Welcome to St. Cecilia Singers

St. Cecilia Singers is a vibrant choral ensemble of women’s voices joining together to make beautiful music! Here you will find a supportive environment, which encourages the development of your singing voice in a choral setting. Members of this choir are committed to achieving excellence through individual and group study. The transformative power of choral music nurtures a cooperative spirit, historical, social and cultural awareness, and the intellectual, emotional and spiritual enrichment of each singer.

The St. Cecilia Singers has a long-standing tradition at the Don Wright Faculty of Music and performs an eclectic variety of repertoire in concerts on and off campus. Placement in this ensemble is by audition, based on voice and sight-reading abilities.

INSTRUCTOR’S INFORMATION

Gloria Gassi, Lecturer – Soprano
Voice Studio: MB A545   Phone number: 519-661-2111 x 84346
Email: ggassi@uwo.ca   Office Hours: by appointment
Collaborative Pianist: TBA

COURSE INFORMATION

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Music 1912, 2912, 3912, 4912 St. Cecilia Singers: The rehearsal and performance of repertoire for womens’ choir. 4 hours plus performances. Meets large ensemble requirement.

REHEARSALS
3:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays - MB254
3:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays – MB227

COURSE SYLLABUS

OBJECTIVES

- To develop the singing voice in a choral setting, integrating musical literacy, artistic expression, and technical facility, through the study of choral repertoire.
- To become an independent, accurate singer, with the ability to sing any part of an SSAA score.
- To develop sight reading, aural skills and teamwork by singing in quartets, trios, duets.
- To sing with accurate intonation, precise rhythm, musical expression, style and correct diction.
- To develop healthy voice production through the use of daily warm-ups, body alignment, breathing, tone quality, resonance
- To develop a positive attitude and personal responsibility for daily preparation of repertoire so that rehearsal time is efficient and productive.
CONCERTS

Choral Celebration
Celebrating 150

The Don Wright Faculty of Music choirs join together in a special concert celebrating Canada’s 150th anniversary. Each choir is featured, as well as a combined performance of commissioned work by Mark Sirett entitled, On Truth and Reconciliation.
Friday, October 27, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. First St. Andrew’s Church, London, Ontario

Dress Rehearsals for Choral Celebration
Tuesday October 24, 3:30 – 5:30 St. Cecilia Singers at First St. Andrew’s Church (Waterloo and Queen)
Friday, October 27, 2017 All choirs combined rehearsal 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Rejoice and Sing

St. Cecilia Singers and Western Singers join in concert to celebrate the season.
Friday, November 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica, London, Ontario

Dress rehearsals
Wednesday, November 22, 2017  3:30 – 5:30 St. Cecilia Singers at St. Peter’s Cathedral (Dufferin and Richmond)
Friday, November 24, 2017  *3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Sound check and rehearsal both choirs

Seasons of Love

St. Cecilia Singers and Western Singers join in concert with songs to celebrate life and love.
Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6 p.m. Von Kuster Hall, Don Wright Faculty of Music

Dress Rehearsals
St. Cecilia Singers: Tuesday, February 13, 3:30 – 5:30 vKH
Both choirs: Wednesday February 14, 3:30 – 5:30 vKH

Choral Celebration 2  Together in Song

The Don Wright Faculty of Music choirs join to close the choral season. Various works for women’s and men’s choirs as well as a unified performance for all singers will enhance the program.
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. First St. Andrew’s

Dress Rehearsals
Tuesday, March 27, 3:30 – 5:30  St. Cecilia Singers at First St. Andrew’s (Waterloo and Queen)
Wednesday, March 28, All choirs combined rehearsal: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
ASSIGNMENTS

Students must take individual responsibility to prepare repertoire for rehearsals as scheduled. Knowing the music thoroughly allows the ensemble to rehearse efficiently with accuracy and proficiency. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS are at the conductor’s discretion and may be assigned for missed rehearsals.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE From the Performance Department

- **Large Ensemble rehearsals** are not like other classes or labs, but rather like a professional service. *Attendance is mandatory at rehearsals and performances.*
- Choirs rehearse four hours per week. Extra dress rehearsals are scheduled before each concert and performances are held in addition to rehearsal schedules.
- Students are evaluated on **attendance and active participation** at daily rehearsals and performances. There is a **Pass/Fail evaluation** for Ensemble Credit, which is recorded on the student record.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE and ACTIVE PARTICIPATION at rehearsals and performances are Required for Course Credit

- **ABSENCE** THE CONDUCTOR MUST BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ALL ABSENCES. Excusable absence consists of a serious illness or emergency - medical documentation required. The Music Office should be notified for serious extended illness.
- **VOICE REST POLICY** If students are well enough to attend classes, they must also attend choir. For a sore throat/cold, voice rest is allowed, where students can observe, listen and mark their scores. Notify the conductor at the beginning of rehearsal to request voice rest.
- **PUNCTUALITY** is imperative for all rehearsals and performances. Absence from performances or rehearsal(s) will result in dismissal from the choir and loss of credit. Attendance at dress rehearsal is mandatory for participation in the concert.
- **ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM**: All singers must complete this form before taking part in any off-campus rehearsals or performances. Forms to follow.

COURSE MATERIALS – **Repertoire, Concert Dress, Choir Folder, Choir Etiquette**

**REPERTOIRE**: can be picked up by September 11, 2017 at the CBO

**MUSIC AND A PENCIL**: Have required music and a pencil for every rehearsal. By using your own scores, you are respecting your colleagues, so that they can mark their music and sing comfortably with proper body alignment.

**CONCERT Dress**: Stage appropriate formal dress. Full-length black skirt (e.g. to the ankles) Long-sleeved black dress blouse (e.g. to the wrist or ¼ length), Shoes: dress flats or low-heeled (2”) to accommodate standing on risers. (e.g. no boots, flip flops or stilettos) Appropriate matching hose.
CHORAL FOLDERS: A black choral folder is required for concerts. Folders will be available for purchase from Long and McQuade at an announced time.

CHOIR ETIQUETTE

- **Respectful behavior**: rehearsal discipline and a positive attitude are essential for productive rehearsals. Focused attention results in optimal learning. Avoid chatting and distracting behavior. Take care of personal needs before choir so that the rehearsal momentum is not disturbed.

- **Scent free environment**: Due to allergic reactions do not wear fragrances at rehearsals or concerts. Maintain physical and oral hygiene. Before choir, refrain from spicy foods which linger on the breath.

- **Water**: Bottled water is allowed at rehearsal. Due to safety issues - no hot drinks, gum or food is allowed. In consideration of the environment, take all belongings with you when you leave.

- **Space**: Due to space constraints and mobility of the choir, all large backpacks, bags, etc. are left in lockers. Bring only your choir music to rehearsal.

- **Be a good team player**: Work positively with your colleagues, offering assistance when you can.

- **Clothing**: Wear comfortable clothing to allow for deep breathing and stretches during warm-up. Outdoor jackets and hats must be removed to facilitate healthy singing and mobility.

- **Check your email daily** for announcements, rehearsal schedules, and seating plans.

- **Choir Executive**: plans social events to build friendships and community; assists with concert preparations, stage set up, attendance, etc. The executive is chosen by election or open to volunteers. Positions are: Choir President, Vice-President, Committee members

STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING REHEARSALS.**
- **All cell phones, Ipads, Ipods, ear phones, etc. must be out of sight, and placed in your bag or backpack in your locker.**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

see “Master Course Outline for Applied Music Instruction” posted at:

http://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/course-outlines.html

ACCOMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS

The University policy states that “in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean’s office.”

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence. Link for both Medical Appeals and Scholastic Offenses:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html