



# MUSC\*2550 Choral Ensembles I

Winter 2021

Section(s): C01

School of Fine Art and Music

Credit Weight: 0.25

Version 1.00 - November 09, 2020

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## 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. In order to register for an ensemble, the student must arrange for an audition with the School of Fine Art and Music. Auditions will be held prior to the first day of classes each Fall and Winter semester. Students must check with the School of Fine Art and Music office for audition dates. Students are encouraged to audition for an ensemble in the Fall semester and to participate in it for both Fall and Winter semesters. Not all ensembles will be able to accept new members in Winter. Consult the School of Fine Art and Music for further information.

**Equates:**

MUSC\*2520

**Restrictions:**

Instructor consent required. Successful completion of an audition.

### 1.2 Course Description

Course credit may be earned through participation in any one of the University of Guelph Choirs during Fall and Winter semesters. Through study and performance of selected choral music, students will develop an understanding of artistic creation through direct involvement in it. 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 2021, an outdoor and distanced public event has been planned; if such an event is deemed inappropriate, then "performances" will consist of Virtual Choir projects, improvising, and recorded performances. Vocal development enhances confidence and enables more meaningful self-expression. Synchronous rehearsals, specific assignments, and small-group discussions are designed to promote interconnectivity at a time when we tend to feel especially isolated. Creative projects develop singers' leadership potential and demonstrate their imagination. Self-**

**reflection facilitates personal transformation and communal growth.**

### 1.3 Timetable

Gryphon Singers      Tuesdays, 5:30 – 6:45 + 1 hour Asynchronous

Symphonic Choir      Tuesdays, 7:15 – 8:45 pm + 45 minutes Asynchronous

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

### 1.4 Final Exam

Students individually submit their Final Singing Test (as for the Midterm Singing Test) by recording themselves singing assigned excerpts of the repertoire rehearsed throughout the semester. Submission deadline by the end of the first week of exams. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

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## 2 Instructional Support

### 2.1 Instructional Support Team

<b>Instructor:</b>	Marta McCarthy
<b>Email:</b>	mmccarth@uoguelph.ca
<b>Telephone:</b>	+1-519-824-4120 x54377
<b>Office:</b>	JHNH 124
<b>Office Hours:</b>	by appointment

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## 3 Learning Resources

Repertoire for the Choir is chosen by the conductor - with consideration for the ability of the ensemble, overall balance, and variety – and sent to each chorister by email (legal scans) to print/read from tablets, or by mail, if necessary. Students are required to purchase the music, which acts as the course “text”; however, the cost does not exceed \$20. per semester.

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## 4 Learning Outcomes

### 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. *Contribute* to global understanding through the rehearsal and performance of musics from many traditions.
  2. *Integrate* Knowledge, Skills and Values developed in other courses.
  3. *Express* specific musical ideas and vocal techniques kinaesthetically.
  4. *Make connections* between historical development of styles and specific repertoire.
  5. *Perceive meaning* embedded in aesthetic artefacts (scores and recordings) of music.
  6. *Communicate* music more accurately and expressively through increased vocal abilities.
  7. *Interpret* musical scores more authentically through advanced musical literacy.
  8. *Apply* in a professional scenario cutting-edge **Experiential Learning skills** now expected of professional musicians, including self-recording, singing/playing to a click-track, balancing and blending virtually, disseminating performance materials, self-reflection, self-promotion, management of synchronous platforms and asynchronous rehearsing.
  9. *Adapt* technical vocal skills (agility and flexibility) to a range of both solo and ensemble repertoire.
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Repertoire for the Choir is chosen by the conductor - with consideration for the ability of the ensemble, overall balance, and variety – and sent to each chorister by email (legal scans) to print/read from tablets, or by mail, if necessary.

### 5.1 Lecture

#### Weekly

**Topics:** The professor sends to students brief (approximately 20 minutes) video-recorded rehearsals to guide repertoire learning.

### 5.2 Seminar

#### Weekly, every Tuesday evening

**Topics:** The ensemble holds weekly (Tuesday evenings) synchronous (real-time) webinars of 75 minutes, using

Zoom/Webex, during which we discuss the repertoire and prepare singers for the musical and vocal challenges they may encounter in their guided rehearsal video (see Lab). Workshops with guest artists will also be featured.

## 5.3 Lab

### Weekly

**Topics:** Having received weekly video-recorded rehearsals from the professor, each singer prepares and submits audio-recorded excerpts of the assigned repertoire.

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## 6 Assessments

### 6.1 Assessment Details

#### Participation (15%)

**Date:** Weekly, Synchronous rehearsal (seminar)

Group responsibility, punctuality, contribution to discussion, as evaluated at every synchronous rehearsal.

#### Proficiency (25%)

**Date:** , Recorded and sent to professor by email

Best 5 of a possible 8 weekly recorded submissions (5% each), demonstrating the vocal and musical skills emphasized in the rehearsal videos provided by the conductor, including accurate pitch and rhythm, tuning, tone, articulation, phrasing, blending, and nuance.

#### Written Reflection (15%)

**Date:** Fri, Apr 2, Submitted to Course Link Dropbox

An experiential reflection on the process (rehearsals, webinars) and product (musical analyses and Virtual choir recording) of our work this semester.

#### Creative Leadership (15%)

**Date:** Submitted online

Students choose from a variety of practical projects or written responses to workshops, all of which include a creative component.

#### Midterm Singing test (10%)

**Date:** Wed, Feb 10 - Sun, Feb 21, Recording submitted via Course Link

Recorded excerpts of repertoire submitted to demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details.

**Final Singing test (20%)**

**Date:** Wed, Mar 31 - Wed, Apr 7, Recording submitted via Course Link

Recorded excerpts of repertoire submitted to demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details.

## 7 Course Statements

### 7.1 MATERIAL TO BE COVERED AND METHOD OF PRESENTATION

**(Delivery):**

- i. Repertoire for the Choir is chosen by the conductor - with consideration for the ability of the ensemble, overall balance, and variety – and sent to each chorister by email (legal scans) to print/read from tablets, or by mail, if necessary.
- ii. The ensemble holds weekly (Tuesday evenings) synchronous (real-time) webinars of 75 minutes, using Zoom/Webex, during which we discuss the repertoire and prepare singers for the musical and vocal challenges they may encounter in their guided rehearsal video (see below, #iii). Workshops with guest artists will also be featured.
- iii. Students receive weekly video-recorded rehearsals to guide repertoire learning. Using this resource, each singer prepares and submits audio-recorded excerpts of the repertoire.
- iv. The professor responds with bi-weekly feedback via email.
- v. Students submit **Midterm and Final Exams**, using recorded accompaniments and a click-track provided by conductor, and applying professor's feedback from weekly recordings. These recordings are then used to compile a **Virtual Choir recording (instead of or in addition to live performance)**.

### 7.2 Principles of adapting this course to the pandemic, Fall 2020

Principles guiding the delivery of this course, as adapted to the pandemic situation in Winter 2021:

\*Process, rather than Performance, is now the emphasis. This is a rare opportunity, without the pressure of live performance, to focus on enhanced processes (creative and iterative), intensive skill development, novel approaches, and potential research possibilities.

\*At the same time, Virtual ensemble “performance” products will 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 book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

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 and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. 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

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.

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