A CAPPELLA CHOIR
MUP 133/ MUP 333/ MUP 433/MUP 533 Syllabus
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Music
Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Michael Murphy
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Phone: 936.468.1181
Class Location: 215
Meeting Times: Monday – Thursday 2:00-2:50 p.m., other times listed on calendar
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00-9:30 a.m. 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 and tour attire
- Alexander Nevsky -Sergei Prokofiev ($8.50)

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 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.
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.

Concert Attire:

Women

- Dress
- Pearls (provided)
- Closed toe black shoes
- Black or nude stockings
- Hair pulled away from face and looking nice
- A Cappella T-shirt
- Tour Concert Attire (TBA)

Men

- Standard black tuxedo, white tuxedo shirt with black button studs
- Black bowtie and cummerbund
- Black dress shoes and black dress socks
- A Cappella T-shirt
- Tour Concert Attire (TBA)
**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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**A Cappella Choir**
*Spring 2020 Calendar* (The instructor reserves the right to change and add to the calendar as needed)

Sunday, January 19 7:00-9:00 pm Rehearsal  
Saturday, January 25 9:00-12:00 p.m. SFA Choral Conducting Workshop  
Sunday, February 9 7:00-9:00 pm Rehearsal  
February 23-25 Austin/San Antonio Tour  
March 9-13 Spring Break  
March 20 7:00-10:00 p.m. Rehearsal (Sacred Heart Catholic Church)  
March 21 7:30 p.m. Concert (Sacred Heart Catholic Church)  
Sunday, April 19 7:00-9:00 pm Rehearsal  
Tuesday, April 28 7:00-10:00 p.m. Choral Masterworks Rehearsal (All Choirs Location - TBA)  
Wednesday, April 29 7:00-10:00 p.m. (Turner) Choral Masterworks Rehearsal (All Choirs)  
Thursday, April 30 7:00-10:00 p.m. (Turner) Choral Masterworks Rehearsal (All Choirs)  
Friday, May 1 7:30 p.m. (Turner) Choral Masterworks Performance (All Choirs)  
June 1-13 Italy Tour (A Cappella Choir)