

MUSICAL THEATRE CONSERVATORY

YEAR	FALL	SPRING
Year 1 – 7th Grade	MT Workshop Acting Fundamentals 1	MT Workshop/Broadway Bound Theatre Overview
Year 2 – 8th Grade	Intro to MT Voice Acting Fundamentals II	Intro to MT Voice/Broadway Bound 2 Intro to Production & Design
Year 3 – 9th Grade	Acting Tech I <i>Monologue prep; audition</i> MT Voice I Intro Stage Movement MT History ** OCSA Unplugged, by audition (9-12)	Acting Tech I <i>Character work, improvisation</i> MT Voice I Beginning Keyboard MT Audition
Year 4 – 10th Grade	Acting Tech II <i>Voice and Speech</i> MT Voice II Intro Music Theory Intro Pop Vocal	Acting Tech II <i>Playreading; scene study</i> MT Voice II Intro Music Theory Intro Jazz Vocal
Year 5 – 11th Grade	Acting Tech III <i>Shakespeare; acting theorists</i> MT Voice III Musicianship MT Studio	Acting Tech III <i>College audition prep</i> MT Voice III Intro Operetta Stage Combat
Year 6 – 12th Grade	Acting IV <i>Contemporary scenework; styles</i> MT Voice IV Acting for Camera Stage Makeup	Acting Tech IV <i>Performance project</i> MT Voice IV Pop Vocal II Business of the Business

All Acting Techniques/Musical Theatre Voice techniques classes are strictly by grade level.

Other 9-12th grade courses may be assigned in years other than indicated, depending on enrollment numbers, teacher availability, student transfers, etc.

Due to numbers of students, the majority of MT semester-long classes are offered both Fall and Spring.

** *A capella* group OCSA Unplugged is open to 9-12th graders by audition and is repeatable. It meets in the fall semester only.

MUSICAL THEATRE CONSERVATORY

Acting Fundamentals I

Students will focus on exploring Acting Principles, Techniques, and Genres. Development of craft while building Focus, Concentration, Listening Skills, Improvisation, Ensemble Building, Character Development, and Theater Etiquette. Classwork and Assignments include Individual and Group Activities, Exercises, and Performances; Understanding of Theater Pieces through Script Analysis; Selecting and Acquiring Suitable Audition and Performance Materials; Knowledge and Appreciation of all elements of Theatre Production through Written Assignments and Activities.

Acting Fundamentals II

Focus on building upon concepts from Acting Fundamentals I; including: exploring Acting Principles, Techniques, and Genres. Development of craft while building Focus, Concentration, Listening Skills, Improvisation, Ensemble Building, Character Development, and Theater Etiquette. Classwork and Assignments include Individual and Group Activities, Exercises, and Performances; Understanding of Theater Pieces through Script Analysis; Selecting and Acquiring Suitable Audition and Performance Materials; Knowledge and Appreciation for all elements of Theatre Production through Written Assignments and Activities.

Acting for Camera

Focus on building skills to successfully transition between the mediums of stage and screen acting. Classwork includes on camera practicum that incorporates audition skills, genres of on-camera acting, actor preparation, and honesty in performance. Assignments include memorized and rehearsed on-camera scenes, monologues, and script copy.

Acting Technique I

Focus on Ensemble Building; Vocabulary of Acting; Character Creation; Rehearsal Techniques; Performance Skills; Audition Prep. Classwork includes Improvisation; Voice; Movement; Character Observation; Warmups; and Group Exercises. Assignments include Monologue/Scene selection, preparation, and performance; Written assessments of live performance.

Acting Technique II

Focus on building skills acquired in Acting Techniques I; Heightening the actor's vocal/physical/emotional range; Freeing the actor from inhibitions and self-consciousness; Text analysis; and Character development. Classwork includes Improvisation; Voice; Movement; Warm-ups; Group Exercises; Theoretical discussion; Aesthetic valuing. Assignments Include contemporary scene/monologue preparation and presentation, Chapter presentations/quizzes from Michael Shurtleff's AUDITION. Written assessments of live performance.

Acting Technique III

Focus on deepening students' investigation in the art and craft of acting; Classical work; Physical theatre; Shakespeare; Stanislavski; History of Acting theorists. Classwork includes Analyzing and breaking down Shakespearian text; Voice and Speech work to improve clarity, expand range, and insure vocal health; Exploration of Stanislavski's System in the areas of concentration, relaxation, given circumstances, and action; Application of techniques in scene and monologue work. Assignments include Rehearsal/Performance of Shakespeare and Contemporary works; Creation and maintenance of prompt books; Written essays (critiques of live performance and self-assessment).

Acting Technique IV

Focus on building on skills learned in Acting Technique I, II, and III; College Audition Preparation; Further development in Physical Preparation; Voice Work; Concentration; Improvisation; Script Analysis; Performance. Classwork includes College Preparation: selection, preparation, and performance of audition material; Physical/Imagination exercises; Play reading; Scene work; Acting theorists: Uta Hagen, Konstantin Stanislavski, Stella Adler, Michael Chekhov, etc. Assignments include Prepared Physical/Imagination exercises: Scene work; College audition presentation; Final short play performance.

Beginning Keyboard

Focus on Basic piano skills; Translation of the grand staff to keyboard; Creating a working knowledge of harmonic construction on the keyboard. Classwork includes Fingering; Posture; Notes on the piano; Grand staff; Key signatures; Reading simple melodies; Major/minor scales; Chord construction of major/minor chords; Rhythmic accompaniment and pedal techniques; Accompanying a vocalist. Assignments include Demonstration of proficiency in all of the above areas; Performance Final.

Beginning Stage Movement

Focus on flexibility, balance, physical awareness; Creativity through movement; Discoveries in weight/density; Reaction to internal/external stimuli; Relaxation techniques; Approaching character from a physical perspective. Classwork includes Warm-up/Preparation; Development of physical characters; Physical creation of animate/inanimate objects; Non-verbal storytelling; Use of imagery. Assignments include Neutral Mask Improvisations; Physical Storytelling; Group Movement Activities; Physical Character Development; Tempo/Rhythm Project.

Business of the Biz

Focus on Challenges and Opportunities for the working performer; Agents; Managers; Unions; Legal contracts; Interviews; Casting and “typing” oneself; Marketing/Networking; Casting resources; Survival. Classwork includes Creating Headshots, Resumes, Bios, and Branding; Creating an action plan for success; Budgets and expenses; Understanding Representation, Casting, Unions and Affiliations; Guest speakers and seminars. Assignments include Creating a profile of a working actor and determining performance opportunities based on their skill set, geographic location, and income; Creating a webpage or template and a 30-second video for marketing purposes; Participate in a “Typing” exercise using headshots of unknown performers; Conduct mock casting and interview scenarios.

Elements of Music Theory

Focus on building a solid foundation in music theory in both melodic and rhythmic terms; Ear training; Sight singing; Melodic and Rhythmic notation. Classwork and Assignments include memorization of pitch names in Treble and Bass clef; Mastering major/minor key signatures; Understanding Melodic and Rhythmic terminology; Keeping time in various rhythms/meters/tempi; Ear training.

Intro to Musical Theatre Voice/Broadway Bound II

Focus on building upon concepts from Musical Theatre Ensemble, including: Professionalism, Vocal Usage, Physicality, Musicality, Basic Staging Principles, Characterization, Memorization, and Choreography. Classwork and Assignments include Song Preparation; Rehearsal and Performance of our end of year performance of Broadway Bound.

Intro to Operetta

Focus on Key Composers and Stylistic traits from the birth of Opera through the development of Operetta; Vocal techniques; Singer/Actor to Director Communication; Singer/Actor to audience communication. Classwork includes Study of historical influences and key contributors to the development of Operetta; Performance of music from Operettas using appropriate vocal techniques and style; Rehearsal of Operetta selections for public performance. Assignments include study puzzles about the historical evolution of operetta; Audition preparation for Operetta; Rehearsal and performance of narrated songs and scenes from

Intro to Pop Vocal

Focus on exploration of pop music from the 1950s to the present, including Pop, R&B, Rock and Roll; Musicality; Phrasing; Diction; Projection; Microphone technique; Performance technique. Classwork includes Solo/Duet/Ensemble work; song selection and preparation; Healthy vocal production including Breathing, Support, Placement, Phonation, and Resonance; Stage presence. Assignments include in class performances (two up tunes and two ballads); Rehearsal/Dress Rehearsal for public performance; Culmination concert with professional musicians in a public venue.

Intro to Vocal Jazz

Focus on History and Style of the art form; Compiling a repertoire suited to each student's abilities. Classwork includes utilizing recordings, song study, written assignments and performance to explore Swing, Bossa Nova, Ballads, etc.; Phrasing and Style; Transposition and Transcribing. Assignments include Vocal Transcription; Performances; Transposition of assigned lead sheets; Music Journal.

Makeup Lab

Focus on Design and execution of Theatrical Makeup and Hair/Wig styling; Old Age; Wounds/Bruises; Monster/Ghoul/Zombie; Character; Fantasy; Clown; Period Hair/Wig/Bald Caps; Skin Care. Classwork includes Lecture, demonstration, and hands-on practice. Assignments include Portfolio Building; Crewing an OCSA MT production; Research, design, color render designs for OCSA production cast members; Implement specified makeup assignments in class.

Musical Theatre Audition

Focus on all aspects of Musical Theatre Audition Preparation; Song selection and preparation; Working with accompanists; Relaxation and Confidence in Audition scenarios. Classwork and Assignments include research, selection, and preparation of songs assigned in various genres/styles/periods/cuttings.

Musical Theatre Ensemble /Broadway Bound I

Focus on Professionalism, Vocal Usage, Physicality, Musicality, Basic Staging Principles, Characterization, Memorization, and Choreography. Classwork and Assignments include Song Preparation; Rehearsal and Performance of our end of year performance of Broadway Bound.

Musical Theatre History

Focus on History and development of the American Musical including Historical/Cultural influences on Music Theatre; Key individuals and trends; Period repertory. Classwork includes Research, lecture, and rehearsal/performance. Assignments include Song preparation from historical periods; Group created 20-minute musical in given style/period to be written, directed, choreographed, rehearsed, and performed for an invited audience.

Musical Theatre Studio

Focus on Audition Preparation; Ensemble Building; Dance rehearsal techniques; Vocal rehearsal techniques; Director to Actor communication; Producing a show. Classwork includes Professional presentation; choreographic techniques in staging/formations/collaboration; Rehearsal and Performance; Casting; Scenic Design; Publicity. Assignments include Preparing 32-bar audition cuts and song lists; Rehearsal and presentation of large and small cast musical numbers for an invited audience.

Musical Theatre Voice Technique I

Focus on Physical Components of healthy singing; Belting vs. Legitimate Techniques; MT Periods/Styles; Expressive Performance; Basic Sight-Singing and Part-Singing; Professionalism; Song as Monologue; Rehearsal and Performance Skills. Classwork includes discussion and demonstration of Posture/Breath/Resonance/Vibrato/Etc.; Exercises in all the focus areas above. Assignments include individual and group rehearsal/performance of varied styles, genres, etc.

Musical Theatre Voice Technique II

Focus on building on skills acquired in MT Voice Techniques I; Building repertoire from 20th century composers; Solo/Ensemble singing; Harmony; Music Theory; Staging; Emotional/Textual Connection. Classwork includes exercises/discussion/presentations in all focus areas. Assignments include preparation and execution of solo/duet/group songs; Written performance reports.

Musical Theatre Voice Technique III

Focus on building of skills acquired in MT Voice Techniques I and II; Making strong Musical, Dramatic, and Physical choices; Specificity; Expanding repertoire and creating different cuttings of material; Continued vocal health including resonance, diction, registration, and airflow. Classwork includes exercises/discussion/presentations in all focus areas; College audition preparation. Assignments include preparation and execution of solo/duet/group songs; Written performance reports.

Musical Theatre Voice Technique IV

Focus on building of skills acquired in MT Voice Techniques I, II and III; College audition preparation; Basic knowledge and application of the International Phonetic Alphabet; Repertoire building; Vocal health. Focus on College Preparation: selection, preparation, and performance of audition material; Development of healthy mixed range and belt; Vocal anatomy; Professional presentation. Assignments include Preparation and Presentation of 5-8 songs for use in college auditions and/or professional auditions; Sight-reading; Harmonic line; Development of tools to succeed in business.

Musicianship

Pre-requisite: Elements of Music Theory or equivalent. Focus on Aural recognition of music notation and symbols, scales, keys, intervals, rhythm, meter, melody, harmony, counterpoint, structure, form, musical expression, and artistry. Classwork includes Performance exercises, Drills and Reading of musical examples to strengthen overall musicianship; Development of skilled connection between written notation, aural identification, and performance. Assignments include Preparation and Performance in Sight-singing and Dictation; Written and Aural quizzes and exams.

OCSA Unplugged

OCSA Unplugged is open to high school students by audition only. In this course, students will develop the components of efficient, dynamic, harmonic singing, melodic and rhythmic reading, blending vowels, balancing sections, collaborating as an ensemble, and developing healthy vocal technique. OCSA Unplugged is a performance group that represents OCSA in the community. Students of different vocal parts are matched in quartets who are then responsible for learning, fine-tuning, and performing a set list of assigned songs. Students must be available, as needed, to perform after school, on weekends, and in evenings from mid-November until OCSA's Winter Break. This course may be repeated.

Pop Vocal II

Focus on Building of skill introduced in Into to Pop Vocal; Further development of Stage presence; Artistry; Microphone technique/ Material selection and presentation; Group harmony projects; Building a climactic medley of appropriate songs. Classwork includes Solo/Duet/Ensemble work; song selection and preparation; Healthy vocal production including Breathing, Support, Placement, Phonation, and Resonance; Stage presence. Assignments include in class performances Rehearsal/Dress Rehearsal for public performance; Culmination concert with professional musicians in a public venue.

Production and Design Overview

Focus on the components of Technical Theatre behind the scenes, including Stagecraft, Management, Design and Construction. Classroom activities to reflect these components as individual disciplines and as parts of a whole.

Stage Combat

Focus on Safety and specificity in execution of combat choreography; Combat in a theatrical setting; Fight Technique; Application of acting in the context of stage combat. Classwork includes Learning Vocabulary of combat techniques; Structuring and staging fights; Utilizing knowledge in acting to enhance staged conflict. Assignments include a scripted sequence students will learn and execute; a scene wherein students will collaborate on some of the unscripted elements; a final scene between three people collaborating on all combat elements.

Theatre Overview

Focus on exploring the various components involved in creating theatre. Students will gain a practical understanding of the various elements that go into creating a polished theatrical performance. Classwork and Assignments include participation in the collaborative processes of creating theatre.

*****Musical Theatre Dance Component**

MT Conservatory utilizes the outstanding Academic Elective Dance courses to fulfill the Dance Component in this course of study. All Musical Theatre majors are expected to enroll in one or more of these courses each year. The classes meet for a longer duration and more often than conservatory hours allow. Students are expected to cover all areas of dance, if possible, in their time here.

- Students should take *at least* one year each of:
 - Ballet
 - Jazz
 - Tap
- In addition, students *may* enroll in
 - Musical Theatre Dance
 - Ballroom

Students who have sufficient dance instruction outside of OCSA, or who have completed at least one year of the three required styles, should concentrate on taking additional year(s) of whichever discipline they least experienced. Students who do not enroll in a dance elective must get approval from the MT Conservatory Director.