

Opera Workshop Fall 2020

Hybrid Class, general plan

Personnel

- Instructor: Cherry Duke
- Pianist/Coach: Dr. Zeke Meza
- Anticipated number of students in the class: 17-21
- Guest artists: Luis Orozco, Jay Stratton, Justin Lucero, Brian Downen

Safety Protocols

- All personnel will wear masks.
- All sheet music and other documents will be shared electronically as PDFs and all personnel are responsible for their own printing (or use a tablet).
- Each person will be asked to confirm their health status for every in-person activity. Anyone who has been around a person with symptoms of COVID-19, has symptoms of illness, or fever over 99°F should not attend class.
- If a student is unable to attend class, they may keep up with classwork via watching the videos of the lectures and working on the posted assignments on their own. Missed rehearsals (due to illness or quarantine) may be made up. Absences due to documented illness or quarantine will not affect a student's grade.
- Communication and self-monitoring will be of paramount importance.
- Each person shall be responsible for bringing their own disinfecting wipes, masks, and hand sanitizer.

Rehearsals and Classes

The main topic of the semester will be preparation and performance of solo songs and spoken monologues. One group song will be prepared.

SING-IN: Our traditional "Sing-In" at the beginning of the semester and Sing-Out at the end of the semester, will occur in the recital hall and choir room as usual, except that the other students in the class will not form an audience for the performers.

- Each student will enter and sing one at a time, then depart as the next student singer enters.
- If needed, these events can be facilitated by video submissions.

COACHINGS: One-on-one music coaching sessions with Dr. Meza will occur in M340, in person if at all possible. One-on-one coachings with Ms. Duke on style, language and dramatic issues will occur in M340, M442, or Zoom. If plastic barriers are available, these will be utilized as needed.

- Students who are unable to attend these coachings may still work on material for the class lessons, but will not be able to perform on stage without having in person rehearsals.

LECTURES AND GROUP REHEARSALS: Lectures (sometimes with a guest speaker) and other rehearsals will occur in the Recital Hall or outside (location TBA) with appropriate distancing.

- Ideally, all lectures will be video recorded and made available on Blackboard for any student who is not able to attend.
- Guest speakers to include Jay Stratton (UTEP Theater Department) and Justin Lucero (Artistic Director of El Paso Opera and Professor of Directing at Carnegie Mellon University)
- If needed, singing rehearsals for the group song will include no more than 10 students at a time. If plastic barriers are available, these will be utilized as needed.
 - Any rehearsals or classes requiring more than 6 people will occur in the Recital Hall or outdoors, and would occur on average no more than twice a week.
- Master classes may be conducted in person (ideally) or via Zoom. If in person, audience will be limited or absent, per current guidelines, and in accordance with the capacity of the room.

Residency with Luis Orozco (co-sponsored by El Paso Opera)

Opera UTEP and El Paso Opera host operatic baritone Luis Orozco* for a week-long residency to kick off EPO's first annual "Giving Voice" project. The events of the residency are planned to be in person (with distancing) but may be converted to virtual events if the guests' physical presence in El Paso is not recommended/possible. Audience will be absent or limited, as current guidance suggests. Events will be live streamed as needed, to be determined.

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| • Master Class for Opera Workshop | Thu., Oct. 8, 10:30am | TBA |
| • Master Class for Voice Area | Fri., Oct. 9, time tba | TBA |
| • Recital with Michael Lewis, piano | Sun., Oct. 11, 2:30pm | live streamed |
| • Concert with Opera Workshop | Tues., Oct. 13, 7:30pm | FFA Recital Hall |

Performances

Main Productions

There will be two main productions, to be performed in the Recital Hall, with no audience present. These performances will be live-streamed on Facebook and possibly YouTube Live. In lieu of ticket purchases, viewers will be encouraged to make donations to the Opera Gift Fund.

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| Tuesday, October 13, 7:30pm | Concert for Hispanic Heritage Month
(in collaboration with El Paso Opera, see above)
Guest Artist, Luis Orozco, baritone |
| Friday, November 6, 7:30pm
& Sunday, November 8, 2:30pm | Fall Opera Showcase
"Arias and Monologues" |

* Luis Orozco, a UTEP grad and El Paso native, was invited before the pandemic began. At minimum, he will engage with the Opera students in one or more master classes (virtual or F2F) and he will contribute solos as well as one song as the featured soloist with UTEP singers as the chorus. This may involve pre-recording and editing scenes to create a seamless video for a livestreamed presentation.

Outdoor Outreach Performances

If permitted, I would like to take 3–6 students at a time to various outdoor spots on campus to perform their arias and/or monologues as a prelude to our November performances. This will necessitate borrowing keyboard, stool, mics, amps and mic stands from Music Facilities.

Suggested venues:

- Amphitheater at Chihuahuan Gardens
- Psychology Amphitheater
- Lawn of Centennial Museum
- Leech Grove
- Psychology Patio
- Dinner Theater Patio
- Alumni Building Patio/Garden