



Dear Vocal Music Level I-IV Students and Parents,

We are pleased that your student will be attending NOCCA in the Classical Vocal Music division for the 2016-2017 school year. Prelude, NOCCA's orientation, is **Wednesday, August 17 at 4:00 pm** and the first day of classes is **Thursday, August 18**, beginning promptly at the start times listed below. The curriculum at NOCCA is intensive. This will serve your student in preparation for auditioning to pursue a college degree and a career in music, in performance and/or teaching.

NOCCA activities and rehearsals take priority over other activities. **If a NOCCA Vocal Music student wishes to participate in a non-NOCCA related performing activity, even if it is a classical vocal music performance elsewhere, he or she must receive permission from the Vocal Chair in advance.** This is to prevent activities that conflict with either the NOCCA schedule or the NOCCA methodology.

All vocal lessons will be given at NOCCA by a NOCCA vocal instructor. **NOCCA vocal music students are not allowed to study voice privately elsewhere.** This is to avoid confusing the vocal student with conflicting teaching methodology. NOCCA Vocal students are strongly discouraged from singing "pop" style music while studying voice at NOCCA, as this interferes with their developing vocal technique.

Levels II-IV 1:15-3:45 pm

Vocal Music students who attend this session will take a course of study that includes advanced vocal music classes (voice levels 2-4, language diction, vocal literature, acting, and senior seminars if applicable), upper level core music courses (music theory, musicianship, piano), opera workshop and choral ensembles, with a normal dismissal time of 3:45 pm. Extra practice hours and lesson times will generally occur after these hours. There will also be rehearsals that will keep the students on campus later than 3:45 pm. Rehearsal times will generally occur from 4:00-6:30 pm, with extra time required for rehearsals as we get closer to performances. The Vocal Music division presents several performances during the year, including our Opera Scenes performances in October, our Opera production in the spring, recitals, and choral concerts. All vocal students are required to participate as assigned in these performances. These performances will involve required extra time for rehearsals and performances outside of regular NOCCA class time.

Level I 4:00-6:30 pm

Vocal Music students who attend this session will take a course of study that includes basic vocal music classes (voice level 1 and Italian diction) and level 1 core music courses (music theory 1, musicianship 1, piano 1), opera ensembles and choral ensembles, with a normal dismissal time of 6:30 pm. The Vocal Music division presents several performances during

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the year, including our Opera Scenes performances in October, our Opera production in the spring, recitals, and choral concerts. All vocal students are required to participate as assigned in these performances. Although the majority of these rehearsals will occur from 4:00-6:30, there will also be some required extra rehearsals and performances outside of the regular NOCCA class time.

Friday Performance Class 4:00-5:00 pm

Each Friday there is a performance forum referred to as "Performance Class." Vocal, Jazz instrumental, and Classical Instrumental students present well-prepared performances, either as a Music Department, or sometimes in collaboration with other disciplines, such as Drama. Parents and friends are invited to these weekly presentations. **Every vocal music student is required to attend Performance Class every week.** On rare occasions, the performances will run beyond 5:00 pm, in which case students are expected to stay until all performers have been heard.

Important! Required Materials

Each student should have the following:

- **water bottle daily**
- **three-ring binder for music**
- **pencils**

IMPORTANT: Students MUST have a pencil at each voice class, theory class, musicianship class, and choral rehearsal.

We welcome all returning and new students and look forward to seeing you all for an exciting new school year at NOCCA.

Sincerely,

The NOCCA Vocal Music Faculty

Phyllis Treigle, Chair
Matthew Wood
Anne Copeland Sumich



Dear Vocal Music Level I Students and Parents,

Please review the enclosed packet of music theory worksheets. These pages contain basic music concepts that the students should have mastered by the time they begin NOCCA classes this fall. Each page includes a brief description of the concepts, followed by a few exercises to help the students practice them. The students each took a music theory exam during their audition at NOCCA. These pages reinforce and review the concepts they were tested on, to prepare them for their first theory class at NOCCA.

The Level 1 music theory class for vocalists will begin building on these concepts from the very beginning, so it is important that the students are already familiar with the material contained in these pages. Throughout the Level 1 year, their theory study will include notes, clefs, key signatures, time signatures, major and minor scales, the circle of fifths, diatonic triads, dominant seventh chords, scale degree names, Italian music terms, dynamics, inversions, figured bass notation, basic musical forms, harmonization in major and minor keys with primary triads, the seven modes of the major scale, and brief analyses of short musical excerpts.

All concepts contained on the enclosed pages should be fully mastered for the student's first day of music theory classes at NOCCA. They will be held accountable for this information on the first day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the department. We look forward to receiving our new Level 1 students this fall.

Sincerely,

The NOCCA Vocal Music Faculty

Phyllis Treigle, Chair
Matthew Wood
Anne Copeland Sumich