

MASTER OF VOICE PEDAGOGY MUSICAL THEATER 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. This particular track focuses on the pedagogy and science associated with musical theater genres. 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 in an entirely online format. Preference is given to candidates who can document their professional experience and who have worked in their chosen field for at least three 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.: MT Track includes courses in music theater pedagogy and literature, culminating in a substantial vocal pedagogy project completed under the guidance of a Westminster voice faculty member.

Degree Offered

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

Contact

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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/>)

Related Programs

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

Faculty

Sharon Mirchandani (chair) • Professor, Music Theory/History, 1997. B.M., Bowling Green State University, M.M., Temple University, Ph.D., Rutgers University.

Margaret Cusack • Professor, Voice, and Chair of Performance Studies, 1994. B.M., M.M.T., Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.

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.

Aaron Cafaro • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2024. B.M., M.M. Westminster Choir College of Rider University.

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.

Pamela Stein Lynde • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2024. B.M. Westminster Choir College of Rider University, M.M. Peabody Conservatory at the Johns Hopkins University.

Robin Massie • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2008. B.M., Westminster Choir College; M.M., Yale 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 • Associate Professor, Voice, 2012. B.A., University of Richmond; M.M., University of Maryland; Ph.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Stephen Purdy • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2020. B.M., University of Mississippi, M.V.P., Westminster Choir College of Rider University.

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.

Todd Thomas • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Voice, 2024. B.M., M.M. Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.

Master of Voice Pedagogy: Musical Theater Track Program Requirements

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

(30 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Complete the following courses:		
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 740	Seminar in Music Theater Pedagogy	3
VC 741	Music Theater Literature I	3
VC 742	Music Theater Literature II	3
VC 791	Teaching Internship ²	2
Core Requirements:		

MH 731	Intro to Musicology	3
Core Elective ¹		3
Theory or History elective		3
Total Credits		30

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 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.

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
Pedagogy Courses		
VC 721	Westminster Voice Pedagogy Institute	3
VC 722	Literature for Teaching	3
VC 723	Voice Ped I: Voice Science	3
VC 741	Music Theater Literature I	3
VC 740	Seminar in Music Theater Pedagogy	3
VC 742	Music Theater Literature II	3
VC 791	Teaching Internship ¹	2
VC 650	Pedagogy Capstone	1
Core Courses		
MH 731	Intro to Musicology	3
Core Elective ²		
Theory or History Elective		

¹ 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.

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

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 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 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.

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 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 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.