

Moravian Choir

Syllabus - Fall 2015

COURSE NUMBERS

MUS 110-11, 210-11, 310-14 (majors) MUS 001 (elective), or MUS 011 (M6 credit)

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Dr. Paula Zerkle

Office: Rm. 308, Music Building

Voice: 610-861-1681

Hours: M/W 2:20p-3:00p

Email: zerkle@moravian.edu

CHORAL OFFICERS

President: Ben Wallace (stbjw04@moravian.edu)

Managers/VPs: Nathan Gerheart (stnpg02@moravian.edu)

Kurtis Reif (stkmr06@moravian.edu)

Secretary: Sarah Durham (stskd01@moravian.edu)

Treasurer: Emily Miller (stelm11@moravian.edu)

Accompanist: Andrea Bernsten

EXPECTATIONS OF ALL MEMBERS

1. Come to all rehearsals and be on time (which means be at least 5 minutes early!)

You are expected to be at all rehearsals. Come to the rehearsal room, drop your stuff (including silenced cell phones!) in the designated area, take your seat, and be ready to sing. If you don't feel well, you are expected to attend and just observe the rehearsal with your music. You must participate in designated dress rehearsals to sing in the concert(s).

2. Come prepared (music & pencil) and participate positively during rehearsal time

Be respectful of others and stay attentive, positive and focused during rehearsals. Don't chat or text.

3. Commit to musical excellence and keep aware of your own progress

Everyone has different skills. Try not to be frustrated if you can't do something, but commit to always doing your best.

MUSICAL SKILLS

Here are some skills you will work on:

- Vocal agility and strength
- Listening and ensemble singing skills
- Internal understanding of musical expression
- Knowledge of musical concepts and aesthetic connections
- Knowledge of stylistic and cultural context of works
- Effective rehearsal and performance protocol
- Cooperation and teamwork

GRADING AND CREDIT

Performance Unit. All music majors enrolled in the performance unit (MUS 110-11, 210-11, 310-14) with concentrations in voice are required to participate in the Moravian choir each semester. Vocal ensembles also serve as secondary or elective ensembles to instrumental 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 a short essay 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 and will be shared with you on Google Docs.

Grading in the choir is based on attendance, positive participation, behavior, preparation, and performance. If you going to be absent from rehearsal, you need to notify the director and the choir secretary by email BEFORE the rehearsal. If your absence was not in your Commitment Form, you must fill out an excuse form. The director, in consultation with the choir secretary will determine if your absence is to be excused or not.

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 | -3 |
| Limited participation | -2 |
| Unexcused late | -1 (for every 5 minutes) |
| Unexcused absence | -10 |
| Unexcused performance | -25 |

The final grade for music majors will equal their final point calculation. Anyone who has a point total below 65 will receive a warning; below 50 and you will be asked to leave the ensemble.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Academic Support Services in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

FALL 2015 CHOIR SCHEDULE:

Rehearsals (**BEGINNING 9-2-15**) Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00pm-6:00pm Peter Hall

ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS:

Sectionals Monday 7 September TB 4-5pm; SA 5-6pm Peter Hall

Sectionals Wednesday 9 September SA 4-5pm; TB 5-6pm Peter Hall

Intensive rehearsal* Saturday 12 September T 9a, B 10a, S 11a, A 12p Peter Hall

Sectionals Monday 14 September SA 4-5pm; TB 5-6pm Peter Hall

Sectionals w/ Megan Durham Wednesday 16 September TB 4-5pm; SA 5-6pm Peter Hall

Sectionals Monday 21 September SA 4-5pm; TB 5-6pm Peter Hall

Australian Voices Concert Tuesday 29 September TBA TBA

Fall Break *Monday 12 October* *no rehearsal*

Dress Rehearsal **Wednesday 11 November** **4:00pm-6:00pm** **Peter Hall**

Concert at Holy Trinity Lutheran **Sunday 15 November** **4:00pm** **Lancaster, PA**

Rehearsal Monday 16 November 4:00pm-6:00pm Foy Hall

Dress Rehearsal **Wednesday 18 November** **4:00pm-6:00pm** **Foy Hall**

Vespers Preview Concert **Saturday 21 November** **7:30pm (6:00pm call)** **Foy Hall**

Rehearsal Monday 23 November 4:00pm-6:00pm Central Church

Thanksgiving Break *Wednesday 25 November* *no rehearsal*

Rehearsal* Sunday 29 November 6:30pm-9:30pm Central Church

Rehearsal Monday 30 November 4:00pm-6:00pm Central Church

Dress Rehearsal **Wednesday 2 December** **4:00pm-6:00pm** **Central Church**

Vespers Services **4-5 Nov December** **8:00pm (6:45pm call)** **Central Church**

Vespers Services **Sunday 6 December** **5:00pm (4pm call)** **Central Church**

Rehearsal/Recording* Wednesday 9 December 4:00pm-6:00pm Central Church

Vespers Services **11-12 December** **8:00pm (7pm call)** **Central Church**

Vespers Services **Sunday 13 December** **5:00pm (4pm call)** **Central Church**

bold = mandatory

* = must have a very, very good excuse - and must speak to director in person