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Summer 6-3-2015

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# The Art of French Mélodie: A Manual for Recital Preparation

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## Abstract

I document my journey through the research, development and execution of a recital, resulting in guidelines for how one would achieve a future recital. This recital is focused on French mélodie, a genre of art song classified by its intense lyricism and precision. Moving through three phases: thinking, doing and reflecting, I highlight the important processes required to transition seamlessly through each. While going through the project, each step is documented in a journal to maintain the integrity of the process. My end goal is to present a "How To" manual with information on planning, preparing and ultimately presenting a recital to the public.

## Methodology

In order to execute my recital and research project effectively, I work in three phases: thinking, doing and reflecting.

- Thinking Phase
  - Decide what I want to do for my recital
  - Choose pieces - Work with teacher
  - Schedule times to practice
- Doing Phase
  - Learn music
  - Practice
  - Recital audition - Set the date
  - Recital preparation - Costume, program notes, promotion, etc.
- Reflecting Phase
  - Analyze data - Construct rubric for analysis
  - Give assessment - Note unexpected discoveries

## Data

My data includes documentation of my current progress in my pieces, the steps needed for preparing music and a sample of the analysis that will be completed when the project is completed.

Song List Progress							
Composer	Songs	Notes	Rhythms	Words	Translation	Interpretation	Performed
Gabriel Faure	Automne	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Mandoline	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Notre amour	X	X	X			X
	Après un rêve	X	X				
Reynaldo Hahn	D'une prison	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Fêtes Galantes	X	X	X	X		
	Si mes vers avaient	X	X				
Henri Duparc	Chanson triste	X	X				
	La vie antérieure	X	X	X			X
	Lamento	X	X				
Edith Piaf	Non, Je ne regrette rien	X	X	X			
	La vie en rose	X					

This table will be completed at the end of my recital in the reflecting phase. It focuses in on the progress I will have made up to that point. By having this chart I will be able to actively critique myself and gain better insight for the future.

Final Analysis					
	1-Unsuccessful	2 - Somewhat Unsuccessful	3 - Neutral	4 - Somewhat successful	5 - Successful
Technical Advancements					
Artistic Interpretation					
Linguistic Proficiency					
Presentation Success					
Preparation and Organization					
Publicity Results					

## Conclusion

Currently in my process I am in the doing phase. I am scheduled to do my recital hearing on Thursday, March 5. Once I have passed, I will continue refining my artistry, create publicity and follow through with necessary paperwork. I plan on doing my recital in April.

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