

**Moravian College Women's Chorus (MCWC)
Syllabus – Fall 2011**

Course Nos.: MUS 310.x (music majors/performance unit), MUS 013 (M6 credit), MUS 003 (elective)

Time and Location: Tuesday, 6:45p to 9:05p, Peter Hall – Single Brethren House – Hurd Campus

Music Director: Eduardo M. Azzati - azzati@moravian.edu (preferred method of communication)

Office: Rm. 221, Single Brethren House, Hurd Campus **Hours:** by appointment only

Voice: 610 861 1650 (Message only) **Email:** azzati@moravian.edu (preferred method)

MCWC 11/12 officers:

President: Megan Weaver (stmtw01@moravian.edu)

VP: Jazy Thomas (stjft01@moravian.edu)

Treasurer: Julie Montes de Oca (stjnm15@moravian.edu)

Secretary: Ashley Dierolf (stadd04@moravian.edu)

Officers assist the director in the planning and running of different aspects of the ensemble and function as liaison between ensemble members and the director

Required materials:

Concert dress (see attire details below), 1" three-ring black binder and music holders, music octavos (checked out from the choral library. See "Music Octavos" below for specific information and guidelines), Part-predominant MP3s recordings (see "Part Predominant MP3 recordings" below for more information)

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 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 accurately
- Work/practice individually and in small groups (if assigned) outside the rehearsals
- Bring music and pencil to ALL rehearsals and concerts (Sharing music during rehearsals and/or concerts is NOT acceptable)
- Come to rehearsals and concerts with 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, etc.
- Be respectful of other ensemble members and their ideas and be mindful of other ensemble member's needs
- Be able to work together as a group in spite of individual differences

Practice:

- Every singer in the ensemble is responsible for learning their own part
- Every ensemble member is required to practice the music outside rehearsals
- Part-predominant MP3 recordings will be available for the students to obtain and use (see below)
- Ensemble members MUST listen to and sing along with those recordings

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 must be returned 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:

- Floor-length black dress purchased through the college (information will be provided at rehearsal)
- Close-toed flat black shoes
- 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:

- Ensemble members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and concerts and to arrive on time (which means 5 minutes early)
- 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 and will constitute the only acceptable form of excuse in case of 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
- Two or more unexcused absences may result in the dismissal from the ensemble - 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 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 003 and MUS 013. All ensemble participants who are not music majors must register for one of the two Women's Chorus' course numbers: MUS 003 (elective), or MUS 013 (M6 credit). These students are expected to participate in all rehearsals and performances and follow all ensemble rules and guidelines. Students who wish to fulfill their M6 credit (Aesthetic Expression) requirement additionally must write a two-page paper on a topic selected by the director, typically a biography of one of the composers performed in the semester or program notes on one of the pieces performed.

Grading is based on attendance, positive participation, behavior, preparation, and performance. Each ensemble members starts with 100 points and points are subtracted for each infraction:

- Unexcused lateness -1 (every 5 minutes)
- Excused rehearsal absence -5
- Unexcused rehearsal absence -10
- Excused performance absence -10
- Unexcused performance absence -20
- Disruptive behavior -5
- Poor preparation -2 (per occurrence)
- Limited participation -2 (per occurrence)

Music Majors (MU310.x) will receive a numeric grade that is part of the performance unit grade
Students in MUS 003/MUS 013 will receive a P/NC grade (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 responsible for obtaining those recordings.
- It is STRONGLY suggested that ensemble members make their own copy of these MP3 recordings.

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.
- Once on the public drive (P:), find the "music" folder, then the "women's chorus" folder and then the "fall 2011" folder, separate folders for each selection and then for each voice part will be found
- Ensemble members MUST seek assistance from ITC if unable to locate or access the public drive and/or for specific instructions on how to locate and access it.

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, emailing, etc.) during rehearsals is NOT permitted. 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 AN ENJOY BEING PART OF THIS WONDERFUL ENSEMBLE