MUEN101/260 Choral Ensemble – Concert Choir

http://music.sdsmt.edu/ensembles/cchoir

MUEN 101 (Physical Education credit)
MUEN260 (Non-credit)
King Center 124, MTW, 8:00-8:50 (sections 51) and 12:00-12:50 (sections 52)
Dr. James D. Feiszli (james.feiszli@sdsmt.edu)
Classroom Building 307, Telephone: 394-5101 (415-6829) / Office Hours: MTW 9:00; other times by appt.

Catalog Description
MUEN 101 CHORAL ENSEMBLES 1 to 2 credits.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An ensemble performing accompanied and unaccompanied literature for mixed voices. Membership determined by instructor’s permission and audition only. (Any combination of P.E. and MUEN 101/121/122 may be allowed toward fulfillment of the physical education credit for graduation.)

MUEN 260 NON-CREDIT MUSIC ENSEMBLE No credit.
Development of vocal or instrumental skills and aesthetic perception through the study and performance of music. This course cannot count as social science/humanities credit.

Course Prerequisites & Technology Skills
Permission of Instructor. Student must be capable of basic computer skills; e.g., Web navigation, e-mail, texting

Required Text
none – music will be provided for semester and must be returned.

Meeting Times:
Section 51 - MWF 8:00 am
Section 52 - MWF 12:00 pm

Meetings outside class:
Monday, September 14, 4:00-6:00pm - common exam (KC124)
Monday, October 5, 4:00-6:00pm - common exam (KC124)
Monday, November 2, 4:00-6:00pm – common exam (KC124)
Monday, November 9, 4:00-6:00pm – common exam (KC124)
Monday, November 30, 4:00-6:00pm – common exam (KC124 or Calvary Lutheran church)
Friday, December 4, 6:30pm – final rehearsal (Calvary Lutheran church)
Saturday, December 5, 6:30pm – Concert (Calvary Lutheran church)
Sunday, December 6, 6:30pm– Concert (Calvary Lutheran church)

Performance Attire
Students have two options regarding concert attire. They may rent a tuxedo or dress from Music Activities at $25.00 per semester or they may purchase a tuxedo or dress. If purchased, the student will be subsidized $25.00 by Music Activities. Men – Tuxedos: black pant, coat; white shirt; black bowtie; black socks; black dress shoes. Women - concert dresses, black dress shoes, black hose
Music under study

Gabrieli – Hodie natus Christus est
Feiszli1 – Of the Father’s Love Begotten
Feiszli 2 – God rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Telemann – O Jesu, Dein Kripplein Ist

Poston – Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
Parker – Personent Hodie
Rutter – Gloria

Solos Available

*Of the Fathers Love Begotten* - Individual solos. *The best voice for the part will be chosen.*
- Alto (pp. 1, 3, 4)
- Sop2 (pp. 1, 3)
- Sop1 (pp. 1, 4)

*Gloria* - *Trio which must work (and sound) well together.* *Voices will be chosen that blend.*
- Sop1 (pp. 22-23)
- Alto (pp. 22-23)
- Sop2 (p. 23)

### Schedule (subject to change)

#### September

- **2, 4**
  - Class rosters, credit enrollment, syllabus explanation, music folder assignments
  - Review - clefs, pitches, counting, meters
  - Materials: syllabus, handouts, Telemann, Parker, Poston

- **9, 11 (7th – holiday)**
  - Voice: Five T’s of Good Choral Tone
  - New Materials: Feiszli1
  - Sectionals: Telemann, Poston, Parker

- **14, 16, 18**
  - Introductions, Roster familiarity
  - Voice Matching, Partner Assignments
  - Monday common exam - 4:00pm
  - New Materials: Rutter 1, Rutter2
  - Sectionals: Poston, Parker, Feiszli1, Rutter2, Telemann

#### October

- **2, 5, 7, 9**
  - Monday common exam - 4:00pm
  - interest in solos compiled
  - Test – Parker

- **14, 16 (12th – holiday)**
  - Sectionals: Gabrieli, Parker, Feiszli1, Rutter
  - Test – Feiszli1

- **19, 21, 23**
  - Monday common exam - 4:00pm
  - all solos assigned
  - Test – Feiszli2

- **26, 28, 30**
  - Test - Gabrieli

**EXCEPT A SNOW DAY ANYWHERE AFTER THIS DATE**
If it happens on a common exam or dress rehearsal expect to schedule an extra rehearsal.

#### November

- **2, 4, 6**
  - Monday common exam 4:00pm
  - Sectionals: Rutter
  - Test – Rutter2

- **9, 13 (11th Veteran’s Day holiday)**
  - Monday common exam 4:00pm (brass, strings)
  - Test – Rutter1

- **16, 18, 20**
  - Spot-check and fix problem spots in all pieces
  - Test – Rutter3

- **23**
  - Mark problem spots
  - No class on Wednesday

- **30, December 2, 4, 5, 6**
  - Monday common exam 4:00pm
  - clean-up problems from Monday common exam run-through entire pieces
  - Friday rehearsal 6:00pm
  - Saturday concert 6:00pm call
  - Sunday concert 6:00pm call

**IF A CONCERT IS SNOWED OUT, IT WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.**

- **December 11**
  - Discussion and thoughts for next semester
Grading Policy

Music ensembles are laboratory courses in aesthetics. Everybody is part of the lab team. The success or failure of any participant in a music ensemble affects all others. Therefore a cooperative effort on the part of all is an absolute prerequisite to a satisfactory musical outcome. You are especially responsible for one or two others. How’s that? Think about any work environment. As a part of a company or team, you can do your part well and still have a final outcome that is not what it should be. In other words:

No matter how well you sing individually, you still need to ensure that others can achieve at a high level. You are not only responsible for yourself but for every single other singer in the choir. The grading policy for this class is designed to make you responsible for not only yourself, but to your fellow singers. It encourages responsibility to the whole class while recognizing the fact that you are ultimately responsible for your own achievement.

I. Practice and Performance Teams – You will Perform how you Practice

You will be assigned to one or two other singers from your section (voice part). This person (these persons) will become your lab partners. Know each other, know your schedules, e-mail addresses, mobile phone numbers, and anything else needful for practicing together. For that is what you will do.

II. Practicing, rehearsing outside of class assignments

Anyone who has experienced a quality music ensemble experience knows that it’s the outside rehearsal preparation that makes or breaks that experience. If you intend to walk into class without having spent some time outside class in review of what has been taught in class or in preparation of what is to be studied in class; you are not doing all you can to ensure the quality of the whole. Furthermore, you cannot really hear what you sound like individually unless you actually spend time away from the group listening to yourself. The catch is, of course, that you cannot really hear yourself anyway. That’s where your partner(s) is (are) important. Your group needs to schedule regular practices where you can use the learning aids available to you. The best place to work is in the King Center on the pianos and in the Electronic Music Lab.

You will have many aids to assist you in learning your music, from mp3 files with channel-separated parts to the Finale Performance Assessment tool. That tool is a valuable aid because it not only shows you where you have deficits, but also provides a recording of your voice and, if you wish, allows to you e-mail it to me for feedback. I urge you to use it.

III. Examinations

You will be tested on the music in class at regular intervals. The criteria are 1) melodic and rhythmic accuracy, 2) vocal production, 3) ensemble awareness. In other words, can you sing your part accurately with what would be considered good vocal tone (for you)?

You will sing your part with your partner and with teams from other sections.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes from the printed syllabus, but will always give one week’s notice of any testing changes.

Your TEAM will be assessed a grade from 0-4 are assessed for each performance. At semester’s end, the lowest examination score is dropped. The rest are totaled and averaged to achieve the Average Test Score. If you have not practiced together, it will be obvious and will negatively impact your grade.
IV. Communal Responsibility – Are you helping the group move forward, or ??

A. You are allowed 3 missed classes with no penalty. For every absence after that, \(0.5\) is deducted from your Average Test Score. If no classes have been missed, \(0.6\) is added to achieve the final grade.

1. The only excused absences are those that involve official professional activities. Other absences, for whatever reasons, are absences.
2. If you miss more than five classes, you will be dropped from the class - extenuating circumstances excepted.
3. No absences are allowed within one week of a performance! **Absences count double during that timeframe.**

B. We do important physical warm-ups and vocal training during the first fifteen minutes of class. When you walk in late (definition: not ready to sing when class begins) the message is either that you don’t need as much work as the rest of us, or that you don’t care. Either is unacceptable. Of course, sometimes accidents happen. So, you are allowed 3 tardy appearances with no penalty. Anything beyond that and it’s probably carelessness. **0.5** will be deducted from your Average Test Score. The good news: If you’re never tardy, **0.6** is added.

C. This is a multi-section course. So, the meetings outside regular class are crucial to our success as a choir. You are given these dates now so that conflicts may be resolved immediately. **If you have a conflict with any of these dates, you are expected to notify the instructor prior to September 11. Failure to be in attendance at any of these will be counted as two absences** and could result in expulsion from the course.

D. Individual situations are unique. When the limits of tolerance are reached, the situation will be evaluated by the instructor in consultation with singers in that individual’s section to determine appropriate action.

V. Extra Credit – “Can I make up for...?”

No, of course you cannot make up for missed rehearsals. It just is not possible. We need everyone at all rehearsals all times in order to do our best. However, the better a musician you become, the better this entire experience becomes for everyone. One of the most underrated singing experiences you can have is singing in a church choir – an ensemble where you’ll get maybe two looks at a piece of music before you must perform it. Therefore, an extra .6 of a point (on our 4.0 scale) will be granted to anyone who is an active and regular participant in a weekly rehearsal and performance with another singing group. To prove your participation, I will require that you provide me with the contact information of the person in charge of that ensemble. I will contact them for verification.

**Grading Scale:**  
A = 3.4 - 4.0  
B = 2.6 - 3.3  
C = 1.5 - 2.5  
D = 0.5 - 1.4

Freedom in learning. Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact Dr. Sue Shirley <sue.shirley@sdsmt.edu>, Head of Interdisciplinary Sciences, to initiate a review of the evaluation.

Students with special needs or requiring special accommodations should contact the instructor and/or the campus ADA coordinator, Jolie McCoy at 394-1924 at the earliest opportunity.