

**Humboldt State University**  
**Department of Music**

**Syllabus**

**Music 106N/406N – University Singers**

Spring 2018  
Tuesdays 7:00-8:50 pm, Fulkerson Recital Hall  
Office hours:  
Mon & Wed 2-3 pm and by appointment

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*“I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity - to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.” - Paul McCartney*

**What You Will Do in this Class**

- Rehearse and perform choral music literature from a variety of eras, styles, languages and cultures.
- Strive to achieve choral balance, blend, style and technique of the highest quality.
- Cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility, and sensitivity through the rehearsal and performance of choral music.
- Respond subjectively to the music studied and performed, which will lead to the development of a sense of integrity of emotional response.
- Increase your vocal capability through proper breathing and singing techniques.
- Develop vocabulary necessary to explore ideas in choral music and foster the development of critical standards for the evaluation of their own and others artistic works. This will happen by singing individually, in ensemble, attending concerts and festivals, listening to recorded music and writing reports about your musical experiences.

**Benefits of Singing in a Choir**

Because singing requires nothing but our bodies and a willingness to use them in a certain way, group singing can be a visceral and powerful experience. Choral music can help you become more aware of the richness of human culture. By adding to your knowledge of music, and by cultivating your subjective response to choral music, you will become aware of the artistic context of choral music as an art form, and you will become aware of how artists reflect on and participate in the human experience. Plus, you will be part of an amazing and fun community!

**Materials:** You are expected to have a choir folder (black 3-ring binder is fine) with scores and a pencil with you for **every class period**. Scores are on loan to you for the semester and need to be returned in reasonable condition at the end of the semester. You are encouraged to mark your score as much as is helpful (in pencil)! Consistent or frequent lack of preparation will jeopardize your success in the class.

## **How to Succeed in This Course**

To gain the most out of singing in choir, you are encouraged to be enthusiastic, keep an open mind, maintain mental focus, and be willing to express yourself through singing with others. To achieve maximum collective focus, efficiency and enjoyment of rehearsal, you are expected to listen respectfully to others and refrain from side conversations once the rehearsal has begun. Your cell phone should be **off** during rehearsal, and texting in class is prohibited. You may bring a water bottle, but chewing gum and eating are not permitted in rehearsal.

Due to the cooperative nature of ensemble singing, the primary basis of assessment is regular contribution to the group learning process. This includes regular attendance and active and positive class participation. Each rehearsal is unique in its content and achievement and doesn't lend itself to having a makeup substitution. A positive experience and successful grade for the semester comes as a result of coming to rehearsals prepared and taking an active role in the ensemble. Therefore, punctual attendance at all rehearsals and performances is vital to your successful completion of this course.

Once you arrive, plan to stay for the entire rehearsal (use the restroom ahead of time if necessary). Arriving late and/or leaving the room (with the exception of urgent situations) is disrespectful to the members of the ensemble and disrupts the flow of rehearsal. Please see me about any extenuating circumstances.

With the exception of emergent situations or severe illness, no one should miss any rehearsal the week of a concert.

If an absence can be predicted, please e-mail me before the absence. In the case of severe illness or other emergency, please notify me via email or phone within a reasonable time period as dictated by the circumstances causing the absence.

If you are absent more than three times during the term, the following will occur:

- 1) You may be required to come and sing in an individual appointment with the instructor in order to determine your ability to keep singing with the group.
- 2) Depending on how that meeting goes, you may or may not be permitted to perform in upcoming concert(s).
- 3) You may not receive credit for the class.

**Performances:** You must attend all performances. If you do not attend a performance, you likely will not receive credit for the class. Extenuating circumstances that would require missing a performance should be brought to my attention within a reasonable time period as dictated by the circumstances, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Documentation may be required.

## **Concert Information**

### **Required Dress Rehearsals and Concerts**

Thursday, March 29 ~ 6:00 call time/8:00 PM **Concert** in Fulkerson RH (all four choirs)

Friday, May 4 ~ 6:00 call time/8:00 PM **Concert** in Fulkerson RH

Also support your colleagues -- (optional, but you are strongly encouraged to attend!)

Sunday, April 29 @ 8:00 PM in Fulkerson RH – Madrigal Singers and Mad River Transit Singers

**Concert Attire - concert black** – The general look is tasteful and simple dressy.

Shoes: all black (no sneakers; no stripes, designs, etc.).

Bottom: Solid black slacks or skirt. If you wear a skirt, you must wear black (not sheer) tights. Very short skirts, even with tights, are not allowed. Skirts should be close to knee length or longer.

Top: Solid black dressy top (no T-shirts). No cleavage or spaghetti straps; sleeves preferred.

Dresses: Permitted if they meet the above general criteria.

Not Permitted: strong perfumes/scents, hats, sunglasses, flashy or eye-catching jewelry.

In general, the more coverage the better. You may be asked to bring in or show what you will be wearing ahead of time to determine appropriateness. Plan ahead! If you need any of these items and cannot afford them, don't worry; if you let me know ahead of time I can help you.

### **Diversity Statement**

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class.

*“When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy.” – Rumi*

**Best wishes for an enjoyable and successful semester!**

**Syllabus addendum on HSU policies:**

Students have rights and responsibilities at HSU and there are many resources on campus to help students succeed. The link below includes information about Add/Drop Policy, Resources for Students with Disabilities, Academic Honesty Policy, Attendance and Disruptive Behavior Policy, Financial Aid, Emergency Procedures, and Counseling and Psychological Services.

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendum-campus-resou...>

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Through this course you will make progress towards meeting the following Student Learning Outcomes:

**Course SLOs:**

- 1) Students will collectively demonstrate improved proficiency on their instrument/voice through rehearsal and performance of literature from a variety of composers and styles.
- 2) Students will collectively practice and refine skills in rhythmic accuracy, intonation, balance, blend dynamics, and phrasing.
- 3) Students will demonstrate understanding of their musical role within the context of the large group setting.
- 4) Students will make meaningful assessments of the quality of their own large ensemble performance.

**Music Major SLOs:**

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- 2) Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- 3) Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

You are strongly encouraged to educate yourself on repetitive and overuse injuries. Please go to the music department's website for helpful information.

Content of this syllabus is subject to change with reasonable notice.