



Lyric Diction Requirements 2023

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Proficiency Information

Italian, French, and German diction proficiency tests and/or classes are:

- REQUIRED* for Undergraduate Transfer and Graduate Voice Performance majors, all doctoral Conducting majors, and Master of Music Choral Conducting majors
- Italian and French diction proficiency tests are given only during summer orientation.
- German diction proficiency test is administered in December.

Appointments

- Italian and French diction proficiency tests will be hosted on the Graduate Orientation Canvas (both written and performance portions). Further instructions are on Canvas.
- The singing portion will need to be recorded and uploaded to the Graduate Orientation Canvas. You can take both tests one after the other, or on different days.
- If you have any questions, contact Professor Timothy Cheek.

Testing Format

One language test is about 45 minutes long**:

1. 35 minute written test using the International Phonetic Alphabet;
2. Performance (memorized) of one song or aria in the language (Prof. Cheek will accompany). Non-singers can feel free to drop octaves.
3. Possible discussion about pronunciation

Preparation

Recommended texts:

A Handbook of Diction for Singers, by David Adams, Oxford University Press; *Singing in French*, by Thomas Grubb, Schirmer Books; and *German for Singers*, by William Odom, Schirmer Books

Diction Class Offerings

- Italian diction: 9:30–10:30 MWF in the Fall
- French diction: 10:30–11:30 in the Fall
- German diction: 10:30–11:30 MWF in the Winter

*The lyric diction requirement is a different requirement from your foreign language requirements.

**You also have the option to forego taking a diction test, and take the class instead. If this is your preference, then make sure to contact Prof. Cheek, tcheek@umich.edu. Classes are in high demand, and you will need permission to join.