

Music 3630B - Choral Arranging
Department of Music Research and Composition, Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Winter - 2024

Professor: Dr. Matthew Emery

Office and Hours: TC316; office hours by appointment

Course Schedule: See your individual timetable

Course Description: Vocal scoring with and without instrumental accompaniment.

Course Outcomes

Students will learn to idiomatically compose works for mixed and equal voice choirs, a cappella and accompanied ensembles; with, and without instruments. Students will learn to write program notes, and present their works in a professional standard. Students will learn to speak about their work to the general public. Students will analyze choral works for their use of choral idioms, text setting, voice leading, and salient choral features.

Evaluation

- Introductory Response - 5% [January 12]
- Melody + Text Setting - 10% [January 24]
- Analysis Assignment 10% [February 7]
- Song 1 (SATB a cappella) - 30% [February 14]
- Observation - 5% [February 28]
- Song 2 (Chorus and Piano) - 30% [April 3]
- Lab participation + Attendance - 10% [ongoing]

Required Material:

- Notation software (Finale, Sibelius, Dorico, MuseScore4) will be required; scores must be notated to a professional standard
- Manuscript paper, lined paper, writing utensil for labs and lectures
- Readings will be provided to you, read them before lecture begins
- Come to lectures and labs with a “spirit of curiosity”

Additional Information:

- Labs will be treated as group lessons / masterclasses. Be prepared to share your work in progress, or other assignments/items as assigned with the class. You are expected to share your progress each week on the two major composition projects.
- Late assignments will receive 5% per day up to three days, upon which no scores will be marked. Extensions may be granted if prior request made.
- Compositions will be evaluated on creativity, text setting, choral techniques and idioms used, as well as technical aspects like notation, layout, engraving, and overall professionalism.

Further Assignment Information: (with more information on the assignment itself)

- Introductory Response will be a short series of guided questions about your compositional background, choral background, and goals for the course.
- Melody and Text Setting asks you to set poetry for single voice, unaccompanied, which you will perform in class.
- Song 1 must be between 2-3 min duration. Be prepared to speak about the work, treat this like a composer chat before the premiere to practice your public speaking. You will present the work to the class. You must include a program note and the full text in your final score. Scores will be delivered as printed manuscript in class on the day they are due.
- Song 2 must be between 3-5 min duration, with optional instruments (up to 5 players). Be prepared to speak about the work, treat this like a composer chat before the premiere to practice your public speaking. You will present the work to the class. You must include a program note and the full text in your final score. Scores will be delivered as printed manuscript in class on the day they are due. This work can be for any voicing.
- Analysis will be on a work not discussed in class. Provide the score, and outline the salient features of the composition; discuss the text and text setting, choral techniques used, and what you learned from the work (what you might use in your own writing). Include the score with your analysis.
- The observation assignment asks you to attend a choral rehearsal, and listen to the rehearsal with the ears of a composer. How is the music notated, what technique is being used, how are the musicians reacting to it? Is the text audible? Are the parts balanced?

Tentative Schedule (subject to change with notice, including readings)

Date	Style	Topics	Items/Reading
January 8	Lab	Introductions	
January 10	Lecture	Introductions, choral fundamentals	DiOrio “Wirting for the Chorus” & “Singers and Musicians”
January 12			Introductory Response Due (emailed to me)
January 15	Lab	Text and text setting	
January 17	Lecture	SATB a cappella	Conte “Toward A Choral Pedagogy”
January 22	Lab		
January 24	Lecture	SATB a cappella	Argento & Douma “Building...” Melody+Text Setting Due
January 29	Lab		
January 31	Lecture	SATB a cappella	Busch “Writing and Arranging...” + Colgrass “Letter” Scores for reading due to me
February 5	Lab		
February 5	Choral Reading 1	12:30-1:20 pm	
February 7	Lecture	SATB and piano	Runestad & Forrest “Business” + Kelly “Perspectives” Analysis Due
February 12	Lab		
February 12	Choral Reading 2	12:30-1:20 pm	
*February 13	Rehearsal with Chorale	3:30-5:20 pm	
February 14	Lecture	Song Presentations+Discusison	Song 1 Due Forrest “Perspectives”
February 19	Reading Week		
February 21	Reading Week		
February 26	Lab		

February 28	Lecture	SATB and piano	DiOrio “Guide” Observation Due
March 4	Lab		
March 6	Lecture	Equal Voicing	Thompson “Writing for Amateur Chorus”
March 11	Lab		
March 13	Lecture	Equal Voicing	Garrett “Unaccompanied Non Idiomatic...”
March 18	Lab Cancelled		
March 20	Lecture	Choir and instruments	Hoch & Lister “Brief History”
March 25	Lab Cancelled		
March 27	Lecture	Choir and instruments	Denny “Ours to See”
April 1	Lab		
April 3	Lecture	Song Presentation+Discussion; Contracts, business, SOCAN, publishing	Song 2 Due “New Music USA Commissioning”
April 8	Lab (TBD)		

*Attendance is expected at this rehearsal. Composer Nancy Telfer will be releasing with the choir, and then give a 1 hour talk. You may ask her questions and engage with her.

There will be a reading of an SATB a cappella work read by the student-led choir. The readings will take place on February 5th and 12th. Scores must be delivered to me by January 31. The work can be an already completed piece, or a work you are writing for the course.

Course outline and syllabus is subject to change with notice provided

University and Course Policies

1. Course Prerequisites: [Music 2651A/B or the former Music 2650A/B.]. Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Grading scale: A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

- A+: One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level.
- A: Superior work which is clearly above average.
- B: Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory.
- C: Competent work, meeting requirements.
- D: Fair work, minimally acceptable.
- F: Fail.

3. Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work ($\geq 10\%$): 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.

4. 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(zes) 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.

5. 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

6. 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.

7. 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

8. 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. <http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

9. 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.

10. 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. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.