencing and reference lists. If students refer to recorded material then a discography must also be included.

Students should bring bottled room temperature water to all lectures and tutorials.

Students are requested to advise their tutor of any vocal health issues.

Each week students are required to attend a 1 hour lecture and a 1 hour tutorial. Tutorials begin in Week 2.

Late penalties for assessments are 10% per day, including weekends. Disruption to Studies can only be considered when applied for online and supported with appropriate documentation. Please refer to the MQ Disruption to Studies Policy.

**ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION**

All written assessment submissions must be through Turnitin by the due date/time.

*Return of marked work*

During semester, graded work and feedback sheets will be returned to students via tutorials.

**Technologies used and required**

A computer and Internet access are required. Music playback facility is also required.

**Changes Made to Previous Offerings of the Unit**
The topics in this unit are regularly updated to reflect developments in contemporary music technologies and practices.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

As this unit is designed for formative learning, MUS304 reading list will be progressively available on iLearn.

The reading for Week 1 is:


Set exercises can be accessed at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS**

Recommended readings will be progressively listed at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/.

**WEEKLY JOURNAL QUESTIONS**

Journal questions will be aligned to progressive lecture and unit content. From Week 2 onwards, journal questions will be announced during each weekly lecture.

Week 1 Journal Questions:

- What motivates or inspires me to sing?
- What is artistry?
- What is my artistry?
- Are there elements of artistry that I need to develop?
- What are my goals this session?
- How am I going to achieve these goals?
- What is a melisma?

**Unit Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>MUS 304/S1/Day/ Lecture</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>9:00am</th>
<th>10:00am</th>
<th>1:00</th>
<th>Y3A 187 Drama Studio</th>
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http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/57697/unit_guide/print
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

Results

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Additional information

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcomes

• Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
• Apply effectively and analyse the use of technology to the singing voice in live performance and in recording
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• Analyse and integrate vocal audition requirements
• Collaborate with an accompanist
• Maintain vocal health and vocal care strategies

Assessment tasks

• Creative exercises
• Vocal recording processes
• Audition processes
• Artistic strategies
• Vocal performance

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systematically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
• Apply effectively and analyse the use of technology to the singing voice in live performance and in recording
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Assessment tasks

• Creative exercises
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• Audition processes
Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
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- Identify and maintain vocal integrity in recording processes
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Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
- Apply effectively and analyse the use of technology to the singing voice in live performance and in recording
- Identify and maintain vocal integrity in recording processes
Assessment tasks

• Creative exercises
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• Vocal performance

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
• Apply effectively and analyse the use of technology to the singing voice in live performance and in recording
• Identify and maintain vocal integrity in recording processes
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Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation’s historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.
This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity

**Assessment tasks**

- Audition processes
- Vocal performance

**Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible**

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Apply effectively and analyse the use of technology to the singing voice in live performance and in recording

**Assessment task**

- Vocal performance

**Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative**

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
- Analyse and integrate vocal audition requirements
- Collaborate with an accompanist

**Assessment tasks**

- Creative exercises
- Vocal recording processes
• Audition processes
• Artistic strategies
• Vocal performance

Commitment to Continuous Learning
Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue
knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they
participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships
with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally
and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes
• Identify, demonstrate and integrate individual artistry through contemporary singing
  utilising appropriate vocal technique, expressive techniques and reflexivity
• Maintain vocal health and vocal care strategies

Assessment tasks
• Artistic strategies
• Vocal performance

Changes from Previous Offering
The unit content is updated to reflect changes in industry practices. The options in audition
processes have been modified to enable students to accompany themselves if appropriate. The
use of a range of technologies in this unit (including loopers) is also included and encouraged.
There have also been some timetabling adjustments to accommodate the two public holidays
that fall this session.