

MUEN 307/507 University Chorus

Units: 1

Fall 2018—Wednesday—7:00 PM–8:50 PM

Location: BMH 100 (Ramo Recital Hall)

Instructor: **Yen-Hsiang Nieh, Lead Conductor**

Office: MUS 209

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Info: PH: 469-600-6127 (office) 949-245-4042 (dept.)
Email: ynieh@usc.edu

Instructor: **Colin Stave, Co-Conductor**

Office: MUS 209

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Info: PH: 469-600-6127 (office)
Email: cstave@usc.edu

Instructor: **Faraz Ardalan, Co-Conductor**

Office: MUS 209

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Info: PH: 469-600-6127 (office)
Email: fardalan@usc.edu

Course Description

Performance of vocal chamber music and choral masterworks from the thirteenth century to the present. Open to all USC students, faculty, staff and the LA community.

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): Open enrollment

Course Notes

- 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.
- No food or drink, other than water in a closed container, is allowed in the rehearsal room

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

- Music scores of assigned repertoire (provided by choral librarian at the start of the course)
- A sharpened pencil with eraser for marking music
- Black Choral Folder: \$27, available from Woody Gatewood in the choral office (MUS 416, available 8:30 AM -1:00 PM, 2:00-5:00 PM), 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.

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

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Participation	750	75
Demeanor	200	20
Final Exam	50	5
TOTAL	1000	100

Additional Policies

- 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.
- No food or drink, other than water in a closed container, is allowed in the rehearsal room.
- No use of phones, text, or other electronic devices is allowed. Participation Grade will be affected.

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 their instructor in writing during the first week of classes, be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of their faith

Participation Policy: In keeping with the professional objectives of the program, the Department of Choral and Sacred Music at the University of Southern California enforces a strict policy on participation and punctuality.

- Participation is required at ALL rehearsals and performances.
- 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.

- Singers are expected to be in the Rehearsal Hall 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the rehearsal period, with all the scores ready and organized according to the day's plan posted on the board. Failure to be ready to rehearse at the beginning of the rehearsal will result in a tardiness and will affect the participation portion of the grade as follows: 2 tardies result in 1 unexcused absence.
- Choral faculty and section leaders keep daily records.
- Do not schedule voice lessons, meetings with faculty members or other organizations, make-up classes or exams, USC registration, doctor/dental appointments, job interviews, or any personal obligations during rehearsal times.
- FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE in a dress rehearsal without the prior approval of the instructor will result in a loss of two full letter grades.
- FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE in performances or recording sessions without the prior approval of the instructor will result in a loss of three full letter grades. (Resulting in a failing grade).
- FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE during the week of a performance will result in a lowered grade.
- FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE in rehearsals without prior written approval of the instructor will result in loss of one letter grade according to the following:
 - 1 unexcused absence results in an A grade
 - 2 unexcused absences result in a B grade
 - 3 unexcused absences result in a C grade
 - 4 unexcused absences result in a D grade (failing grade)
- Absences for the following reasons are considered EXCUSED:
 - Unavoidable absences given five days in advance
 - Extended illness with doctor's verification
 - Death in the immediate family
 - Religious holidays – See below
- Unavoidable emergencies will be handled on an individual basis. If an emergency occurs, (including acute, but brief, illness) the student must contact the director in a timely manner, followed with written notification within three days. The instructor will determine whether the emergency is excused. If the instructor does not recognize the reason as acceptable, the student may appeal to the chair.

Demeanor Policy:

If students must miss a rehearsal, regardless of whether the absence is excused or not, they are expected to learn the material outside of the classroom. The instructors reserve the right to test the students who were absent, and the test results will affect the final grade.

Assessment of work ethic while in class:

- Do you follow instructions by marking your score?
- Is your participation conducive or disruptive to the rehearsal process?
- Do you respond favorably to constructive criticism?
- Do you bring your scores and a pencil to every rehearsal?
- If you are unable to phonate, do you follow along in your music, mark your score, and submit written comments to the conductor at the end of the rehearsal?

Assessment of preparation outside of class:

- If assignments are given, are you prepared by the announced deadline?

Assessment of professionalism:

- Do you show respect for the conductor and your fellow students?
- Do you adhere to the participation policy of the ensemble?
- Do you participate in choral performances with clean, proper concert attire and in a professional manner?

Music Rental Policy: All printed music required for performance by the ensemble is borrowed; therefore, students are not required to purchase music. However, students are responsible for the care and timely return of their music. All students will receive a music checkout form at the beginning of the semester. This form must be signed and returned to the conductor upon receipt of the music.

Penalties

Your registration at USC for future semesters may be denied and/or your university grades may be withheld and/or your grade in this class may be lowered as a result of the following:

- Failure to return music by announced deadline.
- Failure to pay for lost/damaged music by announced deadline.
- Failure to pay any other fees by announced deadline (uniforms, etc.).

Concert Attire Policy

- You are responsible for your own concert attire. Attire for concerts must be complete.
 - Men: Black long-sleeved shirt, black dress pants, black shoes (no sneakers), black socks
 - Women: Long black dress, dress pants, or black top and skirt (plain black tights), black dress shoes (no flip flops).
- In addition to the specified concert attire, choristers must wear minimal jewelry and where relevant, attend all performances with their hair tied back neatly.
- For all rehearsals and performances, please refrain from wearing any perfume or cologne; however, deodorant is essential.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

FALL SEMESTER (August 20 - December 12, 2018)				
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	NOTES
W, Aug. 22	7:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Ramo Recital Hall (BMH 100)	First Rehearsal	
Sa, Oct. 6	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	St. John's Episcopal Cathedral	University Chorus Retreat	
F, Nov. 2	2:00 pm – 3:50 pm	Newman	Winter Gala Tutti Rehearsal	
Th, Nov. 8	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	St. John's Episcopal Cathedral	Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal	514 W Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007
F, Nov. 9	5:00 pm – 7:30 pm	St. John's Episcopal Cathedral	Fall Concert Sound Check	
F, Nov. 9	8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	St. John's Episcopal Cathedral	Fall Concert: Music from Around the World	Tickets - \$5.00
W, Nov. 21	All Day		Thanksgiving Break NO CLASS	
W, Dec. 5	7:00 pm – 8:50 pm	Ramo Recital Hall (BMH 100)	Final Exam	
S, Dec 8	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Bovard	Winter Gala Dress Rehearsal	
S, Dec. 8	7:30 pm	Bovard	Winter Gala Concert	Call time: 5:30 pm Concert: 7:30 pm *Advance tickets required, for purchase*

Religious Observance

University policy grants students excused absences from class for observance of religious holy days. Faculty are asked to be responsive to requests when students contact them IN ADVANCE to request such an excused absence.

The student should be given an opportunity to make up missed work because of religious observance. Students are advised to scan their syllabi at the beginning of each course to detect potential conflicts with their religious observances. Please note that this applies only to the sort of holy day that necessitates absence from class and/or whose religious requirements clearly conflict with aspects of academic performance.

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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. 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>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tab for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students