Welcome to St. Cecilia Singers

St. Cecilia Singers is a vibrant choral ensemble of women’s voices joining together to make beautiful music! Here you will find a supportive environment, which encourages the development of your singing voice in a choral setting. Members of this choir are committed to achieving excellence through individual and group study. The transformative power of choral music nurtures a cooperative spirit, historical, social and cultural awareness, and the intellectual, emotional and spiritual enrichment of each singer.

The St. Cecilia Singers has a long-standing tradition at the Don Wright Faculty of Music and performs an eclectic variety of repertoire in concerts on and off campus. Placement in this ensemble is by audition, based on voice and sight-reading abilities.

INSTRUCTOR’S INFORMATION

Gloria Gassi, Lecturer – Soprano
Voice Studio: MB A545  Phone number: 519-661-2111 x 84346
Email: ggassi@uwo.ca  Office Hours: by appointment
Collaborative Pianist: Jin Kim jinkim.pianist@gmail.com

COURSE INFORMATION

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Music 1912, 2912, 3912, 4912 St. Cecilia Singers

The rehearsal and performance of repertoire for women’s choir. 4 hours plus performances. Meets large ensemble requirement.

REGULAR REHEARSALS

3:30-4:30 p.m.
Monday MB254, Tuesday MB 254, *Wednesday MB227, Thursday MB254
Sectional rooms: Tuesdays MB321, Thursdays MB241

REHEARSALS BEGIN ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 10

*NOTE: An alternate rehearsal schedule for combined choirs will occur on Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 17, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20 as approved by EPC
OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To develop the singing voice in a choral setting, integrating musical literacy, artistic expression, and technical facility, through the study of choral repertoire.
- To become an independent, accurate singer, with the ability to sing any part of an SSAA score.
- To develop sight reading, aural skills and teamwork by singing in quartets, trios, duets.
- To sing with accurate intonation, precise rhythm, musical expression, style and correct diction.
- To develop healthy voice production through the use of daily warm-ups, body alignment, breathing, tone quality, resonance.
- To develop a positive attitude and personal responsibility for daily preparation of repertoire so that rehearsal time is efficient and productive.

CONCERT CALENDAR 2018-19

The following dates are considered your exams for the course and attendance is mandatory. Please add these dates to your calendars and alert your conductor of any conflicts with non-music courses by September 14.

Choral Celebration
Friday, October 26, 2018 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. First St. Andrew’s United Church
Our traditional opener for the choral season with all of the Don Wright Faculty of Music choirs.

Sing Joyfully! A concert of seasonal gems.
Friday, November 30th, 2018 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica
St. Cecilia Singers and Chorale

Lamentations for the Earth
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. von Kuster Hall, Don Wright Faculty of Music
St. Cecilia Singers and Western University Singers

Choral Celebration 2 United we Sing! The choirs join to close the choral season.
Friday, March 29, 2019 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica

DRESS REHEARSALS: NOTE LOCATION AND TIME

The following rehearsals are required, and replace the regular rehearsal schedule on the following days. Note: for rehearsals that occur off campus, you have class release time for Music courses ONLY beginning at 4:00pm until 6:00pm. Should you have non-music courses that would be affected by travel time to and from off campus venues, please speak with your professors well in advance to alert them of your required attendance on the following dates. This applies to any concert performances as well. In order to ensure clear communication and careful planning, please note that notification to all professors affected by this timetable MUST be completed by September 14.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at First St. Andrew’s
Friday, October 26, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (all choirs) at First St. Andrew’s
Tuesday, November 27, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. St. Peter’s Cathedral
Friday, November 30, 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica
Tuesday, February 12, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. St. Cecilia vKH
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. SC and WUS in vKH
Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 29, 2019 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All choirs
COURSE MATERIALS – Repertoire, Concert Dress, Choir Folder, Choir Etiquette

REPERTOIRE: can be picked up by September 10, 2018 at the CBO

MUSIC AND A PENCIL: Have required music and a pencil for every rehearsal. By using your own scores, you are respecting your colleagues, so that they can mark their music and sing comfortably with proper body alignment.

CONCERT Dress: Stage appropriate formal dress. Full-length black skirt (e.g. to the ankles) Long-sleeved black dress blouse (e.g. to the wrist or ¾ length), Shoes: dress flats or low-heeled (2”) to accommodate standing on risers. (e.g. no boots, flip flops or stilettos) Appropriate matching hose.

CHORAL FOLDERS: A black choral folder is required for concerts. Folders will be available for purchase from Long and McQuade at an announced time.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students must take individual responsibility to prepare repertoire for rehearsals as scheduled. Knowing the music thoroughly allows the ensemble to rehearse efficiently with accuracy and proficiency. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS are at the conductor’s discretion and may be assigned for missed rehearsals.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE
PERFECT ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY and ACTIVE PARTICIPATION at rehearsals and performances are Required for Course Credit

- From the Performance Department: Large Ensemble rehearsals are not like other classes or labs, but rather like a professional service. Attendance is mandatory at rehearsals and performances.
- Choirs rehearse four hours per week. Extra dress rehearsals are scheduled before each concert and performances are held in addition to rehearsal schedules. Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory to sing in the concert.
- Students are evaluated on attendance and active participation at daily rehearsals and performances. There is a Pass/Fail evaluation for Ensemble Credit, which is recorded on the student record.
- ABSENCE: THE CONDUCTOR MUST BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ALL ABSENCES. Should a student miss 3 rehearsals over the course of the year, they would be in jeopardy of losing their ensemble credit. This will be assessed on a case by case basis by the conductor and the Chair of the Performance Studies Department. Excusable absence consists of a serious illness or emergency - medical documentation required. The Music Office should be notified for serious extended illness. A doctor’s note is required for absence due to illness. A record of attendance will be taken at all rehearsals.
- PUNCTUALITY is imperative and considerate for all rehearsals and performances. Absence from performances and/or rehearsal(s) will result in dismissal from the choir and loss of credit.
- VOICE REST POLICY If students are well enough to attend classes, they must also attend choir. For a sore throat/cold, voice rest is allowed, where students can observe, listen and mark their scores. Notify the conductor at the beginning of rehearsal to request voice rest.
CHOIR ETIQUETTE

- **Respectful behavior:** rehearsal discipline and a positive attitude are essential for productive rehearsals. Focused attention results in optimal learning. Avoid chatting and distracting behavior. Take care of personal needs before choir so that the rehearsal momentum is not disturbed.

- **Scent free environment:** Due to allergic reactions do not wear fragrances at rehearsals or concerts. Maintain physical and oral hygiene. Before choir, refrain from spicy foods which linger on the breath.

- **Water:** Bottled water is allowed at rehearsal. Due to safety issues - no hot drinks, gum or food is allowed. In consideration of the environment, take all belongings when leaving.

- **Space:** Due to space constraints and mobility of the choir, all large backpacks, bags, etc. are left in lockers. Bring only your choir music to rehearsal.

- **Be a good team player.** Work positively with your colleagues, offering assistance when you can.

- **Clothing:** Wear comfortable clothing to allow for deep breathing and stretches during warm-up. Outdoor jackets and hats must be removed to facilitate healthy singing, mobility and sight lines.

- **Check your email daily** for announcements, rehearsal schedules, and seating plans.

- **Choir Executive:** plans social events to build friendships and community; assists with concert preparations, stage set up, attendance, etc. The executive is chosen by election or open to volunteers. Positions are: Choir President, Committee members

UNIVERSITY POLICIES


**STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING REHEARSALS.**

All cell phones, Ipads, Ipods, ear phones, etc. must be out of sight, and placed in your bag or backpack in your locker.

**ATTENDANCE**  [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf)

When an undergraduate student’s attendance is considered inadequate by the instructor, the decision to bar the student from taking a written or oral examination or submitting an equivalent final project for grade assessment rests with the Dean, on recommendation of the Department and following a warning.

**Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance** Music 1912, 2912, 3912, 4912 is exempt from the Senate policy stating that “At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade”  [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf).

**ACCOMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS** The University policy states “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 his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean’s office. Accommodation for Policy on Accommodation for Illness found under “Rights and Responsibilities” at  [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.  [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html)

**STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH** “Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western  [http://www.uwo.ca/uvocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uvocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.” Western has a Wellness Education Centre located in the UCC, room 76, to which students in distress may be directed.  [http://wec.uwo.ca/](http://wec.uwo.ca/)