MADRIGAL SINGERS
MUP 139/ MUP 339/ MUP 539 Syllabus
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Music
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Michael Murphy
Office: M126A
Email: murphymt2@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936.468.1181
Class Location: M215
Meeting Times: M W F 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Office Hours: By appointment

Required Materials:

1. Pencil – please mark loaned music with pencils (*always bring a pencil to class*)
2. Assigned music should always be brought to class and should be returned in good condition

Stephen F. Austin State University Choral Ensembles’ Mission Statement:

The choirs of the School of Music at Stephen F. Austin State University promote members’ growth as musicians and human beings through distinguished performances of quality repertory in a professional setting. All participants are given the opportunity to apply both knowledge and skill to create memorable experiences for themselves and audiences.

Course Description:

The Madrigal Singers is a vocal ensemble devoted to superior performances of chamber vocal repertoire from all periods.

Goals and Objectives:

1. To provide an advanced ensemble the experience of learning and performing diverse choral literature
2. To provide an environment for vocal development, both as an individual and as an ensemble
3. To engage and challenge the student to obtain the highest level of artistic performance contributing to the individual’s, group’s and community’s aesthetic education.
Choral Excellence

1. Vocal and musical excellence must be a top priority. We ALL must commit to excellence in EVERY rehearsal and performance.
2. Always perform – never just sing. There can be no such thing as “rehearsal mode” a careless approach to singing that prevents effective communication and artistic excellence.
3. Absorb, retain and execute every musical concept. You must do this in every rehearsal. Consistency is a cornerstone to a productive rehearsal atmosphere.
4. Maintain a professional appearance and state of mind. You must sit with correct posture, look up out of the score and sing with an expressive face.
5. Use the concepts of great diction. Use articulate and clear diction and form each vowel according to the concepts taught.
6. Sing musically. Use logical and natural syllable infection remembering that there should never be two consecutive notes, words or syllables performed with equal emphasis.
7. Read the directive indicated in the score. The composer’s markings are there for a reason. Read and execute every crescendo, diminuendo and articulation and perform them without having to be instructed to do so.
8. Clearly write the conductor’s directives in the score execute them. If the conductor talks about it, you need to write about it. Use a pencil and write clearly.
9. Do all things with passion and enthusiasm, and be a leader. To be in “neutral” or passively singing accurately, is never sufficient. To be fulfilled musically, you must be a leader who mentally, physically and emotionally makes a difference.

Grading

STUDENTS IN THIS ENSEMBLE ARE EXPECTED AND REQUIRED TO PUT FORTH THEIR BEST EFFORT AT ALL TIMES.

Singers are expected to adhere to the following requirements:

1. Thorough knowledge of music (All MUSIC IS EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED MEMORIZED UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)
2. Punctual attendance at all rehearsals and performances
3. Exemplary participation and focus at each rehearsal

These requirements will be assessed and graded in various ways:

1. By attendance records
2. By individual and group testing
3. By instructor observations

Rehearsal and Attendance Policies:
1. The success of any ensemble is determined by the dedication and attitude of each member. **Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is expected.** If unavoidable, students may miss 2 rehearsals throughout the semester. **Each additional unexcused absence, after two, will lower the student's final grade by a letter grade.** If there are extraordinary circumstances that cause you to miss rehearsal, please speak with me personally.

2. Tardiness is unacceptable. Physical and vocal warm ups, which are paramount to the health of the voice, begin immediately. Be prompt! Grades are based on punctual attendance at rehearsals and performances.

3. Students will refrain, with the exception of water with a sealable twist top, from eating or drinking in the rehearsal space.

4. Once rehearsal begins, unplug and be present. Cell phones and social media interfere with the learning environment.

**Class Expectations:**

1. The successful student will come to class prepared, with a positive attitude, music and pencil ready.
2. Students are responsible for all information covered in each rehearsal. If you know you will be absent, please get markings and/or information from another student. After speaking with a classmate, if you need further clarification, you may then contact the instructor.

**Students with disabilities:**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.
Madrigal Singers

*Fall 2017 Calendar* (The instructor reserves the right to change and add to the calendar as needed)

- **Monday, September 4**: First day of class
- **Wednesday, November 1**: Dress Rehearsal in Cole (9:00-10:30 p.m.)
- **Thursday, November 2**: Dress Rehearsal in Cole (4:00-5:30 p.m.)
- **Thursday, November 2**: Concert 7:30 Cole (call is 6:00 p.m.)
- **November 20-24**: Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Saturday, December 2**: Klein party (7:30 p.m.)
- **Friday, December 8**: Concert 7:30 Turner
  (Madrigal Singers sing in lobby before concert)