

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Music

Abbreviated CHORAL ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS, Spring 2019

COMPLETE syllabus will be sent to you via email and is posted at <http://gemmell-posts.com>

MUSI 226, 227, 427: Applied Music in Choir

Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell, Conductor

Phone: 717-342-4469

Email: jeffrey.gemmell@millersville.edu

Office: WVPAC 222

Office Hours: MWF 11-12

Best by appointment

I. CHORAL ENSEMBLE DESCRIPTION: MU choral ensembles are dedicated to the study and performance of the highest quality choral music of all style periods. University Choir and Chorale consist of thoroughly auditioned singers from throughout the university community whose backgrounds have given them the tools necessary to function and flourish in a very select musical atmosphere. All choirs represent, and are ambassadors of, the integrity and quality of Millersville University and its Department of Music.

II. OVERALL GOALS of the ensembles include:

- (1) To become better singer-musicians through constructive, productive and enjoyable rehearsals;
- (2) To give professional quality, emotionally fulfilling, successful performances;
- (3) To become better people through interaction with the choral art.

III. OFFICERS AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP: The following positions were elected in Spring 2018; office holders will be introduced during the first week of classes.

Elected Officials: President

Vice-President

Secretary

Auditioned/Appointed Leaders:

Business Manager

Section Leaders: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass

Assistant Conductor (optional)

IV. GRADING: Students participating in Music Department large ensembles may receive up to .5 academic credit per semester. The semester grade is based upon: (1) Daily attendance; (2) Quality of daily participation; (3) Mastery of repertoire and development of vocal technique and musicianship to perform diverse vocal styles and a wide variety of choral literature.

Dr. Gemmell reserves the right to require part checks from any singer at any time throughout the semester. Announced (or unannounced part tests) can occur at any time. Students will be graded on their ability to sing the correct notes, rhythms and texts in a musical manner. If a part check reveals a deficiency, it is the student's responsibility to address the problem(s) in a timely manner. Continuing musical problems may result in being asked not to participate in a performance. Dress rehearsals and performances cannot be "made up." The performance is a unique, one-time opportunity for singers to demonstrate their mastery of the repertoire and is therefore required to pass the course.

V. REHEARSALS AND ATTENDANCE: Strict attendance, including punctual arrival, is expected at all rehearsals and performances. Every singer should be seated, **with their music and a pencil**, ready to sing at the appointed time of rehearsal. **Music majors should always have their tuning forks available.** Please check your email regularly for choir announcements. If you are not registered for this course, please make sure Dr. Gemmell has your email address.

Chronic tardiness – *defined as arriving after warm-ups have begun* – is unprofessional and disruptive; it will lead to a grade reduction. Excessive absences, excused* or unexcused, will not be tolerated. Lateness of more than 15 minutes will be counted as an absence. Grades will be determined as follows:

- Each tardy after three have accumulated will automatically decrease your grade incrementally (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.);
- More than two unexcused or four excused* absences during the semester will result in a lower grade (by letter grade, A to B, for each additional absence) and will jeopardize continued membership in the ensemble.

Absences during the "red zone" (two weeks prior to concert) must be avoided, as this is when the most intense work for the concert will take place. **Unexcused absences are not allowed during this time.** Missing classes during this period may result in a request that you not participate in the concert.

Attendance during Production Week and at dress rehearsals immediately prior to concerts are required. **An unexcused absence during Production Week or a Dress Rehearsal will prohibit performance in the concert. Failure to perform in the concert with an unexcused absence will result in failure of the course.**

* **Note:** An excused absence is one that is **put into writing via email** on (or **preferably prior to**) the day of rehearsal. Section Leaders will help to monitor attendance and keep an accurate record of each singer's daily attendance.

• **Examples of acceptable reasons to miss a rehearsal:** Institutional excuses given five or more days in advance (avoid during "red zone"); Personal illness (must be documented by doctor's note); Death in the immediate family (*documentation required*); Jury duty/required court appearance (*documentation required*); Military duty (*documentation required*); Religious holidays; please notify by second week of classes, not day of holiday; Milestone, includes *immediate* family events such as weddings with 3 months notice; Auditions/Interviews for graduate programs.

VI. ILLNESS: If you're "slightly under the weather," come to rehearsal and *mark* instead of singing full voice, add rehearsal notes/markings to your score and, if necessary, sit apart from the other singers. Attending rehearsal is beneficial even in a period of illness or vocal fatigue. Only cases that are physically debilitating or contagious should be considered grounds for missing rehearsals.

VII. REQUIRED MUSIC AND MATERIALS: For every rehearsal and performance, each student should bring: a **pencil** (not pen) and use it; all **music**, which will be supplied, and a black folder (see below); and a **tuning fork** (Chorale only)

Music: The music we sing is expensive. It is expected that each copy of assigned music will be returned by the end of the semester. If the music is not returned in usable condition, a fine of up to \$50 may be imposed. The music should be housed in your black folder that we will use in each concert performance. A pencil should be kept in the folder at all times and used constantly to mark the music.

VIII. Concert Dress: All singers must obtain their own concert attire. Please see Dr. Gemmell within the first two weeks of class if this will be a problem. Failure to dress properly will affect your grade. Attire for concerts must be complete. You are also responsible for purchasing a **PLAIN BLACK folder or binder**, without a shiny cover or any writing, school seal, etc. Please avoid wearing strong fragrances in rehearsals and performances, yet please take care of your personal hygiene.

- **For ALL Women:**

- Black dress to be purchased – ORDER EARLY

- See: <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/59-style-4752aa.html>

Style number: 4752AA with performance knit, plain black ribbon – *no jewel accent*; black nylons, black, polished, closed-toe, low-heeled dress shoes (no spikes); pearl earrings and necklaces; hair pulled/tied back, away from face without need for constant attention.

- **For Men of University Choir and Chorale:**

- Single breast tuxedo; white, pleated, wing collar tux shirt; black bow tie; black cummerbund; black shoes (polished), black socks (clean). Try: www.etuxedo.com or www.myowntuxedo.com.

IX. SPRING 2019 SCHEDULE OF CHORAL PERFORMANCES/EXTRA REHEARSALS

Mark your calendars NOW!!!

Saturday, March 2, 2019: Spring Concert #1, *A Colorful Collage of Modern Choral Art*

Biemesderfer

- Featuring ALL MU Choirs; 4pm Call, 7:30pm Concert

Saturday, May 4, 2019: Spring Concert #2: *Bach Up and Handel with Care*

Biemesderfer

- Featuring ALL MU Choirs; 4pm Call, 7:30pm Concert

Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment, comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681, et seq., and act in accordance with guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report to the University's Title IX Coordinator incidents of sexual violence shared by students. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. Faculty members are obligated to report to the person designated in the University Protection of Minors policy incidents of sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred.

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence, and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence, is available at <http://www.millersville.edu/socialeq/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/index.php>.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell
TEACHING SCHEDULE, SPRING 2019

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM

12-12:50 PM

5:30-7 PM

OFFICE HOUR

UNIVERSITY CHOIR

WOMEN'S CHOIR

WVPAC 222

WVPAC 101 (Biemesderfer)

WVPAC 101 (Biemesderfer)

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

2:00 PM

2:30-4 PM

OFFICE HOUR

CHORALE

Winter 222

WVPAC 101 (Biemesderfer)

FRIDAY

11:00 AM

12-12:50 PM

4:30-6:30

OFFICE HOUR

UNIVERSITY CHOIR

ART OF CHORAL TECHNIQUES

Winter 222

WVPAC 101 (Biemesderfer)

Ware Center