UCF Opera Workshop Policies

Opera Workshop [MUO 3503L and MUO 5505L] is a highly select ensemble of singers that performs opera scenes programs, educational outreach programs, and complete operas. The ensemble rehearses on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3:30-5:30. Participation in Opera Workshop activities and performances is open to all University of Central Florida students by audition.

The fundamental purpose of Opera Workshop is the study and performance of opera. Students audition for and are chosen to sing specific operatic roles and/or scenes each year. Those scenes are rehearsed and staged throughout the semester, and performed for a public audience. Students also prepare and perform operatically centered educational programs in elementary and/or middle schools throughout the greater Orlando area.

General Auditions:

Auditions for entrance into the Opera Workshop course are open to all UCF students, regardless of major. These auditions will normally take place on Tuesday evening of the first week of classes each semester. Interested students should enroll in the course prior to the audition. Those enrolled students will be contacted with a specific audition time, and sent an Audition Form to fill out and bring with them to the audition.

Those wishing to audition should prepare, from memory, one operatic aria or art song which demonstrates the range and quality of their voice. Although it is preferable that the selection be performed in English, other languages are acceptable. An accompanist will be provided but singers may opt to supply their own, should they so choose.

All prospective participants [new and returning] must complete an Opera Participation Intent Form committing them to the necessary production rehearsals and performances. Auditioning students are asked to bring their calendar/planner with them to the auditions, in order to list all possible schedule conflicts [work, other performance commitments, weddings, etc.].

Students who are continuing in the course, having completed the immediately preceding semester of Opera Workshop with a grade of B or better, need not re-audition.

Spring Production Auditions:

Auditions for casting specific roles in productions will be held as necessary. Only students enrolled in Opera Workshop may audition for roles in the Opera Gala Concerts or the Spring Productions. Spring semester productions will ordinarily be cast during the preceding fall semester. In the case of exceptionally early performance dates in a spring semester, [due to schedule considerations for guest directors, orchestra availability, etc.] auditions may take place as early as the end of the previous spring semester.

If a production is to be presented in a foreign language, it will be announced well in advance of auditions whether or not a piece from that performance language is required.

All auditions will be announced at least three weeks prior to the audition date on the UCF Opera website and by the conspicuous posting of audition notices on the Opera Director’s door [M113 in the Music Building/Performing Arts Center].

Acceptance into the Opera Workshop course does not guarantee that each student will be cast in a solo role.
**Casting Policies:**

1. The UCF Opera Director will make final casting decisions in consultation with the UCF voice faculty concerning the specific expectations of student performers and the unique vocal requirements of any production.

2. Casting results will be posted as soon after the auditions as possible.

3. All casting decisions are final, with the provision for adjustments made due to unforeseen circumstances between the time of casting and the production.

4. Current UCF students will be cast whenever possible. If the Director, in consultation with the production team and voice faculty, feels that no current student is suitable for a role, the role may be cast in one of the following ways:
   
a. A member of the voice faculty may volunteer to accept the role.
   
b. A professional singer may be engaged to sing the role.
   
c. A graduate of UCF may audition for the role, with preference being given to the most recent graduates and those who have continued serious study with a teacher and who plan a career as an opera singer. Any such auditions will be announced well in advance of the audition date and will be well publicized.

5. Students who are cast in any role may be required to meet outside of the ordinary class meeting times for regularly scheduled coaching sessions *beginning in the semester preceding a production*. This will give the student ample time to have a role learned and may make it possible for the student to be “off book” at the beginning of the semester of the production.

6. At the audition, students must list work schedules and any other responsibilities, such as family plans, weddings, etc., that could conflict with the production schedule in the semester of the production. In many cases, casting will be influenced by the number of conflicts. An agreement will be signed at the time of casting, stating that there will be no changes made to that conflict list.

7. All students cast in any role must be available for all coaching sessions, musical ensemble, staging and orchestral rehearsals beginning in the semester of the production. Work schedules, teaching schedules and any other commitments the student may have must be re-arranged to accommodate any rehearsals that involve other cast members.

8. It is the responsibility of the student to keep in constant contact with the stage manager on a daily basis through checking email and voice mail messages from the time of casting until the completion of the final performance.

9. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Director of Opera AND the stage manager, as soon as possible, of any emergencies that may occur during the rehearsal and performance periods. Failure to do so and unexplained absences from scheduled work may result in recasting at any stage of the process.

10. Students who are cast in any role will be required to register for Opera Workshop [MUO 3503L or MUO 5505L] during the semester of the production. The syllabus for that course will clearly state the production schedule. The specific requirements of that syllabus must be followed.