

The University of Central Florida Choirs
Dr. David L. Brunner, Conductor
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Office Hours as posted or by appointment
Fall 2017

MUN 3343 Chamber Singers

Course Description

The choral organizations at UCF offer an opportunity to study and perform a variety of choral music of many styles, contexts and cultures, including classical masterworks with instruments and art and folk music of many traditions. Choral ensemble experiences encourage and reinforce healthy singing technique, provide an awareness of cultural and historical style, tradition and context, refine critical listening and reading skills, encourage analytical thinking through analysis-in-practice, and provide a community of musicians an opportunity to explore together the power of shared music-making. The Chamber Singers is a select, mixed choir that explores music appropriate to a small, advanced ensemble, and performs in the Orlando area each semester.

Prerequisite

Audition and instructor consent.

Rehearsals

Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., M 150

Electronic Etiquette Policy: The rehearsal is a cell-free and portable device-free zone. Please turn them off before each class. Texting is not allowed during rehearsals and performances. Do not bring phones into the performance space.

Course Objectives

1. Students will develop consistent vocal technique and expressive singing skills through the study and performance of a stylistically diverse repertoire. (vocal skill development)
2. Students will develop discriminating listening skills with regard to ensemble singing, balance, blend, timbre, diction, pitch, rhythm, harmony (aural skill development)
3. Students will develop an awareness of and sensitivity to stylistic aspects of western and non-western traditions. (cultural/historical perspective)

4. Students will experience and evaluate a variety of music and performance with regard to expressive qualities, interpretation, and musical/emotional effect. (aesthetic judgment)
5. Students will diagnose technical and musical problems encountered in rehearsal and prescribe solutions. (analytical thinking and problem solving)

Assessment

- Evidence of musical growth in vocal and personal musicianship skills (Students may be called upon to perform music from class individually, by appointment, or in quartet exams)
- Reflective writing assignments.
- Personal attitude and effort: Failure to prepare your part or actively participate in rehearsal may result in lowering of the final grade.
- Consistent and punctual attendance and participation at required rehearsals, workshops and performances.

Attendance: Your attendance and participation is required at all rehearsals, special workshops and performances. You are responsible for learning the assigned music outside of rehearsal and are responsible for any score markings, announcements or instructions given in your absence. Be aware that your absence diminishes the success and performance level of the choir. Excused absences should be limited to illness, extreme emergencies, or other academic obligation approved by Dr. Brunner in advance.

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each rehearsal and performance. If you arrive after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to notify the attendance taker of your tardiness before you leave the rehearsal. If you do not, you will be marked absent. As tardiness is disruptive to the class, it is important that you arrive before the rehearsal begins. Arriving late or leaving before a rehearsal is completed is considered 1/2 absence. Tardies are cumulative. Each absence after three reduces the final grade by one letter. (4=B, 5=C, 6=D, 7=F)

After three absences, it is at the discretion of the conductor whether the student will be allowed to perform in the concert. If the student does not perform in the concert, the result is a failing grade. Students may not perform in the concert if they fail to attend the dress rehearsal. Unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade.

Exceptions due to extenuating circumstances may be made at the discretion of the conductor.

IMPORTANT: Attendance at the August 28th and 30th rehearsals is crucial and will be used to record academic activity in fall 2017 classes, to support UCF's compliance with a federal financial aid regulation. In essence, the regulation states that students who receive federal student aid must be academically engaged in each course in which they are enrolled. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their aid. If you are on financial aid, do not miss these classes!

Rehearsal Expectations:

1. Arrive on time and demonstrate professional courtesy by not leaving the rehearsal room once the rehearsal is in progress.
2. Arrive with individual music prepared.
3. Turn off cell phones.
4. Have and use a pencil.
5. Observe proper rehearsal etiquette by limiting talking and maintaining focus.

Required Texts, Music and Folders: Students enrolled in performing ensembles pay a nominal materials fee, which entitles them to use choral scores owned by the department. You are responsible for the folder and all music assigned to you on loan and assessed for any music that is lost or damaged.

FALL 2017 CHORAL CALENDAR (Required events)

Thursday, November 30, 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal, St. James Cathedral, downtown Orlando

Friday, December 1, 6:30 p.m. call/7:30 p.m. concert, St. James Cathedral, downtown Orlando

Concert Dress for University Chorus: Students must purchase the following attire by the announced deadline, checks or money orders only, payable to the UCF Department of Music.

Women: Chorus Dress (purchase information available), close-toed black shoes. No jewelry or hair ornamentation. Hair should be worn away from the face and appropriate performance makeup is expected.

Men: Black tuxedo (purchase information available), plain or pleated white tux shirt, bow tie and cummerbund, black shoes and socks. No pocket handkerchiefs.

Email communication: Webcourse announcements and email are our official methods of communication. Though announcements are given daily in class, they may be reaffirmed, supplemented or changed via email. Webcourse announcements and email memos will be considered official. Please check your knightsmail regularly.

Diversity: Part of the mission of a state university is to expose students to things they may not come in contact with in their own world of experience, among them thoughts, ideas, traditions, beliefs, and customs of other cultures. One of UCF's initiatives in developing the University's Five Goals, is becoming *more inclusive and diverse*. In music – and particularly vocal music – an obvious way we can contribute to diversity of experience is in incorporating the use of musics of other peoples, times, languages, cultures and traditions. From time to time, we will explore repertoire of artistic and aesthetic merit that may not express a personally held belief of yours. It is, nonetheless, expected that you will study and perform this music with the same respect and intent as you would music from your own background and tradition. Experiencing different worlds, hearing new musics, thinking new thoughts, defining – or redefining – your own ideas and beliefs is what a university is all about and how we grow as educated people.

Accommodations for the differently-abled (alternate testing opportunities, support for signers, etc.): The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contract the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center room 132, phone 407/823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone 407/823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

(The UCF Creed and shared expectations of the choral ensembles.)

This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be discussed in class and/or via email.