

## **Opera Theater MUS 374**

**Director, Dr. Liza Kelly     liza.kelly@wku.edu**

**Course Objective: To help students develop the skills necessary to sing and act at the same time by strengthening the areas of imagination, spontaneity, awareness, and concentration; building an awareness of how music, text, and stage action combine to form a single expression; exploring the coordination of rhythm, pulse, pitch, harmony, text, emotional impulse, and characterization on stage. The curriculum for the course, while based on building the skills necessary to becoming a singing stage actor, is not exclusive or applicable to just performance majors. The skills learned during this course help students of any music major explore communicating informed physical and vocal choices, outside of their habitual comfort zone, as well as how to be dynamic within ones environment and with peers. The class also addresses how to successfully bring skills learned in aural skills, music theory, form and analysis, and music history courses into the responsibilities of preparing a piece of music for performance. The standards and practices established and expected during the progression of this course adhere to those followed by professional opera and music performance companies.**

**Students do not need to be WKU Music Majors in Voice to participate in Opera Theater. This ensemble is open to students of all disciplines who can read music and have been enrolled in a WKU Choir, Band, or Orchestra.**

**A variety of performance genres are produced on behalf of Opera Theater:**

- **Art Song Theater – a hybrid of spoken theater and lyric poetry readings interspersed with foreign language art song and operatic arias.**

