

USC Thornton School of Music

MUEN 312/512, Chamber Singers

Units: 1

FALL 2015—M/W—2-3:50PM

Location: MUS 106

Instructor: Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe

Office: MUS 417

Office Hours: M/W 9:15-9:45am, T 2-3pm, by appointment

Contact Info: scheibe@thornton.usc.edu

213.821.5756 (choral office)

Teaching Assistant: Jeremy Bakken

Office: MUS 209

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Info: jbakken@usc.edu

414.559.6392 (cell)

Course Description

Performance of vocal chamber music and choral masterworks from the 16th Century to the present.
Open to all students by audition.

Learning Objectives

- To demonstrate an understanding of ensemble skills and musical interpretations and instill a sense of musical flexibility in diverse musical situations.
- To display an understanding of fine details regarding various styles, historical performance practices, voicing and languages.
- To demonstrate an ability to operate at an accelerated pace in rehearsals and concert preparation.
- To practice professional standards and techniques that support individual responsibility for vocal health.

Prerequisite(s): Placement by audition

NOTE: Membership in this ensemble is for the entire academic year.

It is understood that, rarely, unavoidable conflicts may arise in a student's schedule for the second semester. In this event, the student must notify the instructor as soon as possible so that a solution may be worked out.

Course Notes

- Singers are expected to arrive at rehearsal promptly; announcements will often be made a few minutes *before* 2pm.
- Singers are expected to warm-up prior to arrival at rehearsal.
- Singers are expected to bring all music and sharpened pencil to every rehearsal.
- The use of phones (talking OR texting) or other electronic devices is **not** allowed. Failure to follow this policy will adversely affect your participation grade.
- Singers should check email daily as most course communication occurs via email. You will be expected to respond efficiently to email and phone (or text) communication from your conductor and from the department. Please keep the department aware of your latest contact information.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Blackboard contains a copy of this syllabus, up-to-date rehearsal and performance schedule, and all applicable course forms. It may also contain IPA for foreign languages, practice tracks, and other applicable resources to enhance individual outside preparation.

Required Materials

- Performance uniform: MEN'S \$\$\$, WOMEN'S \$\$\$
 - Women's attire: black dress, earrings, hosiery, black character shoes (1 1/2" heel, purchase separately)
 - Men's attire: Black suit, two vests (black and red), three ties (black, red, striped), striped kerchief, white shirt, black socks (purchase separately), shined patent leather tux shoes (purchase separately)
- Black choral folder: \$27, available from Woody Gatewood in the choral office (MUS 416), pay via cash or check (made out to Dept. of Choral and Sacred Music)

Description and Assessment of Assignments

- Participation is required at ALL rehearsals and all performances. It is impossible for students to participate without being in rehearsal or performance. The choral faculty and section leaders will track singer participation and performance throughout the semester.
- Each singer is responsible for learning his/her music (including foreign languages) outside of class.
- Music for many concerts must be memorized; periodic "music checks" (singing in quartet or octet during rehearsal) may occur.

Grading Breakdown

Grades are based on participation, demeanor, and the final exam. Since punctuality is important to music professionalism, lack thereof will affect the participation portion of the grade.

- 65% PARTICIPATION
 - **Participation includes** music preparation outside of class, maintenance and return of sheet music at term end, clean and complete uniform (including black folder) for performances, timely response to email announcements, punctuality, attentiveness, etc.
 - **Failure to participate** in a dress rehearsal without the prior approval of the instructor will result in a loss of one full letter grade.
 - **Failure to participate** in performances or recording sessions without the prior approval of the instructor will result in a loss of two full letter grades.
 - **Failure to participate** during the week of a performance will result in a lowered grade.
 - **Failure to participate** in two rehearsals without approval of the instructor will result in loss of one letter grade.
- 20% DEMEANOR
- 15% FINAL EXAM AND FINAL PERFORMANCE

A letter grade of C or better constitutes CREDIT for those taking ensemble as Credit/Non-Credit.

Students participating in choral organizations who are music scholarship recipients may have their scholarships revoked in the event of a low ensemble grade.

Additional Policies

- Conflicts with the included COURSE SCHEDULE must be presented in writing via the Absence Request Form (available on Blackboard) to the ensemble conductor **during the first week of rehearsals**. All performances are listed in the COURSE SCHEDULE.
- **DO NOT** schedule voice lessons, meetings with faculty members or other organizations, make-up classes or exams, USC academic advising, doctor/dental appointments, job interviews, or any personal obligations during rehearsal times.
- Unavoidable emergencies will be handled on an individual basis. If an emergency occurs (including acute, but brief, illness), the student must contact the conductor in a timely manner (via email or phone), followed with written notification within three days. The instructor will determine whether the emergency is acceptable for excuse. If the instructor does not recognize the reason as acceptable, the student may appeal to the chair.

- Absences for the following reasons are considered EXCUSED: institutional excuses given at least five days in advance, extended illness with doctor's verification, death in the immediately family, religious holidays.

Course Schedule: 2015-16 Rehearsals, Performances, Other Events
subject to change...check your email DAILY

REGULAR REHEARSALS ARE MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, 2-3:50PM, MUS106
ONLY SPECIAL NOTES (GUESTS, VENUE CHANGE) AND ADDITIONS ARE LISTED BELOW

FALL SEMESTER (August 24 - December 16, 2015)

Date	Time	Location	Event	Notes
Mon Aug 24	2-3:50pm	MUS106	WOMEN Callbacks	Have music prepared
Wed Aug 26	2-3:50pm	MUS106	MEN Callbacks	Have music prepared
Fri Aug 28	2-5pm	MUS106	Final Callbacks (ALL)	Have music prepared
Mon Aug 31	2-3:50	MUS106	First Rehearsal	Whitacre Filming
Mon Sep 7			NO REHEARSAL	Labor Day
Fri Oct 2	5-9:00pm	St. Matthews Pacific Palisades	RETREAT	Car Pool
Sat Oct 3	9:30a-4:30p	St. Matthews Pacific Palisades	RETREAT	Car Pool
Sun Oct 11	1pm	Newman	Dress Rehearsal	Vision & Voices
Sun Oct 11	6:30pm Call 7:30pm Perform	Newman	Performance	Vision & Voices Full concert attire, music in black folders
Mon Oct 12	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Regular Rehearsal	Maria Guinand
Wed Oct 14	2-3:50pm	Newman	Regular Rehearsal	Maria Guinand Prep for weekend festivals
Fri Oct 16	9-10:50am	TMCG156	Maria Guinand Lecture	
Fri Oct 16	2-3:50pm	Newman	Tutti Rehearsal	Winter Gala
Sat Oct 17	TBD Call TBD Perform	Newman	Choral Leadership	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Sat Oct 17	TBD Call TBD Perform	Newman	College Invitational	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Wed Oct 21	2-3:50pm	Newman	Regular Rehearsal	Prep for Friday concert
Fri Oct 23	6pm Call 8pm Concert	Newman	Performance	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Sun Oct 25	11am Depart 4pm Concert 8pm Return	San Diego	Performance First United Methodist	Full concert attire, music in black folders, change in San Diego

Date	Time	Location	Event	Notes
Mon Oct 26	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Regular Rehearsal	Dennis Shrock
Wed Oct 28	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Regular Rehearsal	Dennis Shrock
Wed Nov 4	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Regular Rehearsal	Rod Eichenberger
Fri Nov 6	2:30pm Call 8:00pm Perf.	St. Matthews Pacific Palisades	Performance	Full concert attire, music in black folders, Car Pool, supper on site
Fri Nov 13	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Special Rehearsal	
Wed Nov 25			NO REHEARSAL	Thanksgiving Break
Fri Nov 20	2-350pm	MUS106	Special Rehearsal	
Mon Nov 30	2-3:50pm	Bovard	Regular Rehearsal	Winter Gala Prep
Tue Dec 1	TBD Call TBD Concert	Town and Gown	Performance	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Tue Dec 1	5-8pm	Presidential Caroling	President's House	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Tue Dec 1	6-9pm	Bovard	Tutti Rehearsal	Winter Gala
Wed Dec 2	TBD Call TBD Perform	TBD	Performance	Board of Trustees
Wed Dec 2	TBD Call TBD Perform	Faculty Club	Performance	Dean's Dinner
Wed Dec 2	TBD Call 7:30pm Concert	Bovard	Performance	Winter Gala Full concert attire, music in black folders
Thu Dec 3	5-8pm	Presidential Caroling	President's House	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Mon Dec 7	5-8pm	Presidential Caroling	President's House	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Tue Dec 8	5-8pm	Presidential Caroling	President's House	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Thu Dec 10	5-8pm	Presidential Caroling	President's House	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Fri Dec 11	2-4pm	MUS106	Final Exam	
Sat Dec 12	5-8pm	Presidential Caroling	President's House	Full concert attire, music in black folders
Mon Dec 14	2-4pm	MUS106	Final Exam	

WINTER RECESS (December 17, 2015 - January 7, 2016)

SPRING SEMESTER (January 8 - May 19, 2016)

Date	Time	Location	Event	Notes
Fri Jan 8	TBD	TBD	RETREAT	
Sat Jan 9	9:30am-4pm	St. Matthews Pacific Palisades	RETREAT	Car Pool
Mon Jan 11	2-3:50pm	MUS106	First Regular Rehearsal	
Mon Jan 18			NO REHEARSAL	MLK Day
Wed Jan 20	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Regular Rehearsal	Maestro Kahane
Fri Jan 22	7:30-10pm	Ambassador Auditorium	LACO Rehearsal	Car Pool
Sat Jan 23	10a-12:30p	Ambassador Auditorium	LACO Rehearsal	Car Pool
Sat Jan 23	6:30pm Call 8pm Concert	Ambassador Auditorium	LACO Performance	Car Pool Full concert attire, music in black folders
Jan 25 - Feb 24 Graduate Students conduct Chamber Singers				
Tue Jan 26	7-10pm	MUS106	Graduate Auditions	Grad Students
Wed Jan 27	7-10pm	Newman	Graduate Auditions	Grad Students
Fri Jan 29	2-5pm	MUS106	Graduate Auditions	Grad Students
Mon Feb 15			NO REHEARSAL	Presidents' Day
Fri Feb 19	10-11:50am	TBD	Dr. Chris Haygood Lecture	CS Alumnus
Mon Feb 29	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Regular Rehearsal	Simon Carrington
Web Mar 2	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Regular Rehearsal	Simon Carrington
Fri Mar 4	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Special Rehearsal	Simon Carrington
Mon Mar 7	2-3:50pm	Newman	Dress Rehearsal	Simon Carrington
Wed Mar 9	5:30 Call 7:30 Concert	Newman	Performance	Simon Carrington Full concert attire, music in black folders
SPRING BREAK (March 14-18, 2016)				
After spring break Dr. Grases conducts Chamber Singers				
Mon Mar 21	2-3:50pm	MUS106	First Regular Rehearsal	
Fri Apr 22	2-3:50pm	MUS106	Special Rehearsal	
TBD	TBD	MUS106	Final Exam	
Thu May 12	4-6pm	Bovard	Baccalaureate Ceremony	
Mon May 16	TBD	TBD	Piatigorsky Rehearsal	

Date	Time	Location	Event	Notes
Tue May 17	TBD	TBD	Piatigorsky Rehearsal	
Thu May 19	TBD Call TBD Perform	Bovard Auditorium	Piatigorsky Festival	Full concert attire, music in black folders

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism - presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words - is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/departments/departments-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community - such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member - can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Religious Holidays

The University of Southern California has always sought to acknowledge and accommodate those students who wish to observe religious holy days. It seeks to reflect its awareness and sensitivity to religious holidays whenever possible when scheduling University activities. Each student shall, upon notifying his/her instructor in writing during the first week of classes, be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of his/her faith.