

# MASTER OF VOICE PEDAGOGY: CLASSICAL TRACK ONLINE

## Program Overview

Westminster's Master of Voice Pedagogy program is offered entirely online and is specifically designed to serve the needs of professional singers, voice teachers, school music teachers, and voice coaches who want advanced training in the art and science of voice teaching. For those interested, there is also the option of extensive voice research. Supported by the latest developments in voice science, and thoroughly grounded in practical application, the program offers the most comprehensive training for singing teachers available anywhere. Because of the high standard required for admission to this program, applications will be considered only from candidates who can document their professional experience, and who have worked in their chosen field for at least five years since their undergraduate degree was completed.

## Curriculum Overview

At least one course required to fulfill this degree is offered online each semester. Coursework is also offered during Westminster's six-week Summer Session, allowing degree candidates to maintain performance schedules and teaching jobs during the year.

The M.V.P. program includes courses in vocal pedagogy and literature, culminating in a substantial vocal pedagogy project completed under the guidance of a Westminster voice faculty member.

For students who elect applied voice study (fee is charged), weekly studio and performance classes offer frequent performance opportunities. Two fully-staged operas, one with orchestra, are presented each year. Private vocal coaching is available (a fee is charged).

Please see the Voice Handbook for language requirements.

## Degree Offered

- Master of Voice Performance (M.V.P): Voice Pedagogy Classical Track

## Contact

**Margaret Cusack, M.M.T.**  
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**Program Website:** Online Master of Voice Pedagogy, M.V.P. (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-arts-sciences/westminster-choir-college/graduate/master-voice-pedagogy/>)

**Associated Department:** Department of Performance Studies

## Related Programs

- Voice Pedagogy and Performance (<http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-certificates/mm-voice-pedagogy-performance/>)

## Faculty

- Margaret Cusack** (Chair) • Professor, Voice, and Chair of Performance Studies, 1994. B.M., M.M.T., Oberlin College.
- Christopher Arneson** • Professor, Voice, 2003. B.A., M.M., Binghamton University; D.M.A., Rutgers University.
- Susan S. Ashbaker** • Associate Professor, Voice, 2006. B.M., M.M., Southern Illinois University; M.M., University of Illinois.
- Victoria Browers** • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2017. B.M., Ohio Wesleyan University, M.M. Westminster Choir College of Rider University; D.M.A. State University of New York at Stony Brook.
- Akiko Hosaki** • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Piano, 2005. B.M., Musashino Academia Musicae; M.M., Westminster Choir College of Rider University; D.M.A., University of Minnesota.
- Bryan Hymel** • Visiting Artist, Voice, 2022. B.M. Loyola University; M.V.P. Westminster Choir College of Rider University.
- Robin Massie** • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2008. B.M., Westminster Choir College; M.M., Yale University.
- Sean McCarther** • Associate Professor, Voice, 2012. B.M., Baylor University; M.M., D.M., Indiana University.
- Martin Néron** • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2020. B.M., Université de Montréal; M.M. Westminster Choir College of Rider University; D.M.A., Manhattan School of Music.
- Kathy Kessler Price** • Professor, Voice, 2012. B.A., University of Richmond; M.M., University of Maryland; Ph.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence.
- Debra Scurto-Davis** • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2004. B.M.E., Evangel College; M.M., Baylor University; S.M., University of Michigan.
- Elizabeth Sutton** • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2005. B.A., Bowling Green State University; M.M., College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati.

## Master of Voice Pedagogy: Classical Track Online Program Requirements

(30 credits)

Learn more about General Graduate Requirements (<http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/mm-mme-mvp-general-policies/>).

### Program Notes

- Students with limited prior singing experience, as determined through departmental evaluation of past vocal study, performance career, and/or performing skills as demonstrated through live or recorded performance, may be required to complete up to four credits of applied voice instruction in addition to the major area course requirements. Such required developmental lessons will result in additional charges.
- In addition to the requirements below, all students must pass a diction screening test. If the student does not pass the screening test they will be required to take recommended undergraduate classes to satisfy the deficiency.

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses:</b>		
VC 650	Pedagogy Capstone	1
VC 721	Westminster Voice Pedagogy Institute	3

VC 722	Literature for Teaching	3
VC 723	Voice Ped I: Voice Science	3
VC 724	Voice Pedagogy II: Methods	3
VC 791	Teaching Internship <sup>1</sup>	2
<b>Select two of the following Literature courses:</b>		<b>6</b>
VC 661	German Lieder	
VC 662	French Melodie	
VC 627	Opera Literature I	
VC 628	Opera Literature II	
VC 633	Seminar in Opera Literature	
<b>Complete the following Core courses:</b>		
MH 731	Intro to Musicology	3
One Theory (TH) or Music History (MH) course		3
Core elective course <sup>2</sup>		3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students who have had significant teaching experience in American schools may petition to substitute another graduate course for VC 791. The department, if granting a substitution, will specify acceptable course alternatives.

<sup>2</sup> The core elective must be a single, 3-credit graduate-level course outside the student's major area, area of emphasis and/or area of applied study.

## Academic Plan of Study

The following educational plan is provided as a sample only. Students may follow a different plan to ensure a timely graduation. Each student, with guidance from their academic advisor, will develop a personalized educational plan.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Pedagogy Courses</b>		
It is preferable that the pedagogy courses be taken in the following order:		
VC 721	Westminster Voice Pedagogy Institute	3
VC 723	Voice Ped I: Voice Science	3
VC 724	Voice Pedagogy II: Methods	3
VC 722	Literature for Teaching	3
VC 791	Teaching Internship <sup>1</sup>	2
VC 650	Pedagogy Capstone	1
<b>Literature Courses (select 2)</b>		
VC 661	German Lieder	3
VC 662	French Melodie	3
VC 627	Opera Literature I	3
VC 628	Opera Literature II	3
VC 633	Seminar in Opera Literature	3
<b>Core Courses</b>		
MH 731	Intro to Musicology	3
One Theory (TH) or Music History (MH) Elective		3
Core Elective <sup>2</sup>		3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students who have had significant teaching experience in American schools may petition to substitute another graduate level course

for VC 791. The department, if granting a substitution, will specify acceptable course alternatives

<sup>2</sup> The core elective must be a single, 3-credit graduate-level course outside the student's major area, area of emphasis and/or area of applied study.

### Notes

1. Students with limited prior singing experience, as determined through departmental evaluation of past vocal study, performance career and/or performing skill as demonstrated through live or recorded performance, may be required to complete up to four (4) credits of applied voice instruction in addition to the major area course requirements. Such required developmental lessons will result in additional charges.
2. In addition to the requirements below, all students must pass a diction screening test. If the student does not pass the screening test they will be required to take recommended undergraduate classes or private vocal coaching to satisfy the deficiency.

### Courses and Descriptions

#### MH 731 Intro to Musicology 3 Credits

Introduction to the basic tools of research in historical musicology in order to foster: (1) an awareness of the nature and scope of historical musicology as a scholarly discipline; (2) familiarity with the techniques of musicological research; (3) an understanding of the relationship between musicological research and performance practice; and (4) experience in the application of musicological techniques to specific musical works and issues. It is strongly recommended that this course be taken at the outset of graduate study. Required for all Master of Music candidates.

#### VC 650 Pedagogy Capstone 1 Credits

Independent research leading to a completed capstone project, such as a pedagogical publication or presentation, development of an original or unique method of instruction, instructional materials, etc. The project must be approved by the department.

#### VC 661 German Lieder 3 Credits

This survey of the German Lieder begins with its roots in the 17th and 18th centuries and continues into the 20th century. Classes will involve study of Romanticism, including philosophers and poets of the 18th and 19th centuries who were important for German Lieder. The bulk of the class involves in-depth study of the Lieder of the important composers of the genre: Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Robert and Clara Schumann, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Brahms, Wolf, Strauss, Mahler, Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern. Class sessions will involve a balance of lecture, discussion, and student performance.

**VC 662 French Melodie 3 Credits**

This course is designed as a survey of the song literature of France. Students examine works for voice and piano/instruments by Berlioz, Gounod, Saint-Saëns, Bizet, Faure, Duparc, Chausson, Debussy, Ravel, Messaien, Milhaud, Poulenc, and others, analyzing their relationship to larger stylistic, social, and musicological trends. Investigation will include matters of prosody, scansion, and compositional organization, with particular attention given to matters of text setting and poetic treatment. Special emphasis will be placed on important French language poets whose literary works serve as the basis for this material. Poets will include Baudelaire, Verlaine, Hugo, Rimbaud, Mallarmé, LaForgue, Maeterlinck, and others. Poetic history and form will be covered as well as important composer/poet partnerships. Class sessions will involve a balance of lecture and discussion. Works by both well-known and lesser-known composers will be included.

**VC 721 Westminster Voice Pedagogy Institute 3 Credits**

This intensive course gives a detailed overview of science-informed, experience-driven voice pedagogy. It includes emphases on both Classical and Contemporary Commercial singing styles. Vocal anatomy, acoustic properties of the voice, voice-health, mind/body integration, lifespan voice, and an introduction to voice research/technology using the Presser Voice Lab and online resources are some of the Institute's areas of focus. Master teachers conduct "Look-in Lessons" and voice health specialists share the latest in the field.

**Prerequisites:** If taking for credit, an undergraduate degree is required.

**VC 722 Literature for Teaching 3 Credits**

A survey of graduated teaching literature for beginning, intermediate and advanced voice students. Literature will be explored that is particularly well-suited to specific vocal issues (e.g. legato, coloratura, staccato, etc.).

**VC 723 Voice Ped I: Voice Science 3 Credits**

Study of voice anatomy and physiology with concentration on respiration, phonation, articulation, hearing and vocal health. Through hands-on experience in the Westminster Voice Laboratory, students explore the physics of sound, the fundamentals of musical acoustics, and acoustical elements that are unique to the human voice. Priority registration is given to M.V.P. majors and M.M. students majoring in Voice Performance and Pedagogy. Other students may enroll on a space-available basis.

**VC 724 Voice Pedagogy II: Methods 3 Credits**

A comparative study of various pedagogical methods and ideals. A wide range of important historical and contemporary pedagogy treatises is reviewed. Students explore exercises and vocalises for general voice development as well as techniques to address and correct specific vocal problems. Role-playing exercises are used to develop appropriate listening and teaching skills. Class participants begin supervised instruction of a volunteer singing student.

**VC 791 Teaching Internship 2 Credits**

Teaching internship with a master teacher(s). The student will teach under faculty observation and supervision, including follow-up private discussion with the observer. In addition, students themselves observe group and private lessons and are given readings, written assignments, and/or projects associated with their own teaching. May be offered on an intensive basis in conjunction with Westminster Summer Session events, such as The High School Solo Vocal Artist and/or Vocal Institute.