

## **UPPER DIVISION JURY (BARRIER EXAM):**

At the end of four semesters or two years of successful voice lessons, students will sing a jury to determine if they are adequately prepared to move into upper division lessons. Transfer students will be placed in the lesson sequence during auditions. If a student is a transfer from another college or university and has already completed two years of study, then that student will be required to perform an upper division jury at the time of their audition or during the first semester in residence. This jury is second in importance only to the student's junior/senior recitals. The jury will occur at the same time as all other voice juries. It will last 15 minutes, but the voice faculty may ask students to sing longer if necessary.

The Upper Division Jury will result in either a pass or fail vote by the entire voice area faculty. The voice faculty will come to a unanimous decision for each student and discuss the results with the student immediately at the conclusion of the jury.

In addition to this pass/fail grade, students will also receive a regular final exam grade for this jury. So it is possible for a student to receive a passing semester grade on this jury, yet not be allowed to move into upper division lessons. If this happens, a student will repeat MUSC 1420 or 1440. If a student fails the exam for a second time, the voice area will make a formal recommendation to the department head for a change of major.

## **Voice Barrier Exam Requirements**

- Six memorized vocal selections for both tracks of BA; Nine for Performance majors - All selections will be heard at the Barrier Exam, minus the song performed at Wednesday Recital. With approval of the instructor, the student may choose the order in which the selections are sung. Repertoire should be a varied selection of stylistic periods and languages. Overall criteria for judging the vocal selections of the barrier - Effective use of breath and

support, good concept of tone production and placement, with proper use of vowel formation.

- Song Preparation/learning – BME and BA voice majors will be given a song/aria in a foreign language 48 hours before Barrier. Performance majors will be required to prepare two songs in two different languages. They are responsible for learning that song adequately enough to be sung with an accompanist and without musical assistance from their instructor.
- Adequate concept of Diction and IPA/Translations/Historical Context – The student must submit a copy of the piece, with a word-for-word translation written above each word in the score. IPA should also be included, written below each word. \*In addition, a short (3-5 sentences) paragraph must be submitted describing the historical context of the piece, including information about the composer and the poet.
- Scales (major, natural minor, harmonic minor, melodic minor, and chromatic, one octave, up and down) – The student may choose any key, but they must sing the scales without accompaniment. Students may use solfege, numbers, or any combination of vowels (la, la, la, etc.)
- Appropriate level of sight-reading – student will be asked to sight read on solfege, numbers or any combination of vowels