

Moravian College Women's Chorus (MCWC)
Syllabus – Fall 2013

Course Nos.: MUS 013 (M6 credit), MUS 003 (elective), large ensemble as part of performance unit for music majors

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

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

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

Collaborative pianist: Andrea Berntsen

MCWC 13/14 officers:

President: Rachel Ruisard (strar10@moravian.edu)
VP: Maggie Callahan (stmec07@moravian.edu)
Treasurer: Christina Isernia (stcmi01@moravian.edu)
Secretary: Heidi New (sthwn01@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 (or choral folder used for choir), 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. It may be found at www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html

Note: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

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 introduce foundation of choral singing: vocal production, posture, breathing, vowel clarity and uniformity, choral sound
- To introduce 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/or 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 practice by listening to and singing 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 lost or mistreated music

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 and 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 (at least 5 minutes before start of rehearsal)
- In case of absence or tardy arrival, the student will be required to fill out and turn in a signed "Statement of Absence from Class" form, available at rehearsal (ask the secretary) or at: (home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/health/pdfs/statementOfAbsence.pdf)
- If the absence was due to illness and the student has been treated at the Health Center or an off-campus medical establishment, a doctor's excuse should accompany the "Statement of Absence from Class" form. After reviewing the "Statement of Absence from Class" form, the instructor will inform the student whether or not the absence has been excused
- Absences or tardy without a "Statement of Absence from Class" will be considered unexcused
- Ensemble members are also expected to make every possible effort to communicate absences and/or tardy arrivals to the ensemble director and the secretary, at least 2 hours prior to rehearsal or performance
- 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
- More than two unexcused absences may result in the dismissal from the ensemble - Planned absences noted on the commitment form still require a "Statement of Absence from Class"

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 in a major choral ensemble 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 requirement (Aesthetic Expression) through participation in a large music ensemble 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:

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| - 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 will be made available to members of the Women's Chorus.
- Each WC member is responsible for obtaining those recordings.
- It is STRONGLY suggested that ensemble members make their own copy of these MP3 recordings.

Ask for help immediately if you experience difficulty with 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.) and other electronic devices during rehearsals is NOT permitted. Please turn cell phones off (or 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