

University of South Alabama

Concert Choir, Spring 2009

Course: Concert Choir, MUO 111/411/511 (1 credit)
MWF, 12:20 – 1:10 pm, LPAC 1230

Instructor: Dr. Laura Moore

Office: LPAC 1103, 251-460-6361; lauramoore@usouthal.edu
office hours posted at LPAC 1103, or by appointment

Materials: Music as provided by USA
1" black 3-ring binder
Pencil at ALL rehearsals
Concert Dress (described below)

Course Description:

The Concert Choir is an ensemble designed to provide a high-quality choral experience for USA students from all majors and departments.

Course Objectives:

In this course the student should:

- 1) be a part of a musical ensemble that provides learning and performance opportunities.
- 2) be exposed to a variety of choral repertoire and techniques.
- 3) be aware of rehearsal techniques, warm-up exercises, and vocal instruction.
- 4) increase vocal skills, musical understanding, and sight-reading ability.
- 5) assist in creating a community of people who are passionate about singing, in an atmosphere of courtesy, respect, and enjoyment.

Course Requirements

Evaluation:

Grading for this course is primarily determined by attendance and participation. No one is graded based on musical talent or ability, but everyone is expected to contribute to the collective achievement of the ensemble in an atmosphere of courtesy and mutual respect.

Attendance:

An ensemble must work together in a disciplined approach to successful musicianship and performance. To that end, attendance at rehearsals is essential.

- 1) Each singer will be allowed **two** unexcused absences during the semester. These absences may not occur during the week preceding a performance. Any additional unexcused absence will lower the final grade one full grade.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the individual singer to report his/her presence at rehearsals to the ensemble secretary, and to contact the conductor **via e-mail** within one week of an absence that may be excused (illness, family emergency, school-sponsored trip, etc.). A request for an excused absence should be accompanied by a written document for

verification. Only the conductor may determine whether an absence will be excused, and will direct the secretary to mark the records accordingly.

- 3) Any singer who misses a dress rehearsal or performance without prior permission will receive a failing grade for that concert.
- 4) Professional behavior requires that musicians arrive early to rehearsals, so that everyone is ready to begin at the assigned time. Any singer arriving after the rehearsal has begun will be marked tardy. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence.

Participation:

Full participation of each member of the ensemble is vital in rehearsal and performance. The body, mind, and spirit must be as engaged as the voice. Each singer is expected to have music and a pencil at all rehearsals, and to be seated in the ensemble unless he/she is contagious. Perfect attendance is meaningless if the singer is not invested in the work of the ensemble. Poor participation will affect the grade negatively.

Grade Scale:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 0-59%

Concert Dress:

Please remember that this is professional performance attire, NOT a party outfit!!!

Men: black tuxedo; black tie and cummerbund; black shoes/socks

Women: floor-length solid black dress (or top and skirt); top must have at least half-sleeves (no cap sleeves); black hose; black close-toed shoes

Music Policy:

Music studied and performed by the Concert Choir is the property of the University. It is issued to each student free of charge, and must be returned by the last day of class. Any marks in the music must be made only in pencil. A flat fee of \$25 will be charged for replacement of lost or damaged music. Your final grade will be released when you have returned all of your music or paid for damages. Otherwise, a grade of I (incomplete) will be given for the class.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the professor and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270. The phone number is 460-7212.

This syllabus and course calendar is subject to modification. Students will be given adequate notification in writing prior to any changes in course requirements and/or expectations.

Course Calendar:

Winter Concert - Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 pm [call time is 6:15 pm]
Dress Rehearsal – during class time on Monday, March 9

Spring Concert – Thursday, April 30, 7:30 pm [call time is 6:15 pm]
Dress Rehearsal – during class time on Wednesday, April 29

Reminders:

- dress rehearsals will take place on risers in the Recital Hall
- no unexcused absences are allowed the week preceding a performance
- an unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal or performance will result in a failing grade for that concert