

# Moravian Choir

## Syllabus - Fall 2007

**Course Numbers:** MUS 310 (or 311) (majors), MUS 001 (elective), or MUS 011 (M6 credit)

**Music Director:** Dr. Paula Ring Zerkle

**Office:** Rm. 308, Music Building **Hours:** M/W 2:00p-3:00p

**Voice:** 610-861-1681 **Email:** zerkle@moravian.edu

### Choral Officers

**Co-Presidents:** Chelsea Dehner (stcad08@moravian.edu)  
Brandon Remp (stbsr01@moravian.edu)

**Managers/VPs:** Erin Macmillan (steam03@moravian.edu)  
Dan Foltz-Morrison (stdnf02@moravian.edu)

**Secretary:** Megan Greiner (stmeg03@moravian.edu)

**Treasurer:** Leon Edelman (stlfe01@moravian.edu)

### FOUR EXPECTATIONS OF ALL MEMBERS:

**1. Timely arrival and consistent attendance**

Plan ahead and be at rehearsals before they begin. If you don't feel well, come anyway and watch. You must participate in all dress rehearsals to sing in the concert(s).

**2. Positive participation**

Maintain concentration during rehearsal and participate fully in musical activities. Everything you say and do affects those around you, so be respectful of others and stay positive and focused throughout demanding rehearsals. Talking out of turn during rehearsal is not tolerated.

**3. Commitment to excellence**

Commit to doing your best and stretching your musical abilities. You may be asked to learn or review specific sections or pieces outside of rehearsal. Do it. Don't waste everyone's valuable rehearsal time.

**4. Self-reflection and evaluation**

Be aware of your progress and take responsibility for your own improvement.

### MUSICAL SKILLS

Here are some skills you will work on:

- Vocal technique
- Listening and ensemble singing skills
- Understanding of musical concepts and aesthetic connections
- Knowledge of stylistic and cultural context of works
- Effective rehearsal and performance protocol

## GRADING AND CREDIT

- **MU310.** All music majors enrolled in MU310.x with concentrations in voice, piano, organ, guitar, or electric bass are required to participate in a large choral ensemble each semester. Vocal ensembles may also serve as secondary or elective ensembles to wind, brass, string, and percussion majors. A minimum of two semesters is required of all music education majors with an instrumental concentration.
- **MUS 001 and MUS 011.** All students who are not music majors (including music minors) must register for one of the choir's two other course numbers: MUS 001 (elective), or MUS 011 (M6 credit). These students are expected to participate in all rehearsals and performances and follow the same rules as music majors. Students will receive one unit of elective credit once they have successfully completed six semesters of choir. Students who wish to fulfill their M6 (Aesthetic Expression) requirement additionally must write program notes for each of the six semesters on a topic selected by the director. There is no charge for this credit.
- Everyone is responsible for knowing the information found in the **Moravian Choir Constitution**, which contains details on ensemble goals and procedures.
- **Grading** in the choir is based on attendance, positive participation, behavior, preparation, and performance. Everyone in the choir – regardless of course registration number – will be evaluated. Each singer starts with 100 points, and points are subtracted for each infraction:

Disruptive behavior	-5
Poor preparation	-2
Limited participation	-2
Unexcused late	-1 (every 5 minutes)
Unexcused absence	-10

The final grade for music majors will equal their final point calculation. If your point total drops below 70, you will receive a warning; below 60 and you must leave the ensemble.

## FALL REHEARSAL AND CONCERT SCHEDULE

Rehearsals (beg. 9-5-07)	Mondays and Wednesdays	4:00pm-6:00pm	Peter Hall
Intensive rehearsal	Saturday 22 September	10:00am-2:00pm	Peter Hall
<i>Fall recess</i>	<i>Monday 8 October</i>	<i>no rehearsal</i>	
<i>Music dept. trip</i>	<i>Wednesday 24 October</i>	<i>no rehearsal</i>	
Dress rehearsal	Wednesday 7 November	4:00pm-6:00pm	Foy Hall
<b>Vespers Preview</b>	<b>Sunday 11 November</b>	<b>4:00pm (2:30pm)</b>	<b>Foy Hall</b>
Rehearsals	12, 14, and 19 November	4:00pm-6:00pm	Central Church
<i>Thanksgiving break</i>	<i>Wednesday 21 November</i>	<i>no rehearsal</i>	
Dress rehearsals	26 and 28 November	4:00pm-6:00pm	Central Church
<b>Vespers Services</b>	<b>30 Nov and 1, 7, and 8 Dec</b>	<b>8:00pm (6:45pm)</b>	<b>Central Church</b>
<b>Vespers Services</b>	<b>Sunday 2 and 9 December</b>	<b>7:00pm (5:45pm)</b>	<b>Central Church</b>
Rehearsal	Monday 3 December	4:00pm-6:00pm	Central Church
Recording session	Wednesday 5 December	4:00pm-6:00pm	Central Church
Wrap up rehearsal	Monday 10 December	4:00pm-6:00pm	Peter Hall

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT SPRING:

Intensive rehearsal	Saturday 2 February
Choral Festival at Lafayette	Saturday 9 February
Bobby McFerrin workshop	Sunday 10 February
Jazz Vespers	Sunday 17 February
2008 Choir Festival (Philadelphia)	Sunday 30 March
Spring Concert	Sunday 20 April

## 5. MORAVIAN CHOIR CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I

#### ORGANIZATIONAL NAME

The name of this vocal ensemble shall be **MORAVIAN CHOIR**

Course Numbers: MUS 310 (or 311) (majors), MUS 001 (elective), or MUS 011 (M6)

Music Director: Dr. Paula Ring Zerkle

### ARTICLE II

#### GOALS OF THE ENSEMBLE

- 1 To provide Moravian College students and members of the Moravian community with exciting experiences of superior choral music from diverse musical styles and cultures through performance and/or concert attendance
- 2 To assist singers in learning musical concepts and interpretation, rehearsal and performance protocol, vocal production, and musical excellence through exploration and preparation of choral works and their cultural context.
- 3 To foster positive attitudes and personal traits, such as responsibility, integrity, discernment, cooperation, self-awareness, dedication, and respect.
- 4 To help to integrate current repertoire with music curriculum, whenever possible
- 5 To encourage involvement with members of the Moravian community and of the greater Lehigh Valley community

### ARTICLE III

#### MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 Membership is open to all Moravian students, staff, and faculty and members of the Lehigh Valley community upon completion of a successful vocal audition.
- Section 2 Auditionees will be expected to:  
sing a prepared song of their choice (accompaniment is provided)  
sight-read excerpts from choral repertoire  
sing vocal exercises as led by the Music Director
- Section 3 Decisions on membership are made by the Music Director and are based on the singer's performance in the audition and on availability of open positions, in line with the balance of the ensemble.
- Section 4 A returning member does not need to re-audition if he or she participated fully during the previous semester.

### ARTICLE IV

#### ATTENDANCE

- Section 1 Attendance is required at all rehearsals. At the beginning of each semester, singers receive a complete schedule and within a week must complete a commitment form listing any scheduling conflicts. Singers must keep to their commitments; conflicting events brought up at a future time will not be excused.
- Section 2 Being “on time” means being in your seat ready to go with music and pencil in hand 5 minutes before the start of the rehearsal. Singers who do happen to be late must stand outside the door until the director is able to make an appropriate break in the rehearsal to signal them in.
- Section 3 If a singer is not feeling well, he or she is expected to come to rehearsal, sit quietly on the side, and mark music. Members too ill to attend should make sure to let the music director and choral secretary know before rehearsal and bring a note from the health center or your doctor to the next rehearsal. **One must participate in all dress rehearsals in order to sing in the concert.**
- Section 4 Any singer not following these procedures will not be excused for the absence, unless in case of an emergency.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **GRADING AND CREDIT**

Section 1 **Credit.** All Moravian College students must register for one of the choir's three course numbers: MUS 310 (or MUS 311), MUS 001, or MUS 011.

Section 2 **MUS 310 (or 311).** All music majors enrolled in MU310.x with concentrations in voice, piano, organ, guitar, or electric bass are required to participate in a large choral ensemble each semester. Vocal ensembles may also serve as secondary or elective ensembles to wind, brass, string, and percussion majors. (B.A. students who have completed the performance requirement may enroll in MUS 311). A minimum of two semesters is required of all music education majors with an instrumental concentration.

Section 3 **Elective Credit (MUS 001).** Anyone who is registered for MUS 001 will receive .5 unit of elective credit after participating in four semesters of Choir and will receive a full unit of elective credit after successfully completing 6 semesters of Choir.

Section 4 **M6 Credit (MUS 011).** Students who wish to fulfill their M6 (Aesthetic Expression) requirement with choir must complete six semesters of choir. In addition, each semester, students will be required to produce written program notes on works selected by the director from the semester's repertoire. Upon successful completion of six semesters of choir, a full unit of M6 credit will appear on the student's transcript.

**Grading** in the choir is based on attendance, positive participation, behavior, preparation, and performance. Everyone in the choir (regardless of registered course number) will be graded. Singers start with 100 points, and points are subtracted for each infraction:

Disruptive behavior	-5
Poor preparation	-2
Limited participation	-2
Unexcused late	-1 (every 5 minutes)
Unexcused absence	-10

The final grade for music majors will equal their final point calculation. If your point total drops below 70, you will receive a warning; below 60 and you must leave the ensemble.

## ARTICLE VI

### MUSIC

- Section 1 The ensemble's repertoire is chosen by the Choral Director in accordance with the Goals of the Ensemble. Efforts are made to make thematic connections within the Vespers selections.
- Section 2 Other priorities considered in choosing repertoire include: works by student and faculty composers; works suggested by choral members; works that allow collaboration with others in the music department or in other departments.
- Section 3 Choir members will check out the necessary music from the choral librarian each term. Each member is responsible for returning all the music in good condition to the librarian, or a charge will be assessed to their student account.
- Section 4 All choral members are expected to purchase a 1-inch black binder to hold music, along with a Coro-Grip hand strip and binder music holder. The binder and accessories must remain in good condition to be used in a concert.
- Section 5 **Solo Auditions** will be announced usually two weeks in advance of the audition date, along with a list of expected criteria for the solo. The Choral Director and accompanist will be present during the audition. Decision for the solos will be made by the Choir Director and will be based on level of musical preparation and appropriate voice quality.

## ARTICLE VII

### CONCERT ATTIRE

- Section 1 Women are required to purchase a specific floor-length black dress through the College (\$80) and wear black stockings, flat black shoes.
- Section 2 Men are required to wear a tuxedo, which they may purchase through the College from a local retailer (usually around \$200). The entire outfit includes a tuxedo with a white shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black socks, and black shoes.

## ARTICLE VIII

### CONCERTS AND SCHEDULES

- Section 1 The Moravian Choir normally participates in seven scheduled concerts in the fall (one pre-Vespers concert and six Vespers services) and a Spring Concert in the second semester. There are often additional performances. In addition, the Moravian Choir is expected to perform for Baccalaureate and Graduation at the end of the spring semester.
- Section 2 All members (regardless of registration status) are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals, retreats, concerts (on- and off-campus), and tours that occur during a semester. Singers will be notified of these events in a schedule handed out at the beginning of the semester. The groups usually travel abroad every 4 years or so, and locally in the U.S. in other years.
- Section 3 **EVERYONE MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE DESIGNATED DRESS REHEARSALS TO BE ABLE TO SING IN THE CONCERT**

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **TOURS**

- Section 1 The Choral Officers will assist the music director in the planning and organizing of performance tours. The Treasurer will assist in fundraising and money collection.
- Section 2 For extended tours, special tasks may be assigned to various students, who will work with the Music Director in the planning and preparation of the tour. These tasks include Planning, Attendance-taking, Stage Set-up and Instrument handling, Photography, Concert Recording, among others.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **EVALUATION**

- Section 1 Each semester members of the ensemble will complete Conductor/Course Evaluation Forms. After the ensemble grades are turned in, these forms are made available to the conductor and placed in her permanent file.
- Section 2 Additional evaluations may be distributed by the Director such as: 1) a self-evaluation of the singers, including a review of attendance, attitude, contributions to the group, and personal experience, 2) an evaluation of the Choral Officers and how members perceive their accomplishments, and 3) an additional unofficial evaluation of the conductor. These evaluations will be reviewed by the Music Director in conjunction with the Choral Officers.
- Section 3 Throughout the semester, choral members are encouraged to communicate both satisfaction and discontent to the conductor, individually or in groups. If the choral member is uncomfortable approaching the Choir Director, that member may speak to a Choral Officer or a section leader.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **QUALIFICATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- Section 1 Ensemble officers must be active members of Choir and exhibit leadership ability.
- Section 2 Officers will be a (Co)President(s), (Co)Vice-President/Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer. Choir elections will be held during the Spring semester.
- Section 3 Elections will be held by secret ballot. All current choir members can vote.
- Section 4 Section leaders will be chosen as needed for each vocal part.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

- Section 1 The Executive Council will consist of the Music Director, (Co-) President(s), Vice President(s)/Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer, and shall meet each week.
- Section 2 Duties of the Executive Council

- A. Assist music director in formulating ensemble policy
- B. Execute policies and govern activities of the ensemble.
- C. Serve as models of behavior and rehearsal decorum
- D Meet weekly or bi-weekly with the music director
  - . Arrange for special needs for the rehearsal (including refreshments, additional instruments, players etc.)
- E. Assist conductor in arrangements for fundraisers, tours, retreats, social events, publicity, and more, as needed
- F. Assist conductor in conflict resolution and public relations
- G. Run elections (seniors only)
- H
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**ARTICLE XIII**

**DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

- |           |                         |   |
|-----------|-------------------------|---|
| Section 1 | (Co-) President(s)      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Oversee other choral officers</li> <li>B. Organize choral activities in and out of rehearsal</li> <li>C. Assist in ensemble publicity</li> <li>D Act as official spokesperson for Moravian Choir               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Carry out provisions of the constitution.</li> </ul> </li> <li>E. Assist music director as needs arise</li> <li>F.</li> </ul> |
| Section 2 | Vice President/ Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Oversee logistical set up for all rehearsals and concerts</li> <li>B. Assist president and music director as needed</li> <li>C. Assume the duties of the president in his/her absence</li> </ul>  |
| Section 3 | Secretary               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Keep records on daily attendance and singer evaluation</li> <li>B. Collect and organize all ensemble paperwork</li> <li>C. Keep director informed on attendance issues on a weekly basis</li> <li>D</li> <li>. Act as choral correspondent when necessary</li> </ul>  |
| Section 4 | Treasurer               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Keep financial records and collect payments</li> <li>B. Oversee all fundraising</li> <li>C. Oversee ordering of concert attire</li> <li>D Assist in tour money management</li> <li>. Oversee music distribution (and return)</li> <li>E.</li> </ul>   |

**ARTICLE XIV**

**REMOVAL OF OFFICER AND MEMBERS**

- Section 1. Any elected officer or choral member may be asked to leave the ensemble by the music director, in consultation with the officers. See grading and credit for information on grounds for removal.
- Section 2. Officer(s) shall be replaced by special election.

**ARTICLE XV**

**AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

- Section 1 Any part of this constitution may be amended by the music director in consultation with the choral officers.