

AIMS IN GRAZ

Course Descriptions

The American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria issues course credit on the basis of hours attended, pass/fail, etc. The acceptability of credit for AIMS' courses is at the discretion of the student's school. AIMS is not an accredited institution. Courses are college and graduate level and may be accepted by your school. The registrar's office may request additional information from AIMS as necessary.

Courses for Singers

Individual Voice Lessons (and Voice Laboratory)

Individual instruction in the continuing development of the singer's vocal ability with emphasis on building a technique appropriate to the repertoire suitable to the singer's voice classification. Repertoire is chosen in consultation with the singer's vocal coach.

Voice Studio Lab: Members of the voice studios meet to perform and discuss topics of mutual interest.

Aria Preparation Coaching (and Coaching Laboratory)

Individual coaching of selected repertoire, style and musical advice in the preparation of the standard operatic repertoire.

Coaching Studio Lab: Members of the coaching studios meet to perform and discuss topics of mutual interest.

Stage Artistry Classes (Opera and Concert Studios)

A study of techniques needed by the vocalist to perform onstage using as examples operatic roles, arias, scenes and songs with emphasis on learning techniques for portrayal, character analysis, moods and language. Psychological preparation, body language and movement, and physical appearance for the stage are included.

Daily Conversational German for Musicians

Four levels of instruction are offered. Study of the German language using basic conversations related to everyday life for musicians and, in higher levels, vocabulary and conversation related to auditioning in German and advanced conversation, in general.

German Diction

Individual instruction and group study of proper pronunciation and enunciation of the German language for singers.

Italian, French, Russian and English Diction (and others as needed)

Individual coaching of proper pronunciation and enunciation of these languages for singers.

Poetry of the German Lied

Study of selected texts to enhance understanding of the poetry of the standard repertoire of the German Lied through recitation, discussion and in-depth translation.

Lied History and Styles

Weekly lectures presented in the curriculum of the Concert Studio relating to the study of the German Lied composers, their lives and their music.

Lied Coaching and Laboratory

Individual coaching in the standard Lied repertoire with emphasis on attaining a professional artistic level of performance.

Concert Studio Lab: Group study and performance of Lieder and discussion pertaining thereto.

Audition Training Seminar (Opera and Concert Studios)

Professional preparation for auditioning in English and German. A series of lectures, master classes, discussions, and mock auditions apropos opera careers and graduate school admission. Agent auditions for selected qualified participants.

Weekly Special Events

A series of lectures and seminars by resident AIMS faculty and visiting faculty featuring special interests and talents. Includes agents and presenters discussing opportunities and challenges in the careers of young professional singers, pianists and orchestral musicians.

Master Classes

A series of master classes presented to enhance the singer's vocal technique and mastery of repertoire, and the collaborative pianist's technique and knowledge of styles and interpretation of repertoire. Guest master class teachers (opera, concert and piano) are chosen for their extensive professional experience in the music world.

"Vocal Artistry Through the Ages" Lecture Series and Historic Singers Audio Library.

Opera History and Styles of Singing since opera was "invented" in the 1600s. An in-depth study of the singer's art with illustrations from the extensive library of historical recordings collected by Prof. Dean Southern. The audio library is available throughout the summer for individual listening and study.

Courses for Pianists

Piano Instruction

Study of the instrument with the goal of further developing the pianist's technical and interpretive abilities in playing vocal repertoire and collaborating with vocalists.

Keyboard Laboratory

Class discussion of the challenges common to keyboard players regarding the vocal repertoire and collaborating with vocalists.

Collaborative Piano techniques

Teaches the techniques of accompanying and preparing opera and/or Lied repertoire. Taught in conjunction with the Coach-Accompanist Seminar.

Coach-Accompanist Seminar

Lectures and master classes for pianists who wish to become professional coaches and/or collaborative pianists.

Practicum

The pianist will be assigned a number of singers to accompany in classes and performances and a number of professional coaching sessions to observe.