

Study Card Advice - Music 324 - Musical Theater

It has proven enormously helpful to students to prepare study cards for each piece we study; this process allows you to consolidate your notes and to make sure you got all the pertinent information. (Be sure to ask me if you have 'gaps' you need to fill!) The cards are easy to carry around, and they create a 'visual image' that is sometimes helpful when taking exams.

I recommend that you make **two kinds of cards**:

1. "**Terms**" cards—from lecture and from the reading. It would be smart to put the definition **AND** the piece in which the term was used on your flashcard. Remember that there is a glossary in this reader and on-line.
2. "**Repertory**" cards—which summarize what you've learned about each musical example we'll study.

Suggested Format for Repertory Cards:

"Title of Selection" from Title of Work / Composer / Lyricist/Librettist / Date

1. Genre [=category - opera, operetta, Singspiel, musical comedy, etc.]
2. Brief Outline of Plot
3. Situation of song -- who sings it, and why?
4. Medium -- performers needed
5. Form -- the structure or pattern of repetition in the music
6. Other Musical Elements -- especially new terms which came up in connection with this piece, but also older terms which were associated with the work

I. E.:

"Excerpt from Act I" / *Coronation of Poppea* / Monteverdi / Busenello / 17th c. (1642)

1. opera
2. Nero is scheming to get his mistress Poppea crowned 'Empress'
3. Nero is leaving Poppea's house one morning after an overnight stay, and she's trying to get him to promise to return
4. 2 singers, with harpsichord or lute in recitative sections, orchestra during aria
5. [none = Through-composed] (in 4 sections: recitative, arioso, recitative, aria)
6. primo uomo, prima donna