

Swedish Pop Music & Musical Theater

In this course students focus on the pronunciation through exercises and getting a clear explanation of the sounds used in the Swedish language. The students receive tools on how to practice pronouncing Swedish correctly by analyzing the sounds, training the lips, tongue and movement of the jaw, all in a very playful and open atmosphere. We'll practice this by connecting the analysis to songs that come from Swedish musical theater and pop music. The exercises include singing and drama exercises.

Week 1:

Students will learn to sing four to seven songs in Swedish, depending on the progression of the students. At the end of the week they will start to write scenes in Swedish. Each student will work in a small group and contribute to writing a scene, each at their own level. Next to receiving help on pronunciation the students will also receive assistance on learning Swedish vocabulary, grammar and creative writing.

Week 2:

Students will continue to rehearse the songs and improve their pronunciation. Together students will translate and analyze the song lyrics. You will learn to get to the core of the material by connecting emotionally to the text. This will be accomplished by realizing what you say exactly and why you say a sentence the way you do. You practice and explore this by doing different drama exercises and making a clear connection between your own language and the Swedish language.

Week 3:

Students will focus more on the performance, as the songs and scenes will be presented to the entire student population. The joy students feel doing this, helps a lot feeling comfortable when expressing themselves in the Swedish language.

Students will continuously receive information on and inspiration from Swedish musical theater and pop music during this course.

In short we will work on the following:

- A better understanding of how to pronounce Swedish.
- Improve the pronunciation of Swedish language through technical exercises.
- Improve the pronunciation of Swedish language through fun exercises.
- Singing Swedish songs to obtain the right emphasis and pronunciation.
- Improvisations.
- Improving vocal technique.
- Drama exercises to improve pronunciation and increase confidence.
- Acting in Swedish, to gain a deeper technical and emotional understanding of the language.

Students who take this course for credits are required to write a paper of 6 to 8 pages on one of the following subjects:

- Swedish pop music or music industry.
- Swedish musical theater.