

University of Michigan Arts Chorale

ENS 351

Fall 2010

Jason Harris, Conductor
Office hours: By appointment
jasonwh@umich.edu

Joel Tranquilla, Assistant Conductor & Pianist
joelwt@umich.edu

Fall Semester Calendar:

Rehearsals: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00-6:00pm, MLB Aud 4

Required events:

Arts Chorale Retreat: Friday, October 8 5-9:30pm

Pre-Hill Concert: TBD (potentially Sunday, November 14)

Dress Rehearsal: Sunday November 21. 7-10pm. Hill Auditorium

Concert: Tuesday, November 23. Hill Auditorium (regular meeting at 4pm in MLB, dinner break 5:30-6:30, 6:30pm call in Hill Auditorium. Concert at 8pm.)

Please consult www.artschorale.com for important updates.

Please note: ANY conflicts with the above required events must be discussed with Jason Harris in person or by email (jasonwh@umich.edu) as they may effect your eligibility to sing with the choir.

Ensemble Goals:

Experience: We, as a group, will experience music of various styles and cultures as fully engaged musicians. These experiences will stretch each of us technically, musically, intellectually, and emotionally.

Education: Our current levels of musical education, knowledge, and skill will be enhanced as we study music reading, phrasing, diction, vocal technique, breathing, and the many other facets of choral music. We will encounter texts from a variety of cultures and social contexts, and we will strive to bring the composer's work to life through

effective interpretation and presentation.

Enjoyment! Choral music is not only a profound way to share through group performance, it can also be a lot of fun. Singing is a courageous and generous act. Please ensure that appropriate respect is shown to your colleagues at all times through active and constructive participation.

Policies:

Arts Chorale is both a one-credit class offered through the School of Music and a student organization registered with MSA. You are required to register for ENS 351 unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as exceeding credit limits. **If you cannot register for the course, you must discuss this Jason Harris in person or by email by September 27th.** The course may be repeated for credit. LSA students should note that AC counts toward your creative expression requirement.

Whether or not you are registered in the course for credit, the success of this ensemble is based upon active participation during rehearsals. Your time and talent are among the greatest assets you bring to Arts Chorale. Missing rehearsal(s) WILL affect the entire group. Therefore, please note that:

- Rehearsals will begin on time. Each member is expected to be seated appropriately and ready to sing (ie. with music in order and pencil in hand) at 4:10.
- Regular attendance is expected. Attendance records are kept by the executive committee, and unexcused absences are subject to the attendance policy. Email acattendance@umich.edu for all attendance related issues.
- It is your responsibility to discuss with the conductor at the start of term:
 - a) any conflicts you may have with required events (listed above)
 - b) any ongoing scheduling conflicts you may have with regular rehearsals.
- If you are taking the course for credit: after two (2) unexcused absences, no credit will be given for the course. Two (2) tardies will count as one absence. Late arrival of more than 20 minutes will be considered an absence. Presence without participation (ie doing homework, text messaging) during rehearsal will result in an unexcused absence.
- Absences/tardies from regular rehearsals will only be excused due to:
 - a) Emergency
 - b) Documented school obligation such as an exam (**please email all exam conflicts to acattendance@umich.edu at beginning of semester. Emails sent just prior to exam will not be accepted for excused absence**)
 - c) Illness with medical verification
 - d) Religious observances

- All concerts and dress rehearsals are mandatory. Missing the dress rehearsal will result in not singing in the concert. If the course is taken for credit, a grade of F will be assigned in this case.
- Learn your music on time. You will be provided with a “performance-ready schedule” which lists when each piece and movement is “due”, and where applicable, the date by which it is to be memorized. On or after this date, you must be prepared to sing this piece as part of a small group when called on during rehearsal. Resources will be provided to help you prepare outside of rehearsal.

Concert Dress:

Men: black tuxedo, white dress shirt (long-sleeved), black bow tie, black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes. Please, no cologne.

Women: Black blouse (3/4 sleeves or longer), Black skirt (mid-calf or longer) or flowing pants, and black closed-toe shoes. Nylons must be nude, if worn. Please, no perfume.

Dues:

Dues of \$45 (of which \$10 is a music deposit, which you may receive as a refund after your last semester) are payable if this is your first semester in Arts Chorale, \$35 if you are a returning member. Dues are payable by --- Please make checks payable to “UM Arts Chorale.”

Guidelines for great choral singing:

Rehearsing and performing choral music requires complete mental focus and active physical engagement. Students are expected to demonstrate total commitment to the ensemble and respect to their colleagues in rehearsal by:

- Maintaining excellent seated or standing posture in rehearsal.
- Breathing fully (and early) every time and maintaining breath support throughout the phrase.
- Striving for beautiful vowels and clear consonants.
- Refraining from speaking during rehearsal.
- Following along in the music when not singing.
- Bringing the music to life.

Evaluation:

Your grade will be determined by your attendance, your adherence to ensemble policies and guidelines, and your octet performance grade. Participation in at least one octet is required. You are graded on a 100 point scale as follows:

99-100 A+ 88-89 B+ 78-79 C+ 68-69 D+

93-98 A 83-87 B 73-77 C 63-76 D

90-92 A- 80-82 B- 70-72 C- 62 and below F

Attendance (50 points)

Singer attends all rehearsals or has one unexcused absence – 50 points

Singer has two unexcused absences (Tu/Th rehearsals)– 45 points

Singer has unexcused absence from retreat or pre-Hill – 35 points

Singer has three or more unexcused absences – 0 points

Singer has unexcused absence from dress rehearsal or concert – 0 points

Ensemble policies and guidelines (25 points)

Singer attends to policies and guidelines in an exemplary manner all the time – 25 points

Singer attends to policies and guidelines in an exemplary manner some of the time – 15 points

Singer does not attend to policies and guidelines – 0 points

Octet (25 points)

Singer achieves an average octet grade of A – 25 points

Singer achieves an average octet grade of B – 20 points

Singer achieves an average octet grade of C – 15 points

Singer achieves an average octet grade of D – 10 points

Singer achieves an average octet grade of F – 0 points