MASTER OF MUSIC: VOICE PEDAGOGY AND PERFORMANCE (PERFORMANCE EMPHASIS)

Program Overview
More students pursue voice study at the graduate level at Westminster Choir College than any other major on campus. A strong and unique double emphasis in voice pedagogy and performance prepares our graduates to find success on the operatic and concert stages of the world, in studio and classroom teaching positions at prominent schools, universities, and churches, and in thriving private voice studios. The process-oriented approach focuses on how, rather than what to sing, enabling students to become the best possible vocal artists and independent musicians.

Curriculum Overview
This voice pedagogy and performance program has two emphases. The performance emphasis entails private lessons, voice literature, opera, vocal coaching, vocal pedagogy, and a full recital. Studio and performance classes, as well as a number of performance-oriented class options, Opera Workshop, and Opera Theatre, offer frequent performance opportunities. Two fully-staged operas, one with orchestra, are presented each year. Private vocal coaching is available (fee is charged).

Each Performance Emphasis student completes courses in applied study, voice science and pedagogy, and literature. Four semesters of applied voice study culminate in a graduate recital. For students whose undergraduate work has not included a public recital, presentation of a 30-minute recital is required before work on the graduate recital may begin.

Please see the Voice Handbook for language requirements.

Degree Offered
• M.M. in Voice Pedagogy and Performance (Performance Emphasis)

Contact
Margaret Cusack
Professor and Chairperson
Erdman Hall 26
609-921-7100 ext. 8253
mcusack@rider.edu

Program Website: www.rider.edu/wcc
Associated Department: Piano and Voice

Related Programs
• Music Education (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/mm-music-education)
• Voice Pedagogy and Performance (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/mm-voice-pedagogy-performance-pedagogy-emphasis) (Pedagogy Emphasis)
• Master of Voice Pedagogy (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/master-voice-pedagogy) (M.V.P.)

Faculty
Margaret Cusack (chair) • Professor, Voice, and Chair of Voice and Piano Faculties, 1994. B.M., M.M.T., Oberlin College.
Christopher Arnesson • 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.
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.
Victoria Browsers • 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.
Jay Carter • Assistant Professor, Voice, 2019. B.M., William Jewell College; M.M., Yale University; D.M.A., University of Missouri-Kansas City
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.
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 • Associate 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.
Kathy Kessler Price • Associate Professor, Voice, 2012. B.A., University of Richmond; M.M., University of Maryand; Ph.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence.
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.

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

**Applied Primary Study**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>VC 641A</td>
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<td>VC 655A</td>
<td>Voice Primary (1 term)</td>
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**Performance**

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<tr>
<td>VC 593</td>
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<tr>
<td>or VC 593T</td>
<td>Opera Theater (Tech)</td>
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Select two of the following: 2-6

- VC 591 | Performing in Lyric Theater    |
- VC 592 | Opera Workshop                 |
- VC 705 | Grad Voice Rep:Italian/French  |
- VC 706 | Grad Voice Rep:German/English  |
- VC 730 | The Singing Actor: Opera       |
- VC 731 | Opera Auditions: Prep & Tech   |
- VC 753 | Spec Topics in Voice Perf Prac |

**Voice Science and Pedagogy**

- VC 723 | Voice Ped I: Voice Science     |
- VC 724 | Voice Ped II: Methods          |

**Literature I**

Select one of the following: 3

- VC 635 | Seminar in Song Literature     |
- VC 661 | German Lieder                  |
- VC 662 | French Melodie                 |

**Literature II**

Select one of the following: 3

- VC 621 | Oratorio Solo Literature       |
- VC 627 | Opera Literature I             |
- VC 628 | Opera Literature II            |
- VC 633 | Seminar in Opera Literature    |
- VC 635 | Seminar in Song Literature     |
- VC 661 | German Lieder                  |
- VC 662 | French Melodie                 |

**Core**

- MH 731 | Intro to Musicology            |
- CR 509 | Symphonic Choir                |

Theory or Music History elective (1 course) 3

Core elective (1 course) 1

Total Credits 34-39

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1. 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.

2. Prior to graduation, students must complete at least one year of undergraduate-level study in two of the three major European singing languages (Italian, German, and French). Students must earn a minimum grade of "C" in these courses. Grades of "C-" or below are not accepted.

3. Students are required to present a public recital following approval by the department. Registration for VC655A is a pre-requisite for the approval.

4. Students may repeat any individual Performance course for credit (either for elective credit or to satisfy the Performance course requirements).

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### Year 1

#### Fall Semester

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>CR 509</td>
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<td>VC 661</td>
<td>German Lieder</td>
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<tr>
<td>or VC 635</td>
<td>or Seminar in Song Literature</td>
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<td>or VC 662</td>
<td>or French Melodie</td>
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<tr>
<td>MH 731</td>
<td>Intro to Musicology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>VC 591</td>
<td>Performing in Lyric Theater</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<td>or VC 592</td>
<td>suggested as a performance elective</td>
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<td>or VC 705</td>
<td>or Opera Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>or VC 706</td>
<td>or Grad Voice Rep:Italian/French</td>
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<td>or VC 730</td>
<td>or Grad Voice Rep:German/English</td>
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<tr>
<td>or VC 731</td>
<td>or The Singing Actor: Opera</td>
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<td>or Opera Auditions: Prep &amp; Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>or VC 753</td>
<td>or Spec Topics in Voice Perf Prac</td>
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Semester Credit Hours 10-12

#### Spring Semester

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<td>CR 509</td>
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<td>VC 662</td>
<td>French Melodie</td>
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<td>VC 723</td>
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Semester Credit Hours 10-12

### Year 2

#### Fall Semester

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<tr>
<td>VC 724</td>
<td>Voice Ped II: Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>VC 593</td>
<td>Opera Theater</td>
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<td>or VC 593T</td>
<td>or Opera Theater (Tech)</td>
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<td>TH 623</td>
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<td>or MH 733</td>
<td>or Seminar in Music History</td>
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Semester Credit Hours 9-10

#### Spring Semester

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<td>Oral exam</td>
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</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, libretti, 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, libretti,
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 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, Messiaen, Milhaud, Poulenc, and others, analyzing their relationship to larger stylistic, social, and musical 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 667 Private Dramatic/Role Coaching 2 Credits
Individual dramatic coaching sessions for singers on operatic role study and/or audition preparation. Students will provide their own accompanists as needed. 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 Dramatic/Role Coaching 1 Credits
Individual dramatic coaching sessions for singers on operatic role study and/or audition preparation. Students will provide their own accompanists as needed. 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 740 Seminar in Music Theater Pedagogy 3 Credits
Comprehensive study of various pedagogical approaches to teaching Music Theater singing techniques. 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. The course is offered entirely online and will consist of recorded lectures, reading assignments, group discussions via discussion boards, listening assignments, and other written assignments.
Prerequisite(s): VC 723.
VC 741 Music Theater Literature I 3 Credits
Survey and analysis of Music Theater literature from its roots in Tin Pan Alley through Kander and Ebb. Students will explore the synergistic relationships among text, music, and style and discuss the influence of society and politics on the genre. The course is offered entirely online and will consist of recorded lectures, reading assignments, group discussions via discussion boards, listening assignments and other written assignments.

VC 742 Music Theater Literature II 3 Credits
Survey and analysis of Music Theater Literature from Sondheim to the present. Students will explore the synergistic relationships among text, music, and style and discuss the influence of society and politics on the genre. The class will also discuss the integration of pop/rock and other contemporary substyles within the genre. The course is offered entirely online and will consist of recorded lectures, reading assignments, group discussions via discussion boards, listening assignments and other written assignments.

VC 753 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.