

Opera Workshop Spring 2021

Hybrid Class, general plan

Personnel

- Instructor: Cherry Duke
- Pianist/Coach: Dr. Zeke Meza
- Anticipated number of students in the class: 17-21
- Guest artists: Pablo Zinger (virtual), Brian Downen

Safety Protocols

- All personnel will wear masks at all times.
- 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 selections from Zarzuela (see cast list and scene breakdown included in the [Course Calendar](#) document).

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 we will have no audience in the choir room.

- 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.
- Students listening in the audience (Recital Hall only) will be socially distanced.

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 may occur in M340, M442, or on 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 attending in-person rehearsals.

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

- 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 Pablo Zinger, a New York City based pianist and conductor who specializes in Zarzuela, Brian Downen (UTEP Voice Faculty) and others to be announced.
- 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 9 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.

Performances

Main Production

There will be one main production, 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.

Friday, April 16, 7:30pm **Festival de Zarzuela**

Sunday, April 18, 2:30pm **Festival de Zarzuela**

Outdoor Outreach Performances

If permitted, I would like to take 3–6 students at a time to various outdoor spots on campus to perform selections with electronic keyboard. This will necessitate borrowing keyboard, stool, mics, amps and mic stands from Music Facilities.

Additional Outreach Performances

Educational outreach at local schools may occur. These may be on Zoom and would feature OpShop students sharing information about the current semester's performance topics as well as video recordings of performances.

Schedule

The complete schedule of course activities and assignments is available here and is [subject](#) to change. Students are encouraged to bookmark the link and check it daily.

- Course calendar: <https://bit.ly/385JWam>