

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THEATRE
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA**

**Chamber Choir
Fall 2012**

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Numbers: MU 127-427 (Chamber Choir)

Contact/Credit Hours: 3/1

Professor: Dr. Ian Loepky

Office: Choral and Recital Room, MB 146

Phone: 256.765.4515

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Office hours: Open-door policy; best reached by email for questions or assistance.

Meeting times:

Chamber Choir: TTh 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

All rehearsals are in the Choral Room (MB146) unless otherwise noted.

Highlighted items are those new since the start of the previous semester.

Description

Specialized study and performance of choral chamber music. Students are selected from the Collegiate Singers by audition and have two rehearsal periods per week. Each course number may be repeated only once with the exceptions of 427 which may be repeated more than once with departmental approval. Prerequisite: assignment by departmental approval.

Goals

- To provide students with the highest quality performance choir possible
- To perform quality choral literature from all styles and periods
- To develop musical and vocal skills

Course Objectives

The prospective teacher will demonstrate the

Standard	Assessment
290-3-3-.32(2)(b)2.(ii) Ability to perform in a variety of large and small ensembles.	Individual singing tests, section rehearsals, performances
290-3-3-.32(2)(f)2.(i) Ability to perform as a vocal soloist and in small and large vocal ensembles.	Individual singing tests, section rehearsals, performances

Required materials

There is no required text for this course. All music is issued to students from the choral library or is borrowed from other choral libraries; students will be charged a replacement fee for music not returned and/or grades will be withheld and hold will be placed on their accounts. All music must be marked in pencil only. Each student will be asked to purchase a professional black folder from the bookstore—these are high-quality folders that will last for years and are approximately \$25.00 each. No other folder will be accepted. Students may be asked to purchase major works for concert use; this will never be more than \$30.00 per semester.

Uniforms

1. Men: Tuxedo (no tails), white shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black studs/cuff links, black socks, black shoes (this tuxedo **may** be purchased through the Officers of the Collegiate Singers)
2. Women: Black floor-length dress, black shoes (this dress **must** be purchased through the Officers of the Collegiate Singers)
3. All: no perfume/cologne or reflective jewelry

You will be measured for these uniforms in the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to get measured in a timely fashion. This order for uniforms will be placed on Monday 10 September by the officers of the Collegiate Singers. **All payments for uniforms are due on that day.** Those students not measured or not paid on that day will be responsible for ordering their own uniforms and incurring including any extra shipping costs as a result. Vendor and item number for these are available upon request. Students will not be allowed to perform on any concert out of uniform.

Election of Officers

Two officers for the group (President and Vice-president) will be elected by the group within the first week of classes. An additional four officers (Secretary-Treasurer, Producer, Librarian and Assistant Librarian) will be selected by interview; choristers are welcome to submit a short resume for these positions by Monday 27 August to the director. Each of these positions comes with a Choral Performance Leadership Award of \$250.00/semester. Descriptions of these can be found on Angel.

Section Leaders

Up to five Section Leader positions will be offered. These positions will be selected by audition (details to follow). Responsibilities include teaching individual parts in sections and helping to run full rehearsals during the director's absence. Priority will be given to Vocal/Choral majors (then Instrumental majors) for these positions. Section leaders **MUST** be so in at least two UNA choirs. Each of these positions comes with a Choral Performance Leadership Award of \$200.00/semester.

Expectations and Grading

This is a performance-oriented course, with no written tests or exams. The student's final grade is determined by attendance and may be adjusted for participation.

1. Attendance

- a. Each student begins this course with an A.
- b. The following grade scale will apply to unexcused absences: 0-1=A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=D, 5+=F. Save this unexcused absence for when you *really* need it
- c. Two lates equal one absence. A student is considered late if s/he is not in their assigned seat when rehearsal has begun. The clock in the rehearsal room—set to the second—will be used in all matters of attendance.
- d. Absences are automatically considered unexcused unless the reason for the absence is proven unforeseeable and unavoidable. An excused absence must meet both of these criteria, and be backed up by written documentation from an authority figure. For example, reporting an illness without a doctor's note is considered an unexcused absence. Showing up late because of an applied lesson without a note from the instructor of that lesson is considered an unexcused absence. Your roommate is not an authority figure, but your resident supervisor, parent, landlord, mechanic, physician, employer, pastor, teacher, police officer, or judge is (i.e. people with professional reputations to protect).
- e. Prolonged illness should be explained to the instructor on an individual basis.
- f. Foreseen conflicts with the rehearsal/performance schedule must be reported within the first week of classes.
- g. Excessive *excused* absences will be dealt with according to UNA policy.
- h. Missing a concert or dress rehearsal will result in an automatic grade of F for the semester.
- i. All cell phones must be turned off in class and any rehearsal/performance space. Texting during rehearsal (or any other off-task behavior) is not permitted at any time. This requirement is waived if you are waiting for an emergency call—please tell the instructor this at the beginning of the class. If a cell phone is heard during any performance, its owner will receive an automatic F for that semester.
- j. Occasionally, sectional rehearsals may be called. The same expectations for attendance and participation are in effect for these rehearsals, even if the instructor is not present.
- k. Those students taking MU 011 (Performance Attendance) can expect to gain a recital credit for every UNA choral concert in which their participation is 50% or less of the total.
- l. Some solos will be made available to members through auditions. The instructor reserves the right to select professional or UNA soloists outside of the membership of the group. Solos assigned to group members are a privilege, and may be reassigned for reasons of attendance and/or participation.
- m. Absence buybacks
 - i. A given student will be allowed to make up only one absence per semester and only up to a B grade.
 - ii. These include (but are not limited to):
 1. Concert setup (moving risers, setting up reception area, etc. **before and after**)

2. 3 hours of Choral Library work (sorting and cataloguing music, clean-up, etc.)
 3. These buybacks will be monitored by the officers, but the director has final say. A student wishing to buy back an absence must work in a way that removes all reasonable doubt as to its deserving.
- iii. Upon explicit approval of the director and officers (and depending on the situation), a student with a special case may seek to bring his or her grade up to an A from a grade lower than a B. Please see the director for further details.
2. Participation: negligence in this area may result in the student's grade being lowered at the discretion of the instructor. Essentials for participation include:
 - a. Reading this syllabus and indicating that you have done so via an email survey.
 - b. Bringing all music and a pencil to each rehearsal, and using both.
 - c. Sitting in the correct seat according to the seating chart (necessary for both attendance-taking and music distribution)
 - d. Full participation during the rehearsal process, including refraining from talking during instruction (ideally, there should be only one person talking at any one time during rehearsal, and it will usually be the instructor). This includes section leaders or student conductors.
 - e. Comments about the music, rehearsal process, etc. are welcome either before or after the rehearsal, but not during. The instructor has an open-door policy.
 - f. In lieu of performances for reasons of conscience, a substitute assignment may be completed by the student upon request. This request must be made at least two weeks in advance of the performance.
 - g. Each student will be required to subscribe to the UNA Choirs Twitter feed. You can find this on Twitter, or, if you prefer not to sign up for Twitter, simply text "follow unachoirs" to 40404. This Twitter feed will ONLY be used for pertinent and immediate messages regarding the UNA Choruses, including alerting you to email messages.
 - h. The maintenance and checking of your UNA email account. This is the only account to which Collegiate Singers mail will be sent. The instructor will never send an announcement with less than 24 hours notice; it follows that if you are checking it once a day, you will never miss anything. Having an account which is "Over Quota" is not an excuse for missing announcements.
 - i. Repertoire checks: From time to time, the director may ask the members to report individually to ensure that the member is capable of singing his/her part independently. These "rep checks" will be worth the equivalent of one absence. An example of a "rep check" might be a test of the students' ability to sing their part starting at any point in five choral selections for sixteen bars with only their starting pitch. These rep checks may be done in pairs with someone NOT in your section.
 - j. Spot checks: From time to time, the director may ask the members of the group to sing their part independently in front of the entire group during rehearsal. This

- will always be done with no less than 4 singers i.e. one singer per section. These spot checks will always be announced at least one class period in advance.
- k. Adherence to concert dress for all concerts (described previously).

Accommodation Statement

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the University offers reasonable accommodations to students with eligible documented learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to an average person in the population. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Developmental Services prior to the beginning of the semester to initiate the accommodation process and to notify instructors within the first three class meetings to develop an accommodation plan. Appropriate, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, but no fundamental or substantial alteration of academic standards will be made. Students needing assistance should contact Developmental Services.

Spot and Repertoire Check schedule for Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz Ensemble Spring 2012:

Spot checks take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays in class.

Rep checks begin on Wednesdays at 9 a.m and close Fridays at 11 a.m.

Other times may be scheduled in case of conflicts. It is YOUR responsibility to come during these times or arrange for another. Failing to do so will result in a failing grade for that check

Date	Type
25-27 Jan.	Rep
1-3 Feb.	Spot
8-10 Feb.	Rep
15-17 Feb.	(none; instructor out of town)
22-24 Feb.	Spot
29 Feb. – 2 Mar.	Rep
7-9 Mar.	(none; concert week)
14-16 Mar.	Spot
21-23 Mar.	Rep
28-30 Mar.	(none; Spring break)
4-5 Apr.	Spot
11-13 Apr.	Rep
18-20 Apr.	Spot
25-27 Apr.	(none; concert week)