Western University Singers
Music 1910, 2910, 3910, 4910, 9528
Fall 2022 and Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Mark Ramsay
Pronouns: he/him
Office: TC 325
Email: mramsay9@uwo.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

Monday and Wednesday 3:30 - 5:20 p.m.
Rehearsal location: MB227
Assistant Conductors: Matthew Boutda and Meredith Wanstall
Pianist: TBD

Course Description:
Western University Singers is an advanced mixed-voice choir that strives for excellence in both performance and the rehearsal process. The ensemble rehearses for four hours per week and performs throughout the academic year. Repertoire includes sacred and secular, accompanied and a cappella works, and spans centuries, styles, and languages. When possible, the ensemble engages with living composers to enhance the members’ understanding of the musical works they perform. Placement in this ensemble is based on audition each fall. Additional information related to the choir’s extensive history can be found on the faculty’s Ensembles webpage.

Learning Outcomes:
Students will...
- refine musicianship and performance skills within an ensemble setting
- explore style and performance practice through performance
- apply healthy vocal technique
- enhance listening skills and sight-reading abilities
- collaborate with peers to create and achieve performance goals
- foster and share a love of choral singing with others

Evaluation and Expectations:
We strive to work together to build an atmosphere similar to a professional-level ensemble setting. This means arriving to rehearsals and calls punctually and prepared, working collaboratively with your fellow choristers, demonstrating leadership and self-initiative within your section, and consistently practicing on your own to ensure your reliable 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.

Your attendance and preparation for each rehearsal and performance is the primary method of assessment. Full attendance at all our events for the year is required for credit. At the end of the year, students will receive a pass/fail grade for the course.
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 rehearsals 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.”

Course Materials:
- music (to be picked up from the CBO)
- pencil (in hand at every rehearsal)
- black choral folder
- concert attire (outlined below)

Music Packets:
Your music can be picked up from the Choral/Band/Orchestral (CBO) Collection, located on the main floor of Talbot College (TC134). Packets will be available before your first rehearsal, unless otherwise instructed by your ensemble director. 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 (TC234) by the appropriate due date, as indicated on your packet. If you are finished with your music and wish to return it at an earlier date, please do so. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at muscbo@uwo.ca.

Concert Attire:
Full-length black skirt or black dress pants, black blouse or dress shirt (at least ¾ length sleeves), black socks or tights, black dress shoes.

Weekly Rehearsal Preparation Expectations:
Weekly rehearsal outlines will be posted on the class OWL site by Friday 5:00 p.m. of the previous week. These outlines will provide preparation expectations for both Monday and Wednesday rehearsals of the following week.
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 conflicts in writing by the second week of classes.

Thurs. Oct. 13, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  WS dress rehearsal with WUSO in PDT
Sun. Oct. 16, 3:00 p.m.  WS performance on WUSO concert in PDT
Wed. Oct. 19, 12:30 – 1:20 p.m.  WS and LC performance at Western Performs with SASAH
Wed. Oct. 26, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  CH and WS dress rehearsal in PDT
Thurs. Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.  CH and WS concert in PDT
Mon. Dec. 5, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  CH and WS dress rehearsal in PDT
Tues. Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.  CH and WS concert in PDT
Wed. Jan. 18, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  Canadian Chamber Choir and WS dress rehearsal in PDT
Wed. Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.  CCC, WS, and community groups concert in PDT
Mon. Feb. 13, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  CH and WS dress rehearsal in PDT
Thurs. Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.  CH and WS concert in PDT
Tues. Mar. 7, 7:30 p.m.  LC and musica intima concert in vKH
(FS is not performing on this concert, but you are strongly encouraged to attend as an audience member.)
Fri. Mar. 31, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  CH and WS dress rehearsal in PDT
Mon. Apr. 3, 7:30 p.m.  CH and WS concert in PDT

Notes:

i) Course Prerequisites: None. Admission to the ensemble is based on the completion of a choir placement audition with the choral faculty. Admitted students can enrolled in the course number corresponding to their year of study. Those students who enroll in the course stand to receive an ensemble performance credit. As this credit is required for students in the Music Faculty, preference will be given to admitting music students to the ensemble prior to non-music students.

ii) Grading scale: Pass/Fail

iii) Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%): Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, 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 their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%)**: In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean’s office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(izes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean’s office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) **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

vi) **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.

vii) **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

viii) **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.
ix) **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.

x) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.