Chamber Singers
MUEN 1139-001/ MUEN 3139-001/ MUEN 5139-001 Syllabus
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Music
Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Michael Murphy
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Phone: 936.468.1181
Class Location: Choir Room 125
Meeting Times: MWF 3:00-4:30 pm, other times listed on calendar
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:00 p.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

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.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic elements of music, including sight-singing and analysis.
2. Students will demonstrate comprehensive capabilities in rehearsing and preparing a high-level performance in ensembles.
3. Students will demonstrate fundamentals of pedagogy as pertaining to their instrument in an ensemble setting.
4. In performances, students will successfully complete an academic 2 capstone projects that demonstrates their comprehensive understanding of the curriculum (repertoire).
5. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of music history and literature from the Western art tradition, with supporting related studies in non-western traditions, practices, and cultures.

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. Avoid “rehearsal mode” a careless approach to singing that prevents building effective communication and consistent 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 and successful performances.
- Maintain good posture/alignment so the vocal mechanism can work properly. Look up from 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 remember 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 in your score and carry out the conductor’s instructions. 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!

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:
*Please pick a black option that best matches your gender identity/expression:*

### Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

### 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Mental Health resources

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
**Chamber Singers**

*Fall 2022 Calendar* (The instructor reserves the right to change and add to the calendar as needed)

- **Monday, August 28**: First day of class
- **Early September**: Group photo taken TBA
- **Saturday, October 14**: Dress Rehearsal (7:00-10:00 pm) Cole Concert Hall
- **Sunday, October 15**: Concert (7:30 pm, 6:00 pm call) Cole Concert Hall
- **November 20-24**: Thanksgiving Break
- **Wednesday, November 29**: Rotary Club (noon)
- **Sunday, December 3**: Concert (7:30 pm, 6:30 pm call) St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church
- **Saturday, December 9**: Concert (7:30 pm, 6:00 pm call)