MASTER OF VOICE PEDAGOGY: (M.V.P.)

Program Overview
Westminster’s Master of Voice Pedagogy program is offered almost 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 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 (fee is charged).

Please see the Voice Handbook for language requirements.

Degree Offered
• M.V.P. • Master of Voice Pedagogy

Contact
Christopher Arneson, D.M.A.
Erdman Hall
609-921-7100, ext. 8269
carneson@rider.edu (monofrio@rider.edu)

Program Website: www.rider.edu/wcc (http://www.rider.edu/wcc)
Associated Department: Westminster Choir College

Related Programs
• Music Education
• Voice Pedagogy and Performance (Pedagogy Emphasis or Performance Emphasis)

Faculty
Margaret Cusack (chair) • Professor, Voice, and Chair of Voice and Piano Faculties, 1994. B.M., M.M.T., Oberlin College.
Christopher Arneson • Associate Professor, Voice, 2003. B.A., M.M., Binghamton University; D.M.A., Rutgers University.
Susan S. Ashbaker • Adjunct Professor, Voice, 2006. B.M., M.M., Southern Illinois University; M.M., University of Illinois.

Lauren Athey-Janka • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2016. B.M., Boston University, M.M., Westminster Choir College of Rider University.
Dalton Baldwin • Adjunct Professor, Piano, 1984. B.A., Oberlin Conservatory.
Elem Eley • Professor, Voice, 1987. B.M., Baylor University; M.M., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.
Rochelle Ellis • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 1995. B.M.E., University of Missouri, Kansas City; M.M.E., Westminster Choir College of Rider University.
Harold Evans • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2007. B.S., West Chester State College; M.M, Indiana University.
Theodora Hanslowe • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2016. B.A., Cornell University, A.D., Peabody Conservatory of Music.
William Hobs • Assistant Professor, Voice/Opera, 2011. B.M., University of Colorado; M.M., Eastman School of Music.
Nancy Froysland Hoerl • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 1995. B.A., Moorhead State University; M.M., Westminster Choir College of Rider University.
Katherine Johnson • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2006. B.M., University of Calgary; M.M., Manhattan School of Music.
Rachelle Jonck • Adjunct Associate Professor, Voice, 2007. B.M., University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)
Robin Massie • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2008. B.M., Westminster Choir College; M.M., Yale University.
Sean McCarther • Assistant Professor, Voice, 2012. B.M., Baylor University; M.M., D.M., Indiana University.
Mark Moliterno • Adjunct Associate Professor, Voice, 2005. B.M., M.M., Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.
Carolann Page • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2008. B.M., Curtis Institute of Music.
J.J. Penna • Associate Professor, Piano, 1996. B.M., Binghamton University; D.M.A., University of Michigan.
Kathy Kessler Price • Assistant Professor, Voice, 2012. B.A., University of Richmond; M.M., University of Maryland; Ph.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence.
Laura Brooks Rice • Professor, Voice, 1985. B.M., Georgia Southern College; M.M., Indiana University.
Eric Rieger • Assistant Professor, Voice, 2012. B.M., Eastman School of Music; M.M., Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama
Debra Scuro-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.
Sharon Sweet • Professor, Voice, 1999. B.S., Roberts Wesleyan College; M.M., Ithaca College.
Nova Thomas • Associate Professor, Voice, 2004. B.M., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; M.M., Indiana University.
Charles J. Walker • Adjunct Instructor, Voice, 1995. B.M., University of Delaware.
Sally Wolf • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2001. B.M., Kent State University; Artist Diploma, Curtis Institute of Music.
Amy Zorn • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 1996. B.M., University of Wisconsin, Madison; M.M., Boston University.
# Master of Voice Pedagogy Major Requirements

Learn more about General Graduate Requirements. [catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/general-requirements](http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/general-requirements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VC 650</td>
<td>Pedagogy Thesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 722</td>
<td>Literature for Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 723 &amp; VC 724</td>
<td>Voice Ped I: Voice Science and Voice Ped II: Methods</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 791</td>
<td>Teaching Internship</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 661</td>
<td>German Lieder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 662</td>
<td>French Melodie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MH 731</td>
<td>Intro to Musicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory or Music History elective (1 course)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free electives</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Suggested Academic Plan**

**Pedagogy Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VC 723</td>
<td>Voice Ped I: Voice Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 724</td>
<td>Voice Ped II: Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 722</td>
<td>Literature for Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VC 791</td>
<td>Teaching Internship</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 650</td>
<td>Pedagogy Thesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 661</td>
<td>German Lieder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 662</td>
<td>French Melodie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MH 731</td>
<td>Intro to Musicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Theory (TH) or Music History (MH) elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Electives</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Footnotes**

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

2. 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.

3. Students may fulfill free elective requirements through completion of summer workshops and/or Saturday Seminars with prior approval of the Voice Department.

4. 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.

5. In addition to the above requirements, all students must demonstrate competency in at least two of the three major European singing languages (Italian, German, French). This may occur through completion of at least one year of college-level study in each language, intensive work through language institutes or practical experience living and/or working in a foreign country, as verified by diagnostic testing at Westminster.

---

**Suggested Academic Plan**

**Pedagogy Courses**

It is preferable that the pedagogy courses be taken in the following order:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VC 723</td>
<td>Voice Ped I: Voice Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 724</td>
<td>Voice Ped II: Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC 722</td>
<td>Literature for Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**VC 591 Performing in Lyric Theater 2 Credits**

Performing in Lyric Theater offers techniques for the preparation of lyric roles in a theatrical setting. It will develop elements of stagecraft, systematize a process for preparations and exploration, and introduce the working relationship with director and conductor.

**Prerequisite(s):** Undergraduates, VC 291 and the successful completion of Level II jury, or permission of the Chair.

**VC 592 Opera Workshop 2 Credits**

Introduction to opera performance. Acting exercises, character development, dramatic exploration and musical coaching culminating in a workshop-format presentation. It is recommended that VC 491 or 691 be taken before this course. This course may be repeated for credit.

**Prerequisite(s):** Undergraduates, successful completion of the level II voice test or permission of the chair.
VC 593 Opera Theater 2 Credits
This course involves preparation and performance of a role or in the chorus of a fully staged opera production. Open only by audition. May be repeated for credit.

VC 593E Opera Theater (Ensemble) 1 Credits
This course involves preparation and performance of a role or in the chorus of a fully staged opera production. Open only by audition. May be repeated for credit.

VC 593N Opera Theater (Opera NJ) 1 Credits
VC 593R Opera Theater (Role) 2 Credits
This course involves preparation and performance of a role or in the chorus of a fully staged opera production. Open only by audition. May be repeated for credit.

VC 593T Opera Theater (Tech) 1 Credits
This course involves preparation and performance of a role or in the chorus of a fully staged opera production. Open only by audition. May be repeated for credit.

VC 621 Oratorio Solo Literature 3 Credits
A performance course surveying solo and ensemble portions of oratorios, masses, passions, and cantatas from the early Baroque period to the present, with emphasis on appropriate performance techniques for stylistic integrity.

VC 627 Opera Literature I 3 Credits
Study of the development of opera from 1600 through the Napoleonic era (ca. 1815), with emphasis on performance practices, singing styles, librettos, the role of the orchestra, and the historical, political and sociological milieu in which the operas were written.

VC 628 Opera Literature II 3 Credits
Study of the development of opera from the early 19th century to the present, with emphasis on performance practices, singing styles, librettos, the role of the orchestra, and the historical, political and sociological milieu in which the operas were written.

VC 633 Seminar in Opera Literature 3 Credits
An intensive study of an area of opera literature. The specific content of this course will change from semester to semester. Emphasis is placed upon in-depth study of the works of a selected composer or of a specific genre of opera.

VC 635 Seminar in Song Literature 3 Credits
An intensive study of some area of art song history and literature. The specific content of this course will change from semester to semester. Emphasis is placed upon in-depth study of the selected repertoire.

VC 641A Voice Primary 2 Credits
VC 641B Voice Primary 1 Credits
VC 641C Voice Elective 2 Credits
VC 641D Voice Elective 1 Credits
VC 641E Voice Primary 2 Credits
VC 641F Voice Primary 1 Credits
VC 650 Pedagogy Thesis 1 Credits
Under faculty supervision, students design and execute a significant research project exploring an aspect of voice that can be measured and evaluated through the analysis instruments in the Westminster Voice Laboratory. Students with special interests in speech pathology or voice therapy may elect to visit the clinics of medical voice specialists in the area who have an association with Westminster. Students register for this course in every semester or summer term in which assistance is provided by the thesis advisor.

VC 655A Voice Primary 2 Credits
VC 655B Voice Primary 1 Credits
VC 655E Voice Primary 2 Credits
VC 655F Voice Primary 1 Credits
VC 657 Private Coaching 2 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 657 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 658 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. Open to graduate Voice Pedagogy and Performance majors.

VC 658 Private Coaching 1 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 657 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 658 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. Open to graduate Voice Pedagogy and Performance majors.

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, Fauré, Duparc, Chausson, Debussy, Ravel, Messiaen, 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, LaFargue, 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 665A Voice Primary 2 Credits
VC 665B Voice Primary 1 Credits
VC 665E Voice Primary 2 Credits
VC 665F Voice Primary 1 Credits
VC 667 Private Coaching 2 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 668 Private Coaching 1 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 669 Private Coaching 1 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 670 Private Coaching 1 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 670 Private Coaching 2 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 671 Private Coaching 1 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 671 Private Coaching 2 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 672 Private Coaching 1 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 672 Private Coaching 2 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.

VC 673 Private Coaching 1 Credits
Individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages, and presentation. Registration for VC 667 involves weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of $1,200. Registration for VC 668 involves weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of $600. May be repeated for credit.
VC 690 Independent Research and Study 1-3 Credits
Students may pursue a special topic for which they have prepared through prior course work. Only one project may be scheduled in a semester. The project may involve 1-3 credit hours. Approval of the faculty sponsor, department chair, and dean required prior to the first day of the semester in which the project is to be completed. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 required.
Prerequisite(s): graduate standing.

VC 705 Grad Voice Rep: Italian/French 1 Credits
This class is a performance seminar focusing on the synthesis of musical line and linguistic inflection. Elements of tonal color, frequency, vowel purity and rhythm will be practiced in each class session as individual students perform selections from the literature. Repeatable for credit only if space is available AND by permission of the Chair.

VC 706 Grad Voice Rep: German/English 1 Credits
This class is a performance seminar focusing on the synthesis of musical line and linguistic inflection. Elements of tonal color, frequency, vowel purity and rhythm will be practiced in each class session as individual students perform selections from the literature. Repeatable for credit only if space is available AND by permission of the Chair.

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.)
Prerequisite(s): VC 723, VC 724.

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 Ped 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.
Prerequisite(s): VC 723.

VC 725 Voice Ped III: Tchng Practicum 3 Credits
Communication skills are explored and students develop a systematic approach to studio voice instruction. Each student is assigned at least two voice students (one adult and one teenager) to be taught both inside and outside of class. Emphasis is placed on becoming familiar with all voice classifications and basic vocal literature.
Prerequisite(s): VC 723.

VC 726 Voice Research 3 Credits
Peer reviewed research in voice is evaluated and research methodologies are explored. Class projects include research in historical, qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches.

VC 730 The Singing Actor: Opera 3 Credits
This course entails coaching of selected songs, arias or repertoire from music theater, and techniques for performance preparation through intensive research. A final written project involves a musical and dramatic analysis of all chosen repertoire.

VC 731 Opera Auditions: Prep & Tech 2 Credits
This class will explore the many facets of preparing an audition for an opera role, apprentice program, or competition. At least three to four arias in contrasting styles and languages should be prepared for work in class. Areas to be addressed include vocal and dramatic presentation, networking, resume building, make-up, and photo advice. In coordination with the Office of Career Services, panel discussions with invited guests that will explore specific career-related topics will be scheduled.
Prerequisite(s): permission of the applied instructor.

VC 735 Spec Topics in Voice Perf Prac 3 Credits
Intensive performance coaching and lectures in the form of master classes where performance practice in selected topics will be taught by current faculty or distinguished alumni and specialists in their fields.
Prerequisite(s): permission of the applied instructor.

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.