CHAMBER SINGERS
MUP 139/MUP 339/MUP 539 Syllabus
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Music
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Michael Murphy
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Class Location: M125
Meeting Times: MWF 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00 am or by appointment

Required Materials:

- Pencil – please mark loaned music with pencils (always bring a pencil to class)
- Assigned music should always be brought to class and should be returned in good condition
- Concert attire (black dress, black shirt/black pants)

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:

Chamber Singers is a chamber choral group devoted to superior performances of varied repertoire.

Goals and Objectives:

1. To provide an advanced ensemble the experience of learning and performing diverse choral literature (Learn and Create)
2. To provide an environment for vocal development, both as an individual and as an ensemble (Learn and Create)
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. (Communicate)
Choral Excellence

- Vocal and musical excellence must be a top priority. We ALL must commit to excellence in EVERY rehearsal and performance.
- 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.
- Absorb, retain and execute every musical concept. You must do this in every rehearsal. Consistency is a cornerstone to a productive rehearsal atmosphere.
- 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.
- Use the concepts of great diction. Use articulate and clear diction and form each vowel according to the concepts taught.
- Sing musically. Use logical and natural syllable infection remembering that there should never be two consecutive notes, words or syllables performed with equal emphasis.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
2. Punctual attendance at all rehearsals and performances
3. Exemplary participation and focus at each rehearsal
4. Attendance at sectional and small group rehearsals

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. Students may miss
two (2) unexcused 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. Excused absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis. (refer to University Attendance Policy)

2. Tardiness is unacceptable. Physical and vocal warm ups, which are paramount to the health of the voice, begin immediately. Three (3) tardies will be considered an unexcused absence. Be prompt! Grades are based on punctual attendance at rehearsals and performances. (refer to University Attendance Policy)

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

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.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Withheld Grades
There will be no withheld grades given for this course.

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, and 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. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/
Chamber Singers

*Fall 2019 Calendar* (The instructor reserves the right to change and add to the calendar as needed)

As with any performance class, performers must spend significant time in preparation outside of rehearsal acquainting themselves with all of the fundamental skills necessary for acceptable performance on the selected repertoire. Performers are expected to spend a minimum of 45 minutes daily (rehearse pitches and rhythms, writing in score markings, listen to a recording, and practice diction) on the current repertoire being prepared.

Monday, August 26  
First day of class

Sunday, September 8  
Rehearsal at St. Cyprian’s Episcopal (6:30-8:30 pm)

Wednesday, September 11  
Organ Dedication Concert -St. Cyprian’s Episcopal (7:30 pm, 6:00 pm concert call)

Thursday, November 7  
Chamber Singers Dress Rehearsal (7:00-10:00 pm)  
Cole Concert Hall

Friday, November 8  
Chamber Singers Concert (7:30 pm, 6:00 pm concert call)  
Cole Concert Hall

Wednesday, December 4  
Rotary Performance (12:00 pm)

Saturday, December 7  
Concert – St. Cyprian’s Episcopal (7:30 pm)

Tuesday, December 10  
Concert – Christ Episcopal Church, Tyler (12:00 pm)

Thursday, December 12  
Concert – Westminster Presbyterian Church (12:00 pm)