

MUEN 312/512 Chamber Singers

Units: 1

Fall 2016—Monday & Wednesday—2:00 PM–3:50 PM

Location: MUS 106

Instructor: Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe

Office: MUS 417

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:15-9:45am

Tuesday 2:00-3:00pm

Others by appointment

Contact Info: PH: 213-740-5756 (office) 562-637-3381 (cell)

Email: scheibe@thornton.usc.edu

Instructor: Andrew Schultz, Teaching Assistant

Office: MUS 209

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Info: PH: 419.203.2802 (cell)

Email: andrewfschultz@gmail.com

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

Course Notes

- Membership in this ensemble is granted 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.
- 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 Readings and Supplementary Materials

- PERFORMANCE UNIFORM: MEN'S \$125 (paid directly to Al Weiss Men's Clothing) WOMEN'S \$110, \$120 for size 18 or more (paid via cash or check to Dept. of Choral and Sacred)
 - WOMEN'S ATTIRE: black dress, earrings, hosiery (purchase separately), black character shoes (1 1/2" heel, purchase separately)
 - hemming is included but MUST be done on the specified day, to be announced
 - shoes must be purchased prior to hemming and worn when hems are measured
 - any further alterations are at your own expense
 - 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)
 - hemming/cuffs/alterations are at your own expense and available at Al Weiss Men's Clothing
- BLACK CHORAL FOLDER: \$27, available in the choral office (MUS 416), pay via cash or check made out to Dept. of Choral and Sacred Music
- Sharpened pencil for taking notes given during rehearsal
- NOTE: Payments made to the Dept. (dresses and folders) are handled by Dept. Coordinator Woody Gatewood in MUS416 and can be made 8:30am-1pm and 2-5pm Monday-Friday.
- NOTE: Dresses must be paid on or before Friday Sept. 9, 2016.
 - LADIES: Hair must be worn up for performances

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.

Assignment)	Points	%of)Grade
Participation	650	65
Demeanor	200	20
Final Exam	150	15
TOTAL	1000	100

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: 2016-17 Rehearsals, Performances, Other Events are subject to change. Check your email DAILY
- Regular rehearsals are Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:50pm, MUS 106; Only special notes (guests, venue change) and additions are listed below

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

FALL SEMESTER (August 22 - December 14, 2016)				
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	NOTES
M, Aug. 22	2:00 - 3:50 pm	MUS 106	Callbacks: WOMEN	Have music prepared
W, Aug. 24	2:00 - 3:50 pm	MUS 106	Callbacks: MEN	Have music prepared
F, Aug 26	2:00 - 6:50 pm	MUS 106	Callbacks: ALL	Have music prepared
M, Aug 29	2:00 - 3:50 pm	MUS 106	First rehearsal	
F, Sep. 9	5:00 - 8:30 pm	St. Matthew's, Pacific Palisades	Retreat	Carpool

Sat, Sep. 10	9:30 - 4:30 pm	St. Matthew's, Pacific Palisades	Retreat	Carpool; lunch provided
F, Oct. 7	TBA	Indio, CA	Desert Trip 2016	Transportation provided
W, Oct. 12	2:00 - 3:50 pm	Newman	Pre-dress rehearsal	Music in black folders
F, Oct. 14	TBA	Indio, CA	Desert Trip 2016	Transportation provided
Sat, Oct. 15	5:00 - 10:00 pm	Newman	Comm. College Festival	Exact call time TBA; have 5 - 10 pm available
W, Oct. 19	2:00 - 3:50 pm	Newman	Dress rehearsal	Music in black folders
F, Oct. 21	6:00 - 7:30 pm	Newman	Soundcheck	
F, Oct. 21	8:00 - 10:00 pm	Newman	Concert	
Su, Oct. 23	12:00 - 7:00 pm	California Center for the Arts, SAN DIEGO	Concert	Concert Transportation provided. Concert at 4:00 pm
F, Nov. 11	2:00 - 3:50 pm	MUS 106	Winter Gala rehearsal	All Thornton choirs
M, Nov. 28	2:00 - 3:50 pm	Bovard	Winter Gala rehearsal	CS only
T, Nov. 29	5:00 - 8:00 pm	USC Pres. house	Presidential Caroling	Select octet only
T, Nov. 29	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Bovard	Winter Gala rehearsal	All Thornton choirs
W, Nov. 30	2:00 - 3:50 pm	Bovard	Winter Gala rehearsal	CS only
W, Nov. 30	5:00 - 7:00 pm	Faculty Club	Carol at Dean's Dinner	Select octet only
W, Nov. 30	7:30 PM	Bovard	Winter Gala Concert	
Sun, Dec. 4	11:30 - 2:30 pm	USC Pres. house	Presidential Caroling	Select octet only
Sun, Dec. 4	5:00 - 8:00 pm	USC Pres. House	Presidential Caroling	Select octet only
M, Dec. 5	5:00 - 8:00 pm	USC Pres. house	Presidential Caroling	Select octet only
T, Dec. 6	12:00 - 1:30 pm	Town & Gown	Performance	
T, Dec. 6	5:00 - 8:00 pm	USC Pres. house	Presidential Caroling	Select octet only
Th, Dec. 8	5:00 - 8:00 pm	USC Pres. house	Presidential Caroling	Select octet only
F, Dec. 9	5:00 - 8:00 pm	USC Pres. house	Presidential Caroling	Select octet only
F, Dec. 9	9:00 - 6:00 pm	Schoenfeld	GIA Recording Project	

Sat, Dec. 10	9:00 - 6:00 pm	Schoenfeld	GIA Recording Project	
Sat, Dec. 10	5:00 - 8:00 pm	USC Pres. house	Presidential Caroling	Select octet only
Sun, Dec. 11	12:00 - 8:00 pm	Schoenfeld	GIA Recording Project	
W, Dec. 14	2:00 - 3:50 pm	MUS 106	Final Exam	
SPRING SEMESTER (January 9 - April 28, 2017)				
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	NOTES
M, Jan 9	2:00 - 3:50 pm	MUS 106	First rehearsal	
F, Jan 13	7:00 – 9:00 pm	MUS 106	Rehearsal	
S. Jan 14	10:00 – 1:00 pm	TBA	Rehearsal	
S, Jan 14	2:00 - 10:30 pm	West Angeles	Church	ICYOLA & LACO MLK Concert
M, Jan 23	2:00 - 3:50 pm	MUS 106	Workshop with Gondwana Chorale	
M, Feb. 13	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Newman	Graduate Auditions	
W, Feb. 15	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Newman	Graduate Auditions	
F, Feb. 17	2:00 - 6:00 pm	MUS 106	Graduate Auditions	
S, Feb. 19	8:30 - 3:30 pm	MUS 106	Workshop with Flummerfelt	
F, Feb. 24	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Newman	Special Rehearsal	Preparation for festival
S, Feb. 25	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Newman	Comm. College Festival	Exact call time TBA; please be available from 6-10 pm
F, Apr. 28	5:00 - 10:00 pm	St. John's Episcopal	Dress rehearsal	
S, Apr. 29	6:00 - 7:00 pm	St. John's Episcopal	Soundcheck	
S, Apr. 29	7:30 PM	St. John's Episcopal	Concert	
Th, May 11	TBA	Bovard		Baccalaureate
F, May 12	TBA	TBA		Commencement

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/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety 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.