

CONCERT CHOIR SYLLABUS

Spring 2009

I. Course Information

Course Title: Concert Choir
Course Number: MUSC 183-285
Credit Hours: 1-2
Class Time: M,W,F 11-11:50 a.m.
Class Room: MUS 104

II.

April Duvic
Office Location: MUS 103
Phone: (360) 992-2245
E-mail: aduvic@clark.edu
Office Hours: M 9-10 a.m., T/Th 10-11 a.m.,
W 9-10 a.m., 12-1 p.m. or by appointment
Web Address: www.aprilbrookinsduvic.com

Instructor Information

Instructor of Music

II. Course Description and Purpose

This course is designed to provide advanced vocal instruction for male and female voices in a choral setting. Concert literature will be chosen on the basis of group ability. Students will have full ensemble instructions, as well as sectionals, during class time. Students are expected to practice the concert music, on their own, outside of class time.

Students will be voice tested for parts and seating placement within the first 3 weeks of each term.

III. Student Learning Objectives

Clark College has identified six campus-wide abilities that form the foundation of our educational emphasis: 1) critical thinking/problem solving, 2) information/technology, 3) communication, 4) life-long learning, 5) effective citizenship, 6) global/multicultural awareness. Although we will involve aspects of most of these abilities during the term both directly and indirectly, the primary emphasis will be the Communication Ability, the Life-long Learning Ability, and the Critical Thinking Ability.

The students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Improve their **vocal music skills** by exhibiting curiosity and being open to learning, assuming responsibility for learning their music by the dates given in class, exhibiting self-discipline and good work habits during all rehearsals (Life-long Learning), and interpreting musical notation that demonstrates a sense of melodic, harmonic, rhythmic, and aesthetic understanding (Critical Thinking).
2. Understand and demonstrate good **singing technique** (body alignment, breath management, vowel formation, vibrant tone, clear diction, and accurate intonation) as it relates to choral music by analyzing information from different perspectives, exhibiting a healthy lifestyle, and adapting to varying situations (Life-long Learning), as well as assessing the success of their own and other's communication efforts, interpreting and using visual, verbal, and aural elements of communication (Communication Ability).
3. Have an increased understanding and **knowledge of repertoire** and **performance techniques and etiquette** by preparing for, and participating on all scheduled ensemble performances, thereby assessing the success of their own and other's communication efforts (Communication), as well as assuming responsibility for their own learning, accessing resources, analyzing information from different perspectives, setting and revising goals, exhibiting self-discipline and good work habits, adapting to varying situations,

acknowledging all opportunities to improve and recognizing the value of the learning process (Life-long Learning). Also included is an understanding of college performance level expectations and standards (Critical Thinking).

IV. Rehearsal Expectations

1. Singers are expected to treat the conductor/teacher and each other with utmost respect. Singing is a very personal and often a very vulnerable activity.
2. Each singer should be in his or her chair or on the risers prepared to begin rehearsal on time. Being late causes you to miss a portion of warm-ups, limiting your ability to get the most out of rehearsal. Rehearsal is not over when the singer thinks it is, but rather when the conductor says it is over.
3. Turn off “noisemakers” (watches, cell phones, etc.) before rehearsal begins.
4. Keep talking to a minimum.
5. Have your folder with music and a pencil in hand during every rehearsal. A pencil in a book bag across the room, or a folder with music at home is insufficient. Expect periodic “pencil, sight-reading, and memory checks.”
6. The singer remains personally responsible for the condition of the choir folder and music once it is distributed.
7. Singers are expected to remain actively engaged in the rehearsal at all times. There is always room for improvement in individual performance. Hard work is expected. It is not optional. Keep talking to a minimum (worth repeating).
8. Follow directions...the first time they are given. Positive and cooperative attitudes result in a fun and productive atmosphere. Don't ask why, just do it!
9. Upon receiving music, singers should number all measures, using a pencil only, and make marks in their music as instructed by the director.
10. Singers are responsible for the care of the choir room. When rehearsals is completed, put all supplies away, throw away trash, and take all personal items with you as you leave.
11. **STAY INFORMED** by updating your personal calendar! Listen; read all communications for updates; check the calendar; ask, if you are unsure of something. The more involved you are, the more fun choir can become.

V. Music

Each student will be issued music that they are expected to bring to each rehearsal. Music is very expensive, therefore lost or damaged music will be charged to the student and transcripts will be held until payment is made. (see page 5 for additional information including replacement costs for lost or damaged music)

VI. Concert Attire

Since Clark College owns no choir robes, the object of wearing similar black clothing is to direct the audience to focus on the music rather than draw attention away from individual performers.

Women: Dressy long black dresses or dressy black pant suits. No overly bare or revealing styles. Black hose and black shoes are required. We will be standing on risers; Low-heeled, comfortable shoes are recommended. High heels throw your body alignment off, and negatively affect your breathing and singing. No flashy jewelry.

Men: Black slacks and jacket, white shirt, black bow tie, shoes and socks.

Please do not wear perfume, scented lotion, or cologne on stage. Be considerate of others' sensitivities and allergies. Do wear deodorant.

VII. Grading

Your grade for the term will be based upon attendance at rehearsals and at the concert(s). Missing a performance is grounds for a grade of "F" or "INC." depending on the circumstances of the absence. The only excuse for a missed performance is illness or an emergency. (Proper documentation, i.e. doctor's note, hospital bill, death certificate is required.) In these cases, a grade of "INC." will be entered. Students must adjust their personal and work schedules in order to attend any outside rehearsals and all performances since our performances are group efforts, grading is based upon this service to the group. There is no way to "make up" a missed performance in the way you might "make up" a missed quiz or exam in another class.

Three tardies = 1 absence.

Assuming you perform at all concerts, grades will be earned as follows:

0-2 absences	A
3 absences	B+
4 absences	B
5 absences	C+
6 absences	C
7 or more absences	F

Write down the performance date(s) in your personal calendar:

Wednesday, June 10, at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, Royal Durst Theatre, 7:30 p.m. You will be required to arrive for an onstage rehearsal at 5:30 p.m.

Additional performance dates may be added. Students will be given a minimum of two weeks prior notice to accommodate any changes or additions. See page 5 for additional information.

VIII. Academic Early Warning

I will be using the Academic Early Warning (AEW) system in my courses to let you know if I have concerns about your academic performance early enough in the quarter to give you time to address the concern. Academic Early Warning allows me to draw your attention to certain risky academic behaviors that may pose threats to your success in my course. That information will be

merged into a hard copy letter that will be sent to your home address along with a list of free campus services. The reporting periods for AEW are the third week and the middle of the fifth week of each quarter. In addition to the following categories of reports I can submit, I may also add an additional comment that will appear on your letter.

- Excessive Absences
- Low test/Assignment scores
- Missed tests/Assignments
- Tardiness
- Satisfactory (Please note that you will not receive a hard copy letter if the report is satisfactory.)

I encourage you to see me if you receive a AEW letter about this course and to utilize any of the listed services.

IX. Withdrawal

You may withdraw from this course up until the end of the seventh week (Friday, May 22). After that date, you may not withdraw and will receive a failing grade if you stop coming to class.

X. Emergencies

In emergencies, students should do the following:

1. Inclement weather or emergency information – Go to www.clark.edu or call 360-992-2000 as your first means of getting information. The College does send notices to radio and television stations, but the College's web site and switchboard are the official platforms for the most accurate information.
2. Immediate emergency communication alert – To receive immediate notice on emergencies, you can register your cell phone number to receive text pages and your email address to receive email messages. To do this, go to www.flashalert.net . Select "Subscribe" on the left, and follow the instructions. Mass communication will also be sent to all college employee phones and computers.
3. Fire Alarm – Evacuate the building through closest exit; evacuation maps are located in the hallways. Take personal belongings only if it is safe to do so. Remain at least 50 feet from the building. Notify others of evacuation. Do not re-enter building until instructed to do so.
4. Parking Lot Identifiers – New parking lot identifiers using colors and numbers have been assigned to all Clark parking lots. To help emergency or security personnel locate you, please refer to these identifying features.
5. Security Escort – Security Officers are available for escorts please call 360-992-2133.

XI. ADA Accommodations

If you have emergency medical information that should be shared, or if you require assistance in case the building should be evacuated, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible during the office hours indicated in this syllabus.

Any student with a disability who may require some consideration or assistance in order to fully participate in this class should contact the Disability Support Services office at 992-2580 or 992-2835 (TTY), or stop by the Penguin Student Union building.

XII. Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other electronic devices not approved of by Disability Support Services must remain turned off and unused during class.

XIII. Rehearsal and performance information for tour choir

In addition to the regularly scheduled MWF class time rehearsals and the June 10 concert, students in the tour choir will be expected to attend the following rehearsals and performances in preparation for the performance tour to Honolulu, HI June 21-29:

Friday, April 17 – 12-1:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24 – 12-1:30 p.m.

Friday, May 15 – 12-1:30 p.m.

Monday, June 8 – 12-1:30 p.m.

Monday, June 15 – 10-11:50 a.m. Concert Choir Final Exam time – tour choir meets

Friday, June 19 – 3-4 p.m. Performance for family, friends and all on-campus personnel.

XIV. Repertoire for June 10 concert – tentative program order

(Note replacement costs for lost or damaged music.)

1. At the River (American Hymn Tune) Adapted by Aaron Copland, arrangement by R. Wilding-White (\$1.70)
2. Water Night by Eric Whitacre (\$2.15)
3. Take Me to the Water by Rollo Dillworth (\$1.70)
4. Ku'u Pua I Paoakalani by HRM Lili'uokalani, arranged by Robert U. Cazimero (\$1.70)
5. E Nana Kakou I Na Manu by Herb Mahelona (\$1.55)
6. Deep River (Traditional Spiritual) arranged by Moses Hogan (\$1.70)
7. Bridge Over Troubled Water by Paul Simon arranged by Mark Hayes (\$1.90)

Total replacement cost for spring term music = \$12.40

Tour Choir will also review all winter term music in addition to the seven spring term pieces in preparation for performances while on tour. (Prices reflect current increase from cover price shown on music.)

1. What Shall We Do with a Drunken Sailor (\$1.75) (men only)
2. The Banks O'Doon (\$1.75)
3. Highland Mary (\$1.75)
4. Can't Buy Me Love (\$1.80)
5. O Sacrum Convivium (\$2.15) (small ensemble only)
6. Tell My Ma (\$1.90)
7. Danny Boy (\$1.30)