

# USC Thornton | OPERA PROGRAM POLICIES SUMMARY

Reviewed with the cast of the 2021-22 Thornton Opera Program Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

- **Program Profile and Mission Statement**

**Our goal is to produce the best singer-actors available to the opera profession through high quality instruction, coaching, preparation and performance opportunities.**

- We are a professional program, seeking to prepare both undergraduate and graduate participants for careers in the opera.

- **Principles**

- The program's mission is supported by the following principles:
  - The Pursuit of Excellence
  - The Exploration of the Human Spirit
  - Identify and Confront Discriminatory Policy and Tradition
  - Creating a Safe, Secure, and Transparent Environment for Collaboration.
  - Imagination
  - Discovering, Developing and Refining Artistic Skills
  - Discovering, Developing and Refining Artistic Values
  - Taking Artistic Risk
  - Questioning Accepted Wisdom

- **Learning Objectives**

- To Develop Professional Skills in:
  - Singing
  - Diction
  - Music Preparation
  - Performance Practice
  - Recording Practice
  - Acting
  - Scene Study
  - Body Movement / Dance
- To Develop Professional Behaviors in:
  - Audition Etiquette
  - Rehearsal Etiquette
  - Production Related Calls
  - Public Relations Activities
  - Behavior in the Theater and Onstage
  - Working with Technology
  - Working with Colleagues
  - Working with Coaches
  - Working with Directors
  - Working with Crew
  - Communicating with Administration

- **Obligations and Conduct**

- Program participants are committed to the following obligations and conduct:
  - Being Prepared with Diction
  - Being Prepared Musically
  - Being Prepared for Acting and Staging
  - Attending All Calls to which they are Called Including Online Video Conferencing Sessions

- Communicating their Schedule and Resolving Conflicts Ahead of Time
- Being Aware of Weekly and Semester Program Schedules
- Arriving Before the Start of their Calls or Video Sessions
- Dressed in Appropriate Attire
- Being in a Space Adequate to Participate in Required Video Conference Activities
- Giving Full Concentration
- Being Considerate of Colleagues
- Keeping Facilities and Resources Properly Maintained and in Functional Condition.
- Communicating Patiently and Effectively with Peers and Faculty
- Communicating Patiently and Effectively with Crew and Administration
- o As singers you are expected to prepare music with conviction and imagination exploring both established performance practice and creative inspiration.
- o As actors you are expected to develop and deploy physical and emotional skills in the pursuit of portraying a character.
- o As collaborators you are expected to create a safe, secure, transparent and creative environment with your peers and teachers that fosters constructive criticism and feedback.

*Singer-actors will sometimes be faced with controversial subject matter, either from the content of the text and dramatic narrative or the artistic choices of their peers and/or directors. If you feel uncomfortable with any content or given situation please bring this to the attention of the Director(s). You may also bring it to the attention of the Student Opera Advocacy Council and/or the Chair of the Vocal Arts department, Dr. Lisa Sylvester.*

- **Health and Safety**

- o Opera Program participants are expected to take their health seriously. All University and County of Los Angeles COVID-19 related policies must be adhered to including proper social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, using TrojanCheck ([trojancheck.usc.edu](http://trojancheck.usc.edu)) and getting the required testing for in-person activities. A full list of University policies can be found on [we-are.usc.edu/health-and-safety/](http://we-are.usc.edu/health-and-safety/).

- **Equity and Diversity Policies and information.**

- o Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity Equal Opportunity, and Title IX* - <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* - <http://dps.usc.edu/>. This is important for the safety of the USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services* - <https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault/> provides 24/7 confidential support. In case of a counseling emergency after-hours or during weekends, call (213) 740-9355 to speak with an on-call counselor.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- **USC Thornton Opera Office**

- o Walk-in Hours: Mon-Fri, 2pm – 6pm
- o Opera Office Online Text Messaging: 213-320-6772, Opera Office – MUS 212 Landline: 213-740-6451