



## TLEF Small Projects – Final Report

*To be completed for Small Projects upon completion of the project.  
Please limit this report to a maximum of 2 pages.*

Project Title: UBC Intensive Opera and Language Summer School	Report Submission Date: 2015/11/12
Principal Investigator: Nancy Hermiston	Project Initiation Date: 2013 – 2014 -04/06
Report Submitted By: Nancy Hermiston	Project Completion Date: (2015/11/12)

### Summary of Work Accomplished

*Describe if and how the project has significantly contributed to the enhancement of teaching and learning, as well as if and how the project outcomes constitute sustainable benefits to students.*

The project had a great impact on the ability of our students to be able to sing, speak, communicate and express the emotional and dramatic content of the repertoire they sing in the target languages (Italian & German). The pairing of the morning language classes with afternoon stagings, movement and acting classes for the lyric stage, with instruction given in the target language exclusively, presented a 'real-life' experience for the singers. The students were very excited to have to challenge themselves and having to deal with endeavouring to understand what the director was demanding of them in a language that they did not completely understand. The experience helped them to address their fears of speaking in a foreign language, improve their communication and comprehension of the language and demonstrate to them that with intensive daily work on the target language both in a specialized classroom situation and a professional, experiential learning model, they were able to improve their language skills rapidly. In addition their self confidence in the language improved dramatically within the three week period. The examiners and the audience, made up of professional and academics remarked on this amazing transition as well.

### Evaluation of Project Outcomes

*Describe the outcome-based criteria used to evaluate the project's success or performance.*

Students were given the regular university feedback forms to fill in; Luisa Canuto then asked the students for some informal feedback at the end of each week—the feedback based on the following 3 simple questions: What did you like? What would you change?



What would you like more of? And what would you like less of?  
Finally, we also asked Rhoslyn Jones, one of our alumni who is now singing professionally and also teaching at a university, to approach alumni in situations where they are required to work using a foreign language for the communication of the desired concept and staging of the opera to approach some alumni to collect some longitudinal feedback. Finally we also collected feedback from Roberto Recchia, our Italian stage director and Krzysztof Biernacki, our German stage director as well as the students taking the course as to the effectiveness and value of this method of integrated language study. Both instructors were very positive about the method and very positive value of this intensive and experiential learning method for languages. The students felt that this reinforced their other classroom language leaning and that it gave them the knowledge, skills, confidence and courage to succeed in the language. They also felt that it was truly giving them a very good representation of a professional situation.