

MUSA 1250/4033

Fall 2023 || CRN: 22249/14481

Professor: Mr. Brian Downen

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Office Hours

T - 12:30-1:20 PM, R – 12:00-12:30 PM or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A semester of MUSA 1250 *Concert Chorale* fulfills one of several large ensemble credits required by all music majors. This ensemble is by audition only. Our primary goals are, 1.) to learn and perform to very high artistic standards advanced choral literature in a variety of languages and from a variety of historical time periods and cultures. 2.) to become proficient in the fundamental skills of good choral singing. 3.) to learn the value of teamwork and shared responsibility.

Concert Chorale meets weekly, M/W/R from 1:30-2:50 PM in Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall / FFA M340 (Choir Room).

Chamber Singers (a smaller group made up of members of the Concert Chorale) meets (T) from 1:30-2:50PM in the choir room, FFA M340.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course will improve their skills in the following areas

- Singing with correct posture, breath management, free phonation and artistic expression *leading to* improved vocal technique and development of vocal teaching skills.
- Sight singing in a multi-part choral setting, and performing music with correct pitches, rhythms and dynamics *leading to* enhanced proficiency as a musician.
- Creating a unified choral sound through accurate intonation, correct diction, ensemble blend, and balance, *leading to* critical listening skills and teamwork.
- Modifying vocal tone through vowel shape and diction to sing authentically in different styles of music, *leading to* vocal versatility.
- Experience performing a wide variety of choral literature, *leading to* a more culturally and historically informed musician.
- Discussion and evaluation of choral performances using adjudication rubrics *leading to* formation of critical analysis skills.
- Demonstration of the highest standards of stage presence and concert etiquette during performances *leading to* the elevation of performing music above the casual in society, a differentiation between creation of art, vs. creation of entertainment, respect of self, peer and audience.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- “Lux Aeterna” by Morten Lauridsen, SATB with piano reduction (physical copy).
- Pencil with eraser.
- iPad: All other music will be provided digitally via OneDrive, which students will download to a UTEP owned iPad available by checkout through Dr. Elisa Wilson (ewilson@utep.edu).

NOTE: All scores are for your private use, and subject to copyright laws. Do not share choral music in any form.

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE

Singers will have three (3) performance attire requirements depending on type of concert activity.

1. Formal black on black concert attire:
 - Option A - full length black, dress or formal pantsuit or
 - Option B - tuxedo/black cummerbund and tie.
2. Choir t-shirts or polos and jeans or black bottoms.
3. Black top/black bottom semi-formal attire with orange and blue accents TBA.

GRADING

- **Attendance:** You are expected to attend all class periods and to arrive on time. You will be recorded as late if you arrive more than 5 minutes past class time, rehearsal, or performance call time. Every three sessions that you arrive late will count as 1 absence.
 - **Excused Absences:** Absences may be excused for circumstances beyond the control of the student: occasional illness, COVID-19 illness, family medical emergency or death in the family, all with proper documentation. **Excused absences must be documented the day of the occurrence by e-mailing the instructor.**
 - **Unexcused Absences:** All absences that do not qualify as excused, or absences for which you do not notify the instructor on the day of class.
 - **Dress Rehearsals and Performances:** Absence from a scheduled dress rehearsal or performance **will lower the final grade by one (1) letter for each occurrence.**
 - **Dropping the Course:** If you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/students/registration.html>) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.
- **Participation in Rehearsal:** Students are expected to participate in rehearsals by arriving in teachable condition, taking part in all physical and vocal activities, demonstrating proficiency in singing repertoire assigned for particular rehearsals, being in possession of required materials, taking written notes in music, and treating colleagues with respect.
- **Repertoire Assessments:** Students will be asked to demonstrate their ability to independently sing their voice part in person through quartet testing or by recording through scheduled assessment exams.
- **Written Assignments:** Students will complete written assignments related to the learning goals of each piece of repertoire.

GRADING SCALE

- 100%-90% = A, 89%-80% = B, 79%-70% = C, 69%-60% = D, 59% and Below = F

GRADING DISTRIBUTION

70% Class attendance and active participation

- 0-1 absences = 100%
- 2 absences = 95%
- 3 absences = 90%
- 4 absences = 85%
- 5 absences = 80%
- 6 absences = 75%
- 7 absences = 70%
- 8 absences = 65%
- 9 absences = 60%
- After 9 absences, it is recommended the student drop the course Each absence will lower the grade by 5%
- **Each missed dress rehearsal or concert will lower the final grade 1 letter.**
- 30% Repertoire Assessments (live or recorded) and written assignments checked in class or uploaded to Blackboard.

SERVICE AWARDS

Service awards are given to all participants in the Concert Chorale who register for the course, participate regularly, and fulfill their rehearsal and performance obligations. Award amounts will be reduced for unexcused absences. Auditing students will not receive a service award.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Dress rehearsals and performances stated on the syllabus are mandatory. Any added performances will be based upon availability of most performers and balance considerations. Performance schedules vary each semester; consequently, these are provided separately.

COURSE CALENDAR

See separate document and Blackboard modules.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need access to a phone or tablet that can utilize scanning software such as the free app TurboScan. You will need this to scan and upload written assignments to Blackboard. Your free Microsoft OneDrive app has built-in scanning capability.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The [UTEP Help Desk](#) is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

APPLICATIONS REQUIRED

- Microsoft OneDrive (set up your free account at my.utep.edu)
- Access to Blackboard

COMMUNICATION

- **Email:** For all official correspondence, I will use email. Please contact me through UTEP Email. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. You may also visit me in person during office hours, or email me to make an appointment. PLEASE CHECK YOUR UTEP EMAIL REGULARLY THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DAY.
- **Facebook:** I will communicate with the ensemble through Facebook Messenger “Chorale Chat” for more immediate issues that arise, such as room changes, meeting points for performances, etc.

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It’s possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated. This includes social media.

- When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

DEADLINES AND LATE WORK

- Written Assignments and recording submissions: A loss of 10% for each class period the assignment is late

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency and will apply only to written assignments and recording submissions. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades are not available for this course.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.”

For more information, please visit: <https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html>

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials and music for the course are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

UTEP SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help, and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transportation resources may submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.