

**MUEN 312/512 Chamber Singers**

**Units: 1**

**Fall 2019**

**Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 2:00-3:50 PM**

**USC**Thornton

School of Music

**Location:** MUS 106

**Instructor: Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe**

**Office:** MUS 417

**Office Hours:** Monday/Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Tuesday’s 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Others by appointment

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

Email: jscheibe@usc.edu

**Teaching Assistant: Micah Bland**

**Office:** MUS 209

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Contact Info:** PH: 940-390-3872, Email: mbland@usc.edu

**Course Description**

Performance of vocal chamber music and choral masterworks from the 12th Century to the present. Open to all students by audition.

**USC Thornton Classical Performance and Composition Program Objectives**

Students will create a distinctive musical voice by. . .

* Developing musical excellence
* Connecting scholarship to music making
* Integrating the relevance of music to a diverse and inclusive society
* Erasing performance boundaries between different genres of music

And create a fulfilling musical career by. . .

* Navigating their way into the music profession to monetize their skills
* Mastering skills to share music through digital platforms and non-traditional venues
* Building a lifelong, global professional network
* Leading a healthy life as a musician

**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 excellence 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.
* To develop a global professional network through biennial performance tours.

**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 2:00 PM.
* Singers are expected to warm-up prior to arrival at rehearsal.
* Singers are expected to bring all music and sharpened pencil to every rehearsal.
* Cell phones are not to be present or used during rehearsals unless of an emergency situation that has been approved in advance with the ensemble conductor. THIS INCLUDES HAVING THEM ON MUSIC STANDS.
* 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, TA, 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: **OPTION 1 (SUIT + VEST)** $146.90 (paid directly to Al Weiss Men’s Clothing), **OPTION 2 (DRESS)** size 0-16: $91.30 total ($69.30 dress + $12 S/H + $10 hemming), size 18-34: $101.30 total ($79.30 dress + S/H + hemming), jewelry (earrings in either pierced or clip-on): $5; Total: **$96.30 or $106.30 depending on size.**

* Payments should be made to Woody Gatewood in MUS 416 via cash or check (to Dept. of Choral and Sacred Music)
  + OPTION 1 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
  + OPTION 2 ATTIRE: black dress, earrings ($5.00), hosiery (purchase separately), black closed toe flats (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
* BLACK CHORAL FOLDER: $27, available in the choral office (MUS 416), pay via cash or check only 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 MUS 416 and can be made 9:00 AM-12:45 PM and 2:15-4:30 PM Monday-Friday.
* NOTE: Dresses must be paid on or before the third week of class.
  + All long 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. It is important to remember that some people learn music more quickly and efficiently than others. If you are not able to learn the assigned music to performance standards in rehearsal alone, it is expected that you practice your music outside of class to ensure an equally high level of artistry throughout the choir.
  + Failure to participate in a dress rehearsal without the prior approval of the instructor is unacceptable.
  + Failure to participate in performances or recording sessions without the prior approval of the instructor will result in removal from the ensemble.
  + 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 non-Choral Music majors taking ensemble as Credit/Non-Credit.

A letter grade of B or better constitutes CREDIT for Choral Music majors 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.

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

**Additional Policies**

* Course Schedule: **fall and** **spring semester rehearsals, performances, and events are subject to change.** Check your email **DAILY**. Tardiness or absence are not acceptable.
* Regular rehearsals are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (although most Friday’s we do not rehearse) 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106; Only special notes (guests, venue change) and additions are listed below.
* Conflicts with the included COURSE SCHEDULE must be presented in writing via the Absence Request Form (available on Blackboard) to the ensemble TA for approval by the ensemble conductor by **August 30, 2019 for the fall semester and January 17, 2020 for the spring semester**. Absence Request Forms will be reviewed within a week. 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.
* 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.
* **IMPORTANT: PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE CHOSEN TO AUDITION FOR THIS ENSEMBLE AND HAVE BEEN SELECTED. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE IN THIS ENSEMBLE, NOT A RIGHT. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO AUDITIONED FOR YOUR POSITION IN YOUR ASSIGNED SECTION. DO NOT TAKE THIS ENSEMBLE FOR GRANTED.**
* No food or drinks (other than water in closed containers) are allowed in rehearsal.

**Statement on Religious Observance/Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**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” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](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, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

**Support Systems:**

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

[engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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

[engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086*

[equity.usc.edu](https://equity.usc.edu/), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

*Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421*

[studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*

[dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu/)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*

[studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu/)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu/), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu/)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu/)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

**Fall 2019 (\**TENTATIVE)***

**Monday 8/26: *Classes begin***

Monday 8/26: Call Back Soprano and Alto 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106

Wednesday 8/28: Call Back Tenor and Bass 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106

Friday 8/30: Call Back Finals (extended time) 2:00-6:00 PM, MUS 106

**Monday 9/2: Labor Day (No Rehearsal)**

Friday 9/6: Rehearsal\* 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106

Friday 9/13: Fall Retreat 5:00-9:00 PM, St. Matthews, Pacific Palisades

Saturday 9/14: Fall Retreat 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, St. Matthews, Pacific Palisades

Friday 10/11: Rehearsal\* 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106

Tuesday 10/15: First Tour Payment Due ($250)

**Thursday and Friday 10/17-18: Fall Recess**

Wednesday 10/23: Dress Rehearsal 2:00-4:00 PM, Newman Recital Hall

Friday 10/25: Photo Shoot\* 2:00-4:00 PM, TBD

Friday 10/25: Sound Check 6:00 PM, Newman Recital Hall

Friday 10/25: Fall Concert 8:00 PM, Newman Recital Hall

Friday 11/1: Sound Check with Voces8 TBA

Friday 11/1: Concert with Voces8 8:00 PM, St. Matthews, Pacific Palisades

Friday 11/8: Winter Gala Rehearsal 2:00-3:50 PM, Newman Recital Hall

Friday 11/15: Rehearsal\* 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106

Friday 11/22: Rehearsal\* 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106

**November 27 – December 1: Thanksgiving Holiday**

\*Possible USC President’s House Caroling Gigs Dates and times to be confirmed

Tuesday 12/3: Town and Gown Performance 12:00-1:30 PM, Town and Gown

**Friday 12/6: Classes End**

Thursday 12/12: Ten Singers Needed for Caroling Gig TBA, Antherium in Pasadena

Friday 12/13: Winter Gala Rehearsal 2:00-4:00 PM, Bovard Auditorium

Saturday 12/14: Winter Gala Run-through 12:00-3:00 PM, Bovard Auditorium

Saturday 12/14: Winter Gala Concert 7:30 PM, Bovard Auditorium

**Monday 12/16: Final Exam, 2:00-4:00 PM, MUS 106**

**All Repertoire from Fall Concert, Winter Gala, and Caroling Due**

**Spring 2020 (\**TENTATIVE)***

**Monday 1/13: *Classes begin***

Wednesday 1/15: Second Trip Payment Due ($250)

**Monday 1/20: MLK Holiday (No Rehearsal)**

Friday 2/7: Spring Retreat 5:00-9:00 PM, All Saints Episcopal, Pasadena

Saturday 2/8: Spring Retreat 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, All Saints, Pasadena

**Monday 2/17: Presidents’ Day (No Rehearsal)**

Tuesday 2/18: Rehearsal 7:00-9:00 PM, All Saints, Pasadena

Wednesday 2/19: Rehearsal 3:00-6:00 PM, All Saints, Pasadena

Friday, 2/21: Recording Session 3:00-8:30 PM, All Saints, Pasadena

Sunday 2/23: Dress Rehearsal 3:00-3:45 PM, All Saints, Pasadena

Sunday 2/23: Concert, Messe Solennelle 5:00 PM

Wednesday 2/26: Dress Rehearsal 2:00-4:00 PM, Newman

Friday 2/28: Rehearsal\* 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106

Saturday 2/29: HS Invitational Performance TBA, Newman

Saturday 2/29: Community College Festival Performance 6:00 PM, Newman

Friday 3/13: Final Trip Payment Due ($250)

**Spring Break 3/15-3/22**

Friday 4/3: Rehearsal\* 2:00-3:50 PM, MUS 106

Wednesday 4/8: Dress Rehearsal 2:00-3:50 PM, Newman

Friday 4/10: Sound Check 6:00-7:30 PM, Newman

Friday 4/10: Spring Concert 8:00 PM, Newman

**Friday 5/1: Classes End**

Thursday 5/14: Baccalaureate 3:00-6:30 PM, Bovard

**Final Exam: TBA**

Possible Additional Tour Rehearsals During Finals Week TBA

**Taiwan Tour: May 17-30**

Wednesday 5/20: Performance 7:30 PM, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Friday 5/22: Performance 7:30 PM, Penghu, Taiwan

Monday 5/25: Performance 7:30 PM, Taipei, Taiwan

Wednesday 5/27: Performance TBA, Chulalongkorn University