

University of Delaware Vocal Studies

Diction/IPA Diagnostic Exam Study Guide

The Diagnostic Exam will present four quatrains (four-line stanzas) of poetic text from each of the three following languages:

- Italian
- German
- French

There are two components tested for each language: pronunciation and International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) transcription. Reading comprehension/translation of the language is not assessed. Both components will be assessed for each language before proceeding to the next language.

Proficiency in each language is assessed individually, so it is possible that the student will only need to complete one or two units in the MUSC 571 course based on results of the diagnostic.

Pronunciation

The student will be given 60 seconds to read and practice the first pair of quatrains. They will then be given two opportunities to speak through the text. Any language-specific nuances should be observed when possible.

IPA Transcription

The student will be given twelve minutes to transcribe the final pair of quatrains using the International Phonetic Alphabet, and then will be asked to recite the example.

Study Guide Resources

Any standard Singer's Diction book would be useful to review (Wall, Moriarty, Adams), but the University of Delaware School of Music uses the books of Cheri Montgomery in the undergraduate diction sequence. Links to her web site, which include many useful resources, and a very helpful clearinghouse of diction resources from the University of North Texas may be found below.

The faculty recommend consulting song anthologies with included IPA transcriptions for practice and reference, such as those edited by John Glen Paton (the *Gateway* series or *26 Italian Songs and Arias*, both published by Alfred, would be particularly useful).

LINKS

Cheri Montgomery's web site: <https://www.stmpublishers.com>

UNT Diction Resources: <https://voice.music.unt.edu/diction/singers>