International Phonetics Alphabet

Designed for Choral Music Educators and Private Voice Teachers, this 2018 Summer Voice Institute course will provide an in-depth study of the individual symbols/sounds of the International Phonetics Alphabet (IPA), focusing on the specific articulators involved in producing each sound and the slight variations between the sounds that result in diction that is accurate and easily understood. Proficiency in the IPA results in better communication between teacher and students regarding correct pronunciation of texts, and allows the teacher to benefit from an understanding of the many foreign language transcriptions that are available. This course will include symbols and sounds that occur in the Italian, German, French, and English languages.

Deborah Williamson is an Associate Professor of Voice and was named a 2016-17 Baylor University Outstanding Professor in recognition of distinctive teaching. She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance/Pedagogy from the University of North Texas; the Master of Music Degree in Voice and Artist Diploma in Opera from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music; and the Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Baylor University. Dr. Williamson has taught English, Italian, and French Lyric Diction courses to vocal performance and choral music education students at Baylor University for 17 years. She has performed principal roles with The Little Orchestra Society in New York at Lincoln Center, Des Moines Metro Opera, Central City Opera, Chautauqua Opera, and Opera Columbus, among others; has appeared as a featured soloist with symphony orchestras in the U.S. and Europe; and has recently performed a solo recital of French and American art songs at the American Cathedral in Paris, France.

Testimonial for the 2017 Summer Voice Institute French Lyric Diction course:
“I absolutely cannot believe how much material was covered. The sequencing made all the difference. Never at any point did I feel bored; but also, I never felt bogged down. Perfect.”