



MUSC*1910 Choral Ensembles I

Winter 2023

Section(s): C01

School of Fine Art and Music

Credit Weight: 0.25

Version 1.00 - November 14, 2022

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

The study and performance of selected choral literature through participation in one of the School's ensembles: the University of Guelph Symphonic Choir, the Gryphon Singers or Siren Treble Choir. This course emphasizes professionalism, healthy use of the voice, musicality, artistry, and ensemble skills. To register for an ensemble, students must contact the director by email to schedule an audition prior to the first day of classes each Fall and Winter semester. Successful Fall auditions will count for the entire F/W schedule. Students are encouraged to join an ensemble in the Fall semester and to participate in it for both Fall and Winter semesters. Consult the School of Fine Art and Music for further information.

Restrictions: MUSC*2550. Instructor consent required.

1.2 Course Description

Course credit may be earned through participation in one of several University of Guelph Choirs during Fall and Winter semesters. Through study and performance of selected choral music, students develop an understanding of artistic creation through direct involvement therein. Through improvisation and creative activities, students acquire an enriched appreciation of the relational aspects of music and music-making. Rehearsals and performances build upon the students' accumulated knowledge of musical techniques and skills, while study of a given repertoire develops awareness of historical and stylistic trends in music and of the values associated with music-making throughout the world. **For Winter 2023, two public performance events have been planned; if such events become inconsistent with Public Health, then "performances" will consist of Virtual Choir projects, improvising, and recording, and distanced performances. Vocal development enhances confidence and enables more meaningful self-expression. Synchronous rehearsals, leadership assignments, and small-group discussions are designed to build community and model performance skills, especially if/when public performance is not possible.**

1.3 Timetable

Gryphon Singers Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:50 p.m.

Symphonic Choir Tuesdays, 7:15 – 9:45 pm

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

The Final "exam" consists of an individual Singing Test i.e. – the student performs for the conductor and accompanist only. The tested material is limited to excerpts of repertoire learned during this semester of rehearsals. This test is individually scheduled during the Final Exam period, according to student and professor availability. **Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.**

2 Instructional Support

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3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Musical Scores (Other)

Musical Scores

Repertoire for the Choral Ensembles consists of musical scores chosen - by the conductor - with consideration for the ability of the ensemble, overall balance, and style diversity. Scores are distributed to the students (choristers) in person, and/or sent by email (legal scans) to Page 2 of 8 MUSC*1920 C01 W23 v1.00 print/read from tablets, and/or by mail, if necessary. Students are required to purchase this music, which acts as the course "text"; however, the cost does not exceed \$25. per semester. The purchase of one copy of each musical score per student is REQUIRED. As the "required text" for the course, the musical scores are used at each and every meeting; for visual and safety reasons, sharing is not an option.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. *Communicate* music more accurately and expressively through increased vocal abilities.

2. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

Identify and compare specific aspects (including form, line, texture, melodic shape, and rhythmic patterning) of performance practice in at least two historical eras.

3. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

3. *Apply* cutting-edge **Experiential Learning skills** now expected of professional musicians, including self-recording, singing to a click-track, and self-reflection, as well as rehearsal ensemble skills such as balancing and blending in LIVE PERFORMANCE.

4. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

Model standards of behaviour for the choral artist-singer.

5. *Contribute to global understanding* through the rehearsal and performance of musics from several traditions.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

A choir is a small community consisting of and benefitting from the many unique gifts and attributes of each chorister. The individual chorister contributes to and learns from these group activities: rehearsal, discussion, and performance. Significant individual preparation prior to rehearsals allows singers to concentrate on working together as a team toward common goals, for the ultimate benefit of everyone involved.

5.1 Lecture

In such a case that rehearsal must be cancelled

Topics: In case of cancellation of the weekly rehearsal (see below under Seminar) the students receive recorded lecture-demonstrations to guide repertoire learning, develop vocal skills, and/or expand musical awareness. In most cases, these should be reviewed by students BEFORE the next Rehearsal, and students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the material via a brief review during the next Rehearsal or in the testing evaluations.

5.2 Seminar

Weekly, during rehearsal times listed for each ensemble

Topics: The "seminar" consists of attendance at in-person rehearsals: for Symphonic Choir members, one 2.5 hour rehearsal/week and for Gryphon Singers, two 80-minute rehearsals/week. At each rehearsal, all participants engage with the musical and vocal challenges in the repertoire as preparation for performances and recordings

6 Assessments

1. The weekly ensemble REHEARSALS ("seminar") take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for Gryphon Singers, and Tuesday evenings for Symphonic Choir. They are central to the ensemble's growth as a musical community and to the individual singer's engaged contribution to this community. Therefore, **it is IMPERATIVE that each singer (student) attend all Rehearsals and Concerts.**
2. Students submit audio-recorded excerpts of the repertoire, which the professor assesses to ensure that the student is progressing at a rate appropriate to this course level and to the performance standards of the ensemble. In some cases, these recordings are also used to compile a **Virtual Choir recording (instead of or in addition to live performance).**
3. The professor responds and gives feedback regularly via email or the Course Link Feedback loop, which is used to improve the next submission.
4. Students also engage with the repertoire through a brief Written Reflection/Activity, thereby learning how to contribute to this musical community via Experiential means.
5. One or more culminating Concerts occur at a preordained time in the semester. Students are assessed on their contribution to the performance using the same criteria that are used for rehearsals; in addition, engagement with the audience may be taken into account in the

students' favour.

6. In their **Final Exam**, students apply the professor's feedback from weekly recordings, as well as the knowledge, skills and understanding gleaned during rehearsals and performances.

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Participation in rehearsals AND concerts 45%

Final Exam 15%

Written Reflection or Test 10%

Proficiency recordings 30%

6.2 Assessment Details

Participation and engagement (45%)

Date: Weekly, during rehearsal times listed for each ensemble

Participation and Engagement (45%) are Assessed Weekly, at each synchronous rehearsal ("seminar"), and are demonstrated by punctuality, attentiveness, respect for others and attention to the Conductor; also essential to Participation and Engagement are rehearsal skills (score-marking, balance, blend and continuity of vocal tone), and preparedness for rehearsals, concerts.

Proficiency Recordings (30%)

Date: Weeks 4, 7, 10

Students demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details, by submitting 3 recordings (10% each, due week 4, 7, 10), of assigned excerpts of the repertoire that has been rehearsed. Assessment of the Proficiency Recordings emphasizes the vocal and musical skills covered in the Rehearsals ("seminar") and the Lecture-guides (see "lecture") provided by the conductor, including accurate pitch and rhythm, tuning, tone, articulation, phrasing, blending, and nuance. Feedback from these submissions helps the student to prepare for future submissions/performance, and for the Final Singing Test.

Final Singing Test (15%)

Date: Mon, Apr 10 - Wed, Apr 19, In professor's office

DURING FINAL EXAMS, Students demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details, by performing (privately, for the conductor only) assigned excerpts of the repertoire that has been rehearsed. Students demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details, by performing (privately, for

the conductor only) assigned excerpts of the repertoire that has been rehearsed. Individually scheduled during Final Exam weeks, according to student availability. Total length is 30 minutes.

Written Reflection/Activity (10%)

Date: Friday, February 17, 2023

A Written Reflection begins with basic research (historical/sociological import and musical analysis) about one or more pieces of music in this semester's repertoire. Then the singer reflects on the ways that they interact with the repertoire, including but not limited to: Vocal issues encountered, emotional response to the text, visceral engagement with the music. Some semesters, a Test is the better way to assess students' engagement with the repertoire, either through translations of non-English texts, or recall of other critical elements of the music.

7 Course Statements

7.1 Principles guiding the delivery of this course Winter 2023

Live performance provides an unparalleled opportunity to share music with others; at the same time, as an educational endeavour, we focus on enhanced processes (creative and iterative), intensive skill development, novel approaches, developing leadership skills, creative exploration, and potential research possibilities.

While live performances are scheduled for Winter 2023, they cannot be guaranteed; Virtual ensemble "performance" products are also potential means to enhance aural understanding, provide consummation, and act as promotional material.

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

8.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

8.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

8.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

8.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

8.10 Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

8.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campusess/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campusess/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.
