A CAPPELLA CHOIR
MUEN 1133/ MUP 3133/ MUP 5133 Syllabus
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Music
Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Michael Murphy
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Email: murphymt2@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936.468.1181
Class Location: Various - Kennedy Auditorium, Choir Room, Tent
Meeting Times: Monday – Thursday 2:00-2:50 p.m., other times listed on calendar
Office Hours: By appointment

Required Materials:

- Face mask
- Face shield (first one provided for you)

This large group of over 50 singers will be split into three smaller sections. At this time, face to face rehearsals will occur Monday-Thursday. Singers are requested to take their temperature before leaving their residence in the morning. Before rehearsal begins, students’ temperature will be taken again. Singers will follow these rehearsal protocols:

- Be spaced 6-10 feet apart depending on the rehearsal space
- Wearing face masks inside and outside (student responsibility)
- Face shields when inside (student responsibility)

Indoor rehearsals with singing will be shortened to 30 minutes. When conditions are favorable, rehearsals will continue or occur under a tent or other outside areas provided. Outdoor rehearsals with singing will go 30 minutes, then a 5-minute break where all will disperse from the space, and then rehearsal will resume until the completion of class. Additional indoor and outdoor large rehearsal spaces are in the process of being identified.

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 A Cappella Choir is a choral group devoted to superior performances of varied repertoire from classical to newly composed works. The singers, chosen by audition, come from many disciplines within the School of Music as well as the university at large.

**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. 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 (music that is expected to be memorized will be announced early)
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. 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.
2. Tardiness is unacceptable. Physical and vocal warmups, 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.

An excused absence is a university sanctioned event, documented illness with a doctor’s note stating you may not attend class due to an illness, or death in immediate family. With excused absences, you must notify me in advance, present documentation upon return, and are still responsible for any missed work or assignments (due dates still apply). Do not schedule regular doctor or dental appointments, lessons, meetings with other professors, etc. during this class as they will not be excused.

After two unexcused absences you are required to schedule a conference with the instructor, within the week of your second unexcused absence, to discuss your ability for continued success in the class. If you are having special circumstances that affect your ability to succeed in this course, please set up a conference with your instructor. The success and growth of every student is important!

*The exception to this policy is if you are quarantined due to COVID-19. You must notify the professor as well as the university if this happens.

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.

Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


**Concert Attire:**

**Women**

- A Cappella T-shirt

**Men**

- A Cappella T-shirt

**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/

A Cappella Choir

*Fall 2020 Calendar* (The instructor reserves the right to change and add to the calendar as needed)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 24</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 28</td>
<td>Vote on Section leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 17</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 18</td>
<td>7:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. call Concert</td>
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