

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CHORAL UNION
MUN 1460 / 3463
Chamber Music Ensemble/Chamber Music
Dr. Will Kesling, Conductor
Spring Semester 2024

Choir Rehearsals: Monday
7:00–9:00pm
MUB 120

Dates to Remember:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Saturday	February 10	9:00AM-3:00PM	MUB 120	Retreat
Saturday	March 2	2:30-5:30PM 7:30PM	UA	Puccini Dress rehearsal Puccini Concert
Friday	April 12	7:00-9:30PM	Steinbrenner	General Rehearsal - Dvořák
Saturday	April 13	2:00-4:30PM, 7:30PM	Phillips Center	Dvořák Dress Rehearsal, Dvořák Requiem

Course Description

Mixed choral ensemble open to students, faculty, staff, and local residents who have previous choral experience. Course literature is drawn from a variety of historical periods, cultures, and musical styles, presenting students with varied perspectives and experiences. Students explore the key elements of the literature including the origin, historical context, and form of song texts, compositional techniques, and performance practices. *1 credit*

Course Prerequisites

Successful audition.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate proper vocal technique – to include good intonation and characteristic tone quality;
2. demonstrate their knowledge of musical structures and conventions by performing with appropriate phrasing and an enlightened sense of shape and direction;
3. synthesize a broad range of musical skills by performing varied repertoire with expression, technical accuracy, and kinesthetic energy;
4. articulate how the cultural and historical contexts of the repertoire impact their understanding of the world, themselves, and their own experiences;
5. demonstrate professional behaviors including those unique to performing arts contexts; and
6. articulate the social and emotional benefits of participating in a community arts organization.

Required Text

Students will be provided with music (selections change each semester).

Required Materials

- black folder
- pencil

- concert attire:
 - OPTION A: standard black tuxedo, white tux shirt, black bowtie, black socks and shoes
 - OPTION B: ankle-length black gown (>3/4 Sleeve), black hose, black shoes, (costume jewelry is OK)
- * Additional details will be provided. Any exceptions must be approved by the director.

Attendance

Ensure that you are familiar with the university attendance policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies>

Good attendance and class participation are crucial to your success in this course. Attendance is mandatory for every scheduled rehearsal and performance. When you are absent from a class, you miss out on important information and experiences. More importantly, your absence will impact the other singers and the choir as a whole.

1. A tardy reduction will be assessed in the following circumstances:
 - a. The student arrives after the scheduled start time of a rehearsal
 - b. The student leaves before the scheduled end of a rehearsal
2. An absence reduction will be assessed in the following circumstances:
 - a. The student does not attend a scheduled rehearsal or performance
 - b. The student BOTH arrives after AND leaves before the scheduled start and end times of a rehearsal
 - c. The student arrives after OR leaves before the half-way point of a rehearsal
 - d. The student arrives after the scheduled start time of a performance
 - e. Other circumstances as described in this syllabus
3. To facilitate attendance recording, students are asked to place their cell phone in their designated slot on the phone rack in the front of the room, where it will remain for the duration of the rehearsal. Attendance is taken according to the cell phones seen in position at the front of the room. Photographs of the cell phone display AND the seating arrangement of the choir are taken each class meeting at 1:55p, 3:00p, and 3:50p. Please be sure your cell phone is either OFF or SILENCED. If a student is found to be operating a cell phone during class time, their daily Professional Preparation and Rehearsal Participation grades will be reduced. A student may be asked to leave the classroom and/or be dismissed from the ensemble if subsequent violations of this policy occur.
4. If a student anticipates that they will be tardy or absent from a rehearsal or performance, they should **notify one of the teaching assistants via Canvas with as much notice as possible.**
5. Students must check to see if any choir activities will conflict with activities of the other courses they are enrolled in. **Any conflicts should be communicated to one of the teaching assistants via Canvas no later than September 11.**

Excusal Policy

1. Tardies and absences will be excused per the university attendance policy regulations. If you are tardy or absent and you believe that the tardy or absence should be excused, you must **notify one of the teaching assistants via Canvas.** If you submit a request via any other means, it may not be read or acted upon. When appropriate, students must provide proper documentation of their tardy or absence in order for it to be considered excused.
2. Students will not schedule voice lessons, coachings, recording sessions, dress rehearsals, recitals, work, or other activities during any scheduled choir activity. These conflicts are not eligible for make-up and will not be excused.

Make-Up Work

1. Students wishing to remove grade deductions for missed rehearsal time can request make-up work from the director. The assignment of make-up work is at the director's discretion.
2. If you choose to request make-up work, **your request must be submitted to one of the teaching assistants within one week of the tardy or absence.**
3. Excused absences from performances must be made up via an alternative assignment as prescribed by the director. Failure to complete this assignment will result in a grade of zero for the performance and significantly reduce the student's final course grade.

Professional Preparation & Conduct

1. Students will bring their music scores and a pencil to every rehearsal. It is crucial that a student has their music during rehearsal. If a student does not have their music with them prior to the start of rehearsal, they should return to their room/apartment/vehicle to retrieve their music before reporting to rehearsal. If a student is tardy as a result, they are subject to a grade reduction.
2. Students are expected to mark all coachings from the director. If it is discovered that a student has failed to appropriately mark their score, it may result in a grade reduction for that rehearsal or performance and all subsequent rehearsals and performances until the score is marked.
3. By the third rehearsal of the semester, all music must be organized in concert-appropriate black folders. Failure to do so may result in a grade reduction.
4. Seating is an important part of singing in a choir. Placement of certain types of voices in the choral formation can sometimes make or break the overall sound of the ensemble. Seating will be assigned at the beginning of the semester, is subject to change, and must be adhered to.
5. Students are expected to be respectful of each other's and the director's time and efforts. To that effect, distractions (e.g. talking, making noises, etc.) must be kept to a minimum. Excessive distractions may result in a grade reduction being assessed and/or dismissal from the rehearsal.
6. Occasionally it is necessary for choir members to assist with logistical operations that support the choir's activities (e.g. music distribution and collection; setup/teardown of risers and acoustic shells; loading equipment, etc.) When required, the Teaching Assistants will assign singers specific duties to assist with. Care will be taken to ensure the workload is evenly distributed among all singers. If a student fails to fulfill their assigned obligation, their Professional Preparation grade will be reduced.
7. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices during class is generally prohibited. If a student requires access to a device for medical reasons, they should inform the director or teaching assistant of their need. The use of tablet devices for reading music may be permitted. However, the director retains the right to restrict or prohibit the use of tablets.
8. Concert attire must be adhered to for all performances, unless otherwise instructed. A student who is inappropriately dressed at the start of a performance might not be permitted to perform and, thus, may be considered absent from the performance.
9. Members of the ensemble serve as representatives of the University of Florida, the School of Music, and the Choral Department. As such, they are required to conduct themselves professionally at all times. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the ensemble and the assessment of an "E" grade for the semester.

Grading Policies

Assignments are weighted as follows:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Rehearsal Participation	30%
Professional Preparation & Assignments	25%
Performances (including dress rehearsals)	45%

Rehearsal absences lower the Maximum Final Grade as follows:

Number of Rehearsal Absences	Maximum Final Grade
0	100%
1	97%
2	94%
3	85%
4	75%
5	65%
6 or more	failing grade

Grading Scale

93%-100%	A
90%-92%	A-
87%-89%	B+
83%-86%	B
80%-82%	B-
77%-79%	C+
73%-76%	C
70%-72%	C-
67%-69%	D+
63%-66%	D
60%-62%	D-
<60%	E

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The [Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition

that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/ferpa-confidentiality-student-records>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: <https://umatter.ufl.edu> | umatter@ufl.edu | 352-392-1575

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact Campus Assistance & Resources for Empowerment (CARE) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu> | 352-392-1575

For information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: <https://shcc.ufl.edu> | 352-392-1161

For 24/7 information to help you find the care you need.

University Police Department: <http://www.police.ufl.edu> | 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies)

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: <https://ufhealth.org/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center> | 352-733-0111 | 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608

For immediate medical care.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> | helpdesk@ufl.edu | 352-392-HELP (4357)

Career Connections Center: <https://career.ufl.edu> | 352-392-1601 | Reitz Union

Career assistance and counseling.

Library Support: <https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/ask>

Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Academic Resources: <https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu> | teaching-center@ufl.edu | 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420 (to make a tutoring appointment).

General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio> | 352-846-1138

Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints: <https://ombuds.ufl.edu/student>

The syllabus is subject to change at any time.