

September 2006.

Dear Students,

Welcome to York University and to the study of classical singing. I hope that you will be happy in your vocal development this year and that you will take full advantage of all the many opportunities that are available to you, as you can read on the other pages of the handbook. There are several opportunities for you to perform in noon hour or evening events in the Music Department and some for you to take part in masterclasses given by visiting teachers. I hope that some of you will also be interested in competing in music festivals outside the university. Discuss these with your teacher.

It is important that you read very carefully the detailed course description of individual instruction in voice. Please note, for instance, that you must be enrolled in a Major Ensemble as a co-requisite with your voice lesson. Exceptions to this rule will not be allowed. This year there are some changes to the course requirements for all performance lessons. You will need to read carefully how this affects you and the requirements for your jury. See the Voice Course Description.

A good deal of this handbook is taken up with materials for your concert reports. Please read the instructions carefully and submit the reports to your teacher in timely fashion. I hope you will enjoy getting out to these performances and learning where all of this studying could be leading. It is important for music students to attend live concerts given by professionals in the field in order to understand what it is you aspire to. Some of the ticket prices are rather high for students. But some performances are FREE to York students. Roy Thomson Hall and Massey Hall offer free tickets to us (see Lesia in the music office to book these) as does the Women's Musical Club of Toronto.

I have included a list of the names and numbers of some accompanists you might use to accompany your lessons or your juries, etc., and also a list of some useful websites for singers. I'm always happy to hear about others.

I wish you a wonderful year in 2006-2007 in York University's Music Department. You are all here because you have vocal potential. Now it's up to you to realize your potential through discipline, creativity and persistence. If there's anything I can do to help you on your way, I hope you'll contact me.

Sincerely yours,  
Professor Catherine Robbin