

Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University
LES CHORISTES: Fall 2021 & Winter 2022
Music 1911, 2911, 3911, 4911

Instructor for second term: Dr. Tracy Wong

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Graduate Assistant Conductor: Meredith Wanstall, mwanstal@uwo.ca

Graduate Teaching Assistant/Pianist: Juhee Park, jpark885@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 - 5:30pm in TC 100 for in-person rehearsals / via Zoom video conferencing platform for virtual rehearsals. A recurring Zoom code will be provided in OWL.

DRESS REHEARSAL AND CONCERT SCHEDULE

Attendance at rehearsals and concerts is required. Our performances are considered your exams for the course.

A dress rehearsal and performance will occur within the final three weeks of the semester. These events will be scheduled outside of our regular rehearsal times and will be considered by the Educational Policy Committee. Dates and times will be communicated to students a minimum of one month in advance.

Each student is required to individually speak with any instructors whose classes they may be missing due to the concert as early as possible once the dates are announced and bring any conflicts to your choir conductor's attention as soon as possible.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE CONTENT: Les Choristes is a dynamic upper voices choir comprised of students from across campus, most of whom are voice majors at the Don Wright Faculty of Music. The repertoire is diverse and includes music of all eras and genres while specializing in music of the 21st century. Placement in this ensemble is based upon audition. *Note: Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. **Music scores** – to be picked up at designated location given by the Choral/Band/Orchestral Library (CBO). Any music not picked up by 3:30pm on September 16 is available for sign-out at the Music Library.
2. **Black choir folder** (available for purchase through, among many sources, Long & McQuade or at

- musicfolder.com)
3. **Pencil** at every rehearsal (including dress rehearsals)
 4. In the event of virtual rehearsals, you will need a quiet space with a strong internet connection where you can sing freely. **A laptop or other device with good sound and video quality** is required. Headphones and an external microphone are recommended.
 5. **Performance Uniform:** Full-length black skirt or black dress pants, black blouse or dress shirt (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves), black socks or tights, black dress shoes.

COMMUNICATIONS

The primary means of communication in the course will be through OWL announcements, and e-mail, with the e-mail address that was provided in your audition form. An OWL project site has been created for this course in which the course outline and other resources will be housed.

EVALUATION AND EXPECTATIONS

On conduct and professionalism:

You are expected to conduct 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 practising 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.

On attendance:

Your attendance and preparation for each rehearsal and performance is the primary method of assessment. Full attendance at all our events, whether in-person or virtual, is required for credit. At the end of the year, students will be given a pass/fail grade for the course.

From the Music 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 the 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.**”*

On responsibility for music scores:

You are responsible for signing out a folder of music for each term from the Choral/Band/Orchestral Library (CBO). Music must be returned in good condition at the end of each term to the CBO. Please take care to mark your music lightly, and with pencil only. Please erase all of your markings on your scores before you return them to the CBO. Students will be financially responsible for replacing any music not returned to the CBO and music that is damaged.

On masking policy:

Please be advised that everyone will continue to wear the required University-mandated masks during rehearsals, recording sessions, and concerts until further notice. This is in line with the university’s COVID health and safety guidelines.

NOTES

i) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence:** Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. **Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus.** Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade, if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year.

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

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

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, even when the MLHU has not advised students to self-isolate, students are advised to follow the most recent directions from the university and the MLHU concerning when to self-isolate and for how long. Specifically, if a student believes they have Covid-19 then the student is directed to report this to the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

ii) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

iii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on

medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

iv) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

v) **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

vi) **Examinations & Attendance:** Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

vii) **Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

viii) **Recording of Online Activities:** All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

viv) **Online Etiquette:** Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please observe the following general considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.