

Moravian College Women's Chorus (MCWC) – Fall 2009 Syllabus

Course No:

- MUS 310.x (Music Majors/performance unit)
- MUS 013 (M6 credit - Aesthetic requirement)
- Can be fulfilled after 6 semesters in a Music Department major ensemble -
- MUS 003 (Elective)

Time and Location:

- Tuesday, 7p to 9p
- Peter Hall – Single Brethren House (Music Building) – Hurd Campus
- Unless otherwise indicated on the schedule (see schedule below) -

Instructor:

- Eduardo M. Azzati (Director MCWC) - azzati@moravian.edu
- Office No. 221 – Single Brethren House (Music Building) - Hurd Campus
- Office hours by appointment only -
- 610 861 1650 (Message only)

MCWC 08/09 officers:

- Nathania Young, president
- Cody-Anne Lutz, vice-president
- Emma Cogle, treasurer
- Courtney Eby, secretary (librarian/archivist)
- Officers assist the director in the planning and running of the ensemble through general and specific duties, also function as liaisons between ensemble members and the director -

Required materials:

- Concert dress (see attire details below) purchased through the College
- 1" three-ring black binder
- Music and binder holders (may be purchased through the ensemble)
- Octavos are lent to the ensemble members. See "Music Octavos" below -
- Part-predominant MP3s recordings
- See "Part Predominant MP3 recordings" below for instructions to access, obtain and use them -

Grading:

- MUS 310.x - Numeric grading that is part of the Performance Unit grade
- MUS 013 – Pass/No Credit
- MUS 003 – Pass/No Credit
- See "Grading Criteria" below for complete information -

Academic honesty:

- Please refer to "Academic Honesty at Moravian College" in the MC Student Handbook where the complete College's policy is stated.

Note:

- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

Objectives of the course/ensemble:

- To provide ensemble members the opportunity to experience exciting standard choral repertoire through rehearsal and performance
- To expose ensemble members to a wide range of choral music from different time periods, languages, styles, nationalities
- To produce the highest possible level of preparation and performance by challenging the ensemble members to constantly grow as choral singers
- To teach basic foundations of choral singing: vocal production, posture, breathing, vowel clarity and uniformity, choral sound
- To teach musical expression: phrasing, dynamics, vocal colors, tempo flexibility
- To encourage individual commitment to the ensemble, responsibility, work ethic, personal integrity as well as positive and proactive rehearsal and concert behavior and etiquette
- To create a fun, relaxed atmosphere and work environment while pursuing rigorous, disciplined musical work

Expectations of the ensemble members:

Ensemble members are expected to

- Attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances
- Be on time (in their spot and ready to sing) for all rehearsals and concerts
- Come to rehearsals well prepared
- Be able to sing their part correctly by themselves
- Work/practice individually and in small groups outside the rehearsals
- Bring to ALL rehearsals and concerts the required materials. Sharing music during rehearsals and/or concerts is NOT acceptable
- Bring to rehearsals and concerts a positive attitude and a lot of patience which are key in accomplishing the ensemble's goal of high musical quality
- Behave during rehearsals and concerts in a way that is proactive towards a productive work environment, avoiding conversation, unnecessary noises and interruptions
- Be respectful of other ensemble members and their ideas
- Be mindful of other ensemble member's needs
- Be able to work together as a group in spite of individual differences

Practice:

- Every ensemble member is required to practice the music outside rehearsals both individually and in small groups (small groups will be set up at the first rehearsal)
- Part-predominant MP3 recordings will be available for the students to access
Ensemble members MUST listen to and sing along with those recordings
- See "Part Predominant MP3 recordings" below -
- Every singer in the ensemble is responsible for learning their own part

Music octavos:

- Music octavos from the choral library will be lent to each ensemble member
- Each ensemble member is responsible for keeping the octavos in perfect condition
- Music must be marked in pencil, no exceptions
- Octavos will be returned typically at the end of the semester
- Each ensemble member will be responsible for replacement costs of any lost music or music returned in unacceptable condition

Concert attire:

All ensemble members are required to observe the following concert attire (no exceptions)

- Floor-length black dress purchased through the college
- Close-toed flat black shoes and black stockings
- No necklaces or low hanging ear rings - Nicely done hair
- Avoid excessive use of strong fragrances (perfume, hair spray)
- Music must be neatly arranged inside black binder

Attendance policy:

As stated, ensemble members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and concerts and to arrive on time (a 5-minute grace period will be granted after which a "late" is given)

- Each ensemble member will fill out a commitment form at the beginning of the semester indicating unavoidable conflicts – The ensemble director will review those conflicts and either excuse or not excuse them on an individual basis –
- Absence to rehearsals and/or concerts must be communicated to both the ensemble director and the ensemble secretary in writing by note or e-mail
- A written and signed excuse, stating the reason for the absence must be presented at the next scheduled meeting
- A doctor's excuse or a note from the college's health center must be provided in case of absence due to illness
- If an ensemble member can't sing (hoarseness, head cold, etc) but is "up and around" and functioning, she is expected to attend the rehearsal, sit quietly, listen and mark her music
- Three or more unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the ensemble
- Failure to communicate absence to director and secretary in a timely manner and to provide written statement and doctor's and/or learning services office note if applicable, constitutes an unexcused absence. Planned absences noted on the commitment form that have been approved by the ensemble director are considered excused absences and no further action is required –

Grading criteria:

- The grade has two components:
 - a. Attendance
 - Excused absence from rehearsal -2 points
 - Unexcused absenced from rehearsal -5 points
 - Excused absence from concert -10 points
 - Unexcused absence from concert -20 points
 - Unexcused tardiness -1 point
 - b. Performance as ensemble member
 - Preparedness, attitude and participation during rehearsals and concerts
- Music Majors registered for MUS 310.x will receive a numeric grade from 0-100 that is factored in the total performance unit grade
- Students registered for MUS 013 (M6 credit) will receive a Pass/No Credit grade
 - A numeric grade of 60 points or higher is required to pass
 - A two-page paper with biographical information about one of the composers performed during the semester is required and due at the end of the semester
- Students regitered for MUS 003 (elective) will receive a Pass/No credit grade
 - A numeric grade of 60 points or higher is required to pass

It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades

Part-predominant MP3 recordings:

- Part-predominant MP3 recordings are available on the MC Public Drive
- Each WC member is REQUIRED to learn their part on their own and to practice outside rehearsals by listening and singing along with the available recordings.
- It is STRONGLY suggested that ensemble members make their own copy of these MP3 recordings. MP3s can be downloaded onto computers and then burned on CDs, imported onto iTunes, iPods or other MP3 players.

Instructions to access the MC Public Drive:

- The public drive may be accessed from any computer connected to the campus network, either at a students' room, library, computer labs and other locations including wireless connections.

From a Mac:

- Go to "finder," on the menu bar at the top click on GO then connect to server
- Under server address type: cifs://pawn/public and then hit connect
It may prompt you to enter your user name (the same as in your Moravian e-mail address before the @) and then your password (same you use for your e-mail and to log on the Moravian network)
- A "public drive" window will open. (If it doesn't, double click on the network icon named "public" that should appear on your desktop once you are connected to it)
- In the "public" window, scroll down and click on the "music" folder,
- Then click on the "Women's Chorus" folder and then on the "fall 2009" folder
- Click on the appropriate voice part folder and the MP3 files will appear.

Files can be opened (played) from this location and/or copied by dragging

From a PC:

- Double-click on My Computer
- Under **Network Drives** double-click on: public on 'pawn' (P:)
- A "public drive" window will open.
- Scroll down and double-click on the "music" folder
- Double-click "Women's chorus" folder and then on the "fall 2009" folder
- Click on the appropriate voice part folder and the MP3 files will appear (two files with the same name may appear, use the one with the brighter icon, also the larger file)

Files can be opened (played) from this location and/or copied by dragging

Ask for help immediately if you experience difficulty locating, opening, playing or handling the MP3 recordings. Having problems with the use of the recordings does NOT constitute a valid excuse for not being prepared for rehearsals

Final note:

The use of cell phones (making or accepting calls and/or texting) during rehearsals is NOT acceptable. Please turn cell phones off (and to silent mode) and put them away before rehearsal begins. This also applies to lap/hand held computers, games, or anything that may distract the singers' (and director's) attention from rehearsal. (If due to an emergency situation a phone must be kept on during rehearsal this must be disclosed to the ensemble director beforehand)

HAVE FUN AND ENJOY BEING PART OF THIS WONDERFUL ENSEMBLE