Western University - Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University Singers
Music 1910, 2910, 3910, 4910

Instructors: Patrick Murray (Term 1), pmurra29@uwo.ca, TC437
Kathleen Allan (Term 2), kallan29@uwo.ca, MB245
Accompanist: Laura Altenmueller
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Office Hours: By appointment
Monday and Wednesday 3:30-5:20p.m. - MB 254

Please see Schedule below for additional required rehearsals and concerts

Course Description
Welcome to Western University Singers 2019-2020! This advanced mixed choir prepares and presents in concert outstanding choral repertoire from a variety of genres and styles. Students in Western University Singers represent excellence in ensemble performance at Western University to our local and national communities, and support each other’s musical development as young professionals. Placement in this ensemble is based on audition each fall.

Learning Outcomes
Students will develop musicianship and performance skills that reflect their professional potential, develop healthy vocal technique, learn to maintain their vocal health in a choral setting, learn about style and performance practice in a wide variety of choral repertoire, and develop ensemble rehearsal and listening skills.

Evaluation and Expectations
You are expected to comport yourself as in any professional-level ensemble setting. This means arriving to rehearsals punctually and prepared, working collegially with your fellow choristers, demonstrating leadership and self-initiative within your section, and practicing on your own to ensure your own preparation. In addition, the conductor may periodically assign and check for translations and markings in your score, or schedule individual or group note checks during class time.

It is understood that there are a lot of demands on students’ time and physical and mental well-being as part of a music training program. Your conductors are here to support you! If you need to be on voice rest for a rehearsal due to illness or extenuating circumstances, speak to your conductor at the start of that rehearsal. More lengthy periods of voice rest warrant a longer conversation outside of class. Students who are well enough to attend other classes are expected to attend rehearsal as well. If you are too sick to sing, you can still sit at the back, listen, take notes, and support your peers.
Your attendance and preparation for each rehearsal and performance is the primary method of assessment. Full attendance at all our events for the season is required for credit (see Schedule, Attendance, and Accommodation sections below). At the end of the year, students will be given a pass/fail grade for the course.

**Required Materials**
Music (to be picked up at the CBO)
Black choir folder (available for purchase)
Pencil
Uniform (see below)

- Option 1: Full length formal black skirt or pants with black blouse OR full length concert black dress. Sleeves must be at least ¾ length.

- Option 2: Black tuxedo with peak lapel, white pleated dress shirt with wing-tip collar, black tuxedo pants, black bowtie.

- All Singers: Black socks or nylons, black dress shoes (flat or low heel)

**Dress Rehearsal and Concert Schedule**
Attendance at the following rehearsals and concerts is required. Our performances are considered your exams for the course. Please add these dates to your calendars and alert your conductor of any academic conflicts by the second week of classes.

**Rehearsal Retreat: Sat Sept 14, 10am-1pm, TC101**

**Concert 1: The Farthest Shore**
*With Chorale*

- **Wed, Oct 16, 4-6pm,** Dress Rehearsal at First-St. Andrew’s Church.
  (Course release from 3:30pm to travel to the venue.)
- **Sat, Oct 19, 5-6pm,** WUS and CH Joint Dress Rehearsal, First-St. Andrew’s Church
- **Concert: Sat, Oct 19, 7:30pm** (Call at 7pm), First-St. Andrew’s Church

**Concert 2: Western Performs at Artlab Gallery**
*With the School of Advanced Study in the Arts and Humanities and Western Libraries*

- **Wed, Oct 30, 12:30-1:30pm,** Artlab Gallery, John Labatt Visual Arts Centre @ Western
  (Course release from 12pm for soundcheck)

**Concert 3: Carols and Choirs**
*All Choirs*

- **Wed, Nov 27, 4-6pm,** WUS Dress Rehearsal, St. Peter’s Cathedral.
  (Course release from 3:30pm to travel to the venue.)
- **Fri, Nov 29, 4-6pm, All Choirs Dress rehearsal,** St. Peter’s Cathedral.
  (Course release from 3:30pm to travel to the venue.)
- **Concert: Fri, Nov 29, 7:30pm** (Call 7pm), St. Peter’s Cathedral.
Concert 4: Earth, Sea, and Sky
with St. Cecilia Singers
Mon, Feb 10, 3:30-5:20pm, Dress Rehearsal, vKH
Wed Feb 12, 3:30-5:30pm, StC and WUS Dress Rehearsal, vKH
Concert at 6:00pm, vKH

Concert 5: United We Sing
All Choirs
Wed, Mar 25, 4-6pm, WUS Dress Rehearsal, St. Peter’s Cathedral.
   (Course release from 3:30pm to travel to the venue.)
Fri, Mar 27, 4-6pm, All Choirs dress rehearsal, St. Peter’s Cathedral.
   (Course release from 3:30pm to travel to the venue.)
Concert: Fri, Mar 27, 7:30 pm (Call 7pm), St. Peter’s Cathedral

Combined Choirs Rehearsal Schedule
Two open rehearsals have been planned on weekends for Fall Preview Day and March Open House and have been approved by EPC.

Fall Preview Day Side-By-Side Rehearsal: Sun, Nov 17, 12:30-1:30pm, TC141
March Open House Side-By-Side Rehearsal: Sat, Mar 14, 11:30am-12:30pm, TBA

In addition, we are holding joint rehearsals with other choirs this year to rehearse mass choir repertoire, and women’s and men’s choir repertoire in Term 2. These rehearsals will be on select Wednesdays from 3:30-4:20.

Wed, Nov 13, 3:30-4:30pm, All Choirs Rehearsal, vKH
Wed, Nov 20, 3:30-4:30pm, All Choirs Rehearsal, vKH

Wed, Feb 26, 3:30-4:30pm, Combined choirs rehearsal, location TBA
Wed, Mar 4, 3:30-4:30pm, Combined choirs rehearsal
Wed, Mar 11, 3:30-4:30pm, Combined choirs rehearsal
Wed, Mar 18, 3:30-4:30pm, Combined choirs rehearsal
Mon, Mar 23, 3:30-4:30pm, Combined Choirs rehearsal

Music Sign-out
Choristers are responsible for signing out a folder of music for each term from the CBO library in Talbot College. Music must be returned in good condition at the end of each term to the CBO Library. Please take care to mark your music lightly, and with pencil only! You may wish to consider making copies of originals to ensure their safe return to the CBO, and to allow you to make whatever markings you may wish without worry. Students will be financially responsible for replacing any music not returned to the CBO.
Participation and Attendance
From the performance department...
“Large Ensemble rehearsals are not like other classes but rather like a professional service. Extra dress rehearsals are scheduled before each concert and performances are held in addition to rehearsal schedules. **Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.**

Punctuality is imperative for all rehearsals and performances. **Three tardy arrivals will be considered equivalent to an absence.** Perfect attendance and active participation are required to obtain course credit. Should a student miss **more than two** rehearsals for unvalidated reasons over the course of the year, they would be in jeopardy of losing their ensemble credit. This will be assessed on a case by case basis by the conductor and the Chair of the Performance Studies Department. Absence from performances or rehearsal(s) may result in the loss of your position in the choir and/or loss of ensemble credit. **Attendance at dress rehearsal is mandatory for participation in the concert.** Notify the conductor of all absences with as much advance notice as possible. Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals.”

**Accommodation for Illness, Disability, and Validated Absence**
Students should consult the university’s policy on academic consideration for absences, found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

Students are permitted to self-report up to two short (up to 48 hour) absences between September and April due to unexpected illness or extenuating circumstance without documentation. Students must report their absence using the online portal. Any absences should be immediately discussed with the course instructor within 24 hours of the student’s return to class, or preferably before an anticipated absence. Any absences which do not qualify for self reporting require a medical certificate. Provided the university policy has been met, the absence will be considered valid and will not impact a student’s standing in the course.

Students with ongoing medical or mental health concerns should take appropriate measures with Student Accessibility Services to document their accessibility needs and accommodations, and speak to their professor as necessary. The university policy is found here:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10
Statement on Academic Offenses
University Policy: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Assumption of Risk and Media Release Forms
In order to attend off campus concerts/events associated with choir this season, all singers are required to fill out an assumption of risk form. These forms will be distributed as required by the instructor.

Publicity photos may be taken at concerts and rehearsals this year. Students will be asked to fill out a media release form prior to any photo sessions. In addition, all performances are video and audio recorded for archival purposes, and some video and audio may be used for promotional purposes. Again, students will be asked to fill out a media release form prior to any online distribution of video content.

Statement on Mental Health
“Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

Statement on Technology Use in Class
Phones, laptops, and other electronic devices are not to be used in class.