

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Don Wright Faculty of Music

COURSE SYLLABUS CHORAL ENSEMBLE

Instructor: 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: Debbie Grigg

Welcome to St. Cecilia Singers

St. Cecilia Singers is a vibrant choral ensemble of treble 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.

COURSE CONTENT

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

REHEARSALS 3:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, MB254

Additional dress rehearsals will occur before concerts, see p. 3

REHEARSALS BEGIN ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students will

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

Should we have a resurgence of the pandemic, we will adjust to a hybrid model for delivery of our program. Provisions for sanitation and safety in all measures will be a priority to prevent the spread of any disease.

VIRTUAL TEACHING STRATEGIES for ONLINE LEARNING

If needed virtual learning will take place through Zoom video application and OWL.

Virtual learning will allow for:

- setting of immediate and long-term goals for the course
- rehearsal of repertoire in large and small groups
- individual voice coaching for vocal development and repertoire
- score study
- break out rooms for sectional learning, duets, trios, quartets.
- Harmonic and structural analysis
- guest artist input with lecture series and interviews
- instructional videos on choral singing, voice technique, choral concerts, vocal health, wellness, etc.
- yoga instruction with certified instructor for body alignment and breathing
- discussion groups
- interaction with peers
- building community through social interaction
- rehearsal tracks for home study
- sight reading and ear training
- more opportunity for guided process learning as opposed to time pressured performances
- virtual performances when possible

COURSE MATERIALS

Repertoire, Concert Dress, Choir Folder, Choir Etiquette

CBO POLICY FOR BORROWED MUSIC

Music can be picked up from the Choral / Band / Orchestral (CBO) Collection, located on the main floor of Talbot College (T.C. 134). Envelopes with assigned music will be available before your first rehearsal. You are responsible for the music signed out to you. **Use pencil marks only** and please avoid damaging your music to prevent potential fees. **Please erase all unnecessary markings** on your parts/copies before you return them to the library. If, at any time, you need to switch parts with someone, please email or visit us in the Music Library, so that we can reassign the part(s) to the appropriate account. You can return music to the CBO or the Music Library (T.C. 234) by the appropriate due date, as indicated or earlier. Contact muscbo@uwo.ca for any inquiries.

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 with proper body alignment.

CONCERT Dress: Stage appropriate formal dress. Full-length black skirt (e.g., to the ankles) or dress pants. Long-sleeved black dress blouse (e.g., to the wrist or $\frac{3}{4}$ length), Shoes: dress flats or low-heeled (2") to accommodate standing on risers. (e.g., no boots, flip flops or stilettos) Appropriate matching hose/socks.

CHORAL FOLDERS: A black choral folder is required for concerts. Folders are available for purchase from Long and McQuade or online.

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.

St. Cecilia Singers Repertoire 2021-22

Scheduling of repertoire is subject to change

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, Recording vkh

STRONG and FREE
featuring Canadian composers

When Music Sounds, R. W. Henderson MC 120 SSAA

Psalm 23 Glick, in Hebrew and English MC 105 SA 4:24
[choir and orchestra](#)
[Electra with piano](#)

Psalm 47 MC 104 SA Lam'natzeiach Livnei Kor, Glick
[recording](#)

Ave Maria SSA Andrew Balfour

Petty Harbour Bait Skiff – Nancy Telfer, *Alumna*.
MC 254 SSA [video](#)

I'se the b'y, John Govedas MC SA. 129 [video](#)

I'll give my love an apple, Eleanor Daley MC391 SSA
[recording](#)

Things that never die, E. Daley MC 239 SSAA
[video](#) also St. Cecilia video

Songbird, Sarah Quartel, *Alumna* SSA [electra](#)

Don't Be Afraid, Jennifer McMillan SSA
Music Spoke [INFO](#) [video](#)

Dec. 7, 2021, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. PDT

Stars and Spheres; Visions and Dreams

Puisqu' ici-bas, Fauré. MC 48 [recording](#)

Weep no more - Childs SSAA MC122 SSAA
[recording](#)

Serenade Stänchen Schubert MC 52 SSAA [recording](#)
[pdf](#)

La mia stella, Ivo Antognini MC 151 SA [recording](#)
[video](#)

Les Etoiles, Mark Sirett MC 328 SSA [recording](#)

Song to the Moon, La Luna, Z. R. Stroope with flute and
oboe MC 241 SSAA [recording](#) [pdf](#)

Tundra, Ola Gjeilo MC202 SSAA [video](#)

Good Night Dear Heart Dan Forrest SSAA
[recording](#)

February 16, 2022, 7:30 p.m. PDT

GATHER!

Songs that bring us together for justice, peace and understanding

Never One Thing, SSA May Erlewine Arranger: Corie Brown - *an anthem for women's choirs and singers who have ever felt parts of themselves disowned or ostracized. An invitation to begin the process of reclaiming and healing.* [recording](#)

From Dusk to Dawn, SSA, G. Walker [info](#)
From Dusk to Dawn tells the story of the Liberian women protesting the civil war which engulfed their country until 2003. The musical language for this choral setting is rhythmic, energetic and powerful. The voices sing, "Gather, gather," in repeated 8th notes, as the calls for protest gain in strength. Tremolo chords in the accompaniment bring increased energy. The final section is emphatic, with accented chords in the voices and piano to express "Mighty women!"

Stand Up, SSA words and music Joshua Campbell and Cynthia Echeumona-Erivo [info](#) *Based on the thrilling and inspirational life of an iconic American freedom fighter Harriet Tubman. It is the extraordinary account of her escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.*

The Valley, arr Beth Hanson (*Thunder Bay –TDSB music teacher UWO grad studied with Dr. B*) [INFO](#))

What Happens When a Woman Takes Power, SSA Alexandra Olsavsky [INFO](#) *A song for the strong women of our world who seek to empower themselves by asking important questions.*

**March 26, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica**

Choral Celebration

Muusika SSAA Pärt Uusberg [INFO](#)
An incredible Estonian poem about the mystery and wonder of music. A dynamic build of sound and tone helps to express the importance of the text.

Lunar Lullaby, Jacob Narverud MC 152 SA
[INFO](#)

Ave Verum Corpus SSA Poulenc [RECORDING](#) MC 79
SSA

Ritmo MC 76 TTBB/SSAA Dan Davison. Piano 4 hands
(Spanish) [INFO](#)

Good Night Dear Heart, Dan Forrest SSAA [INFO](#)
This stunning piece is based on a simple poem by Robert Richardson, inscribed on the headstone of the daughter of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), who died in her youth. The work is brief and understated, yet powerful.

DRESS REHEARSALS and CONCERTS 2021-22

Concerts are considered a culmination of the course e.g. like exams. Attendance is mandatory. Any conflicts with non-music courses must be resolved by **September 21**. Scheduled dress rehearsals replace the regular rehearsal schedule where designated. All rehearsals have been approved by EPC (Educational Policy Committee). All professors are notified of scheduling. **Depending on the status of public health, concert venue may be virtual.**

Dress Rehearsals	Concerts	Location
Thursday October 14, 2021, MB254	Tuesday, October 19, 2021 Video Recording	von Kuster Hall
Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, 3:30 -5:30	Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Paul Davenport Theatre
Monday, February 14, 2022 3:30 -5:30 p.m.	Wednesday, February 16, 2022 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Paul Davenport Theatre
Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:30 – 5:30	Saturday, March 26, 2022 6:00 p.m. call Concert 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica

METHODS OF EVALUATION

STUDENTS are EVALUATED on ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY, MUSICAL PREPARATION, and ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

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

ATTENDANCE

The CONDUCTOR MUST BE NOTIFIED in ADVANCE of ALL ABSENCES.

Students who miss **more than two** rehearsals for unvalidated reasons over the course of the year, will 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 is taken at all rehearsals. Excusable absence consists of a serious illness or emergency. **The Music Office should be notified for serious extended illness.**

SELF REPORTED ABSENCE

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.

PUNCTUALITY

PUNCTUALITY is imperative and considerate for all rehearsals and performances. **Three tardy arrivals will be considered equivalent to an absence.** Absence from performances and/or rehearsal(s) will result in dismissal from the choir and loss of credit.

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.

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 (e.g., 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 when leaving.
- **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 are removed to facilitate healthy singing, mobility, and sight lines.
- **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, Committee members

STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices are not allowed during in person rehearsals, unless approved by the instructor.

All cell phones, Ipads, Ipods, earphones, etc. must be out of sight, placed in your bag locker.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

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 of a student's Home Faculty.

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

Academic Consideration for Missing Work: In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. 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

ACCOMODATIONS

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.**

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

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>

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

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. The exception is for voice studio masterclasses: *Students are encouraged to record their own performances at master class for personal study and review. All other recordings must have the permission of the faculty member and student.*

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Notes Specifically to Address Covid-19-related Issues for 2020-21

i) **Contingency Plan:** In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely 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 remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

ii) **Recording of Online Activities:** Remote learning sessions for this course may 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.

iii) **Online Etiquette:** Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- “Arrive” to class on time

- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting
- Be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor's request if the internet connection becomes unstable

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, select the blue "raise hand" function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
- Kindly remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking.
- Self-identify when speaking.
- Kindly remember to select the "raise hand" function again to lower your hand, mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise).

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.

III. Additional Statements

i) This course has received an exemption from the requirement in the Senate Policy on Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance that stipulates "At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade."

ii) **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.