



MUSC*2910 Choral Ensembles III

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

This course is a continuation of MUSC*1920, with increased emphasis on professionalism, understanding of the voice, musicality, artistry, and ensemble skills. A brief listening reflection and organizational-leadership component complement the experiential nature of choral engagement.

Pre-Requisites:	MUSC*1920
Equates:	MUSC*2550
Restrictions:	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 (Section 01) Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:50 p.m.

Symphonic Choir (Section 02) Tuesdays, 7:15 – 9:45 p.m.

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

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

Students individually perform – for the conductor only - their Final Singing Test, which will consist of excerpts of repertoire learned during these rehearsals. The Final Exam (aka Singing Test) is individually scheduled during Final Exam weeks, according to student availability. 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 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. *Communicate* music more accurately and expressively through increased vocal abilities and enhanced understanding of the way that the elements of music operate in several different choral styles.
 2. *Articulate* specific aspects (including form, texture, melodic shapes, and rhythmic patterns) of performance practice in at least two different historical eras.
 3. *Adapt* their vocal production in order to authentically perform complex musical repertoire, such as the non-vibrato essential to contemporary tone-clustered scores in contrast to the richer colouration of Gospel songs, for example.
 4. *Model* standards of behaviour (in rehearsal and in performance) for the choral artist.
 5. *Apply* in a professional scenario cutting-edge **Experiential Learning skills** now expected of professional musicians, including self-recording, singing/playing to a click-track, as well as live performance with attention to ensemble balancing and blending.
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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 the case of a cancelled rehearsal

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:

For the weekly "seminar" [= Rehearsal], students attend in-person rehearsals of 2.5 hours once/week (Symphonic Choir, Section 02) OR 80 minutes 2 times/week (Gryphon Singers, Section 01), during which all participants engage with the musical and vocal challenges encountered in the repertoire, as preparation for performances and recordings.

6 Assessments**6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions**

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.**

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 Creative/Research Project OR in a Leadership 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.

6.2 Assessment Details

Participation and engagement (45%)

Date: Weekly, during rehearsal times listed for each ensemble

Assessment Details

Participation and Engagement are assessed *weekly* at each synchronous rehearsal ("seminar"), and assessed *discretely* at each culminating **Concert**; **Participation and Engagement** 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 and concerts.

Proficiency Recordings (25%)

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

Final Singing Test (Exam) (15%)

30 minutes during Monday, April 10th - Wednesday, April 19th

Final Exam (Singing Test) Mon, April 10 - Wed, April 19 DURING FINAL EXAMS, Students demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details, by performing (privately, for the conductor and accompanist only) assigned excerpts of the repertoire that has been rehearsed. Individually scheduled during Final Exam weeks, according to student and instructor availability. For this 2nd-year level, the Final Exam may include a brief written translation test. Total length is 30 minutes.

Creative/Research Project OR Leadership Activity (15%)

Due date negotiated with instructor, dependant on type of project/activity

Students who choose Creative Project will actualize their imaginative ideas about the choir, the music, the voice, or associated aspects. Examples of suitable projects will be posted on Courselink; in all cases, students should present a proposal to the Conductor by Week 6, receive feedback by Week 8, and finalize the project by Week 9. Students who choose Research will submit a written or recorded summary of their analysis of one of the pieces in our current repertoire;

Cross-disciplinary projects are highly encouraged, so that learning may be applied to a broader spectrum of the student experience.

Students who choose Leadership will consult with the instructor to contribute in one or more ways to the administration, management, or social organization of their choral ensemble (e.g. acting as section leader, serving on the choir committee, helping with administrative tasks, providing publicity and promotion, helping with physical set-up, or by leading a warm-up in consultation with the Conductor).

7 Course Statements

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

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