

# UNLV CHORAL ENSEMBLES

## COURSE SYLLABUS 2010-2011

*MUSE 103, 403, 503. Chamber Chorale Mon-Wed-Friday, 2:30-3:50 p.m., BMC-159*

*MUSE 105, 405, 505. Women's Chorus Tuesday, 1:00-2:20 p.m., BMC-159*

*MUSE 106, 406, 506. Varsity Men's Glee Club Tuesday, 1:00-2:20 p.m., HFA-147*

*MUSE 108, 408, 508. Concert Singers Mon-Tues-Thurs, 1:00-2:20 p.m., BMC-159*

### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

*Prof. David B. Weiller & Dr. Jocelyn K. Jensen*

*Choral Studies Office: HFA-135*

*Telephone and voice mail: 895-3008*

*E-mail: david.weiller@unlv.edu Jocelyn.Jensen@unlv.edu*

*Office hours as posted on office door and by appointment.*

*Music Department Office: HFA-125, 895-3332*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The *Calendar of Events* will be distributed within the first week(s) of the semester. Mark all dates carefully as soon as you receive the calendar. The calendar is subject to changes, additions and/or deletions. Additional rehearsals and performances may be scheduled and will be announced in advance. Full participation is required at all rehearsals and performances.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Members are required to participate fully in all rehearsals and performances.
- NEVER MISS A REHEARSAL WITHOUT NOTIFYING PROF. WEILLER or DR. JENSEN IMMEDIATELY. Call the Choral Studies Office in advance (and as soon as possible); leave a message on the machine if no one is in. To be absent without accounting for oneself hurts the musical progress and overall wellness of the choir.

### GRADING POLICY

Every member of the UNLV Choral Ensembles is expected to earn a grade of B or above.

Your grade is based upon your contribution in terms of:

- **TAPE** = right Time, right Attitude, right Place, right Equipment
- **TEAM** = Together Everyone Achieves Music
- Vocal and musical ability
- Accurate and thorough musical preparation. Singing "check-ups" of repertoire (in small groups and/or individually) may take place throughout the semester.
- Attendance and punctuality
  - Rehearsal absences for any reason may result in the following semester grades:  
Chamber Chorale & Concert Singers: 3 absences=A-, 4=B+, 5=B, 6=C, 7=F  
Women's Chorus & Varsity Men: 2 absences=B, 3=C, 4=F
  - 3 tardies (arriving late to a rehearsal or a performance call time) = 1 absence
  - Absence from any final rehearsals (or a portion of any rehearsals) during the two weeks before a performance, and/or absence from the performance itself, is grounds for immediate dismissal from the ensemble and a failing grade (F) in the class.
- Proper concert attire at all performances
- Written journal of concepts learned, musical experiences and reactions.

### FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- Approximate cost for uniforms is \$100-150.
- Each member of the University Choral Ensembles will raise \$50 each semester through selling concert tickets, procuring donations to Friends of UNLV Choral Music, and/or participating in fund raising projects. (Note: Chamber Chorale fund raising requirement may be significantly higher if a major tour is planned.)

## **UNLV CHORAL ENSEMBLES 2010-11**

### ***Message from Prof. Weiller & Dr. Jensen***

*EXCELLENCE can be attained if you*  
*...CARE more than others think is wise,*  
*...RISK more than others think is safe,*  
*...DREAM more than others think is practical,*  
*...EXPECT more than others think is possible.*

Welcome to the 2010-2011 UNLV Choral Ensembles! You are now a part of an exciting choral program that enjoys a solid reputation on our campus, in our community and beyond our state. This year you will play a part in shaping the standards, expectations, memories and traditions that will continue to make our choirs excellent for many years to come. Your personal involvement and commitment are very important to our success this year.

Singing in the UNLV Choral Ensembles is different from every other class on this campus. It is very important for every student to realize that membership in a performance ensemble involves much more than the usual one-credit class. Your participation on the "choir team" requires a serious personal commitment to the music, the other members of the ensemble and to the UNLV Choral Tradition. The quality and spirit of your work in rehearsal and in performance affects many other people. Membership in a choir is similar to being part of any team or successful group organization with high goals and standards, for the success of the team depends upon the success of the individuals. The more you give, the more you grow and receive; this is part of the fun and reward of being on a "winning team".

In our work together we concentrate on singing as a way of exploring and understanding the incredible world of thoughts and feelings. We are musical actors and actresses engaged in communicating an endless variety of emotions and experiences to our audiences and to each other. We may not always agree with (or like) the role the composer gives us to play/sing, yet it is always our responsibility to unveil the character of the music and its text with intelligence and conviction.

As with all significant life experiences (i.e. those relationships, beliefs or endeavors which have deep meaning), our musical excellence - our craft as skilled actors and actresses in song - does not just "happen" by accident. Great performances are built through great rehearsals. We must learn certain techniques and use certain tools which, when mastered by every member of the ensemble, will allow us to sing confidently and expressively.

Choral music demands and develops the very best qualities in each person - vocal skills, musicianship, communication, deep contemplation, boundless compassion....and love. Through working and singing with other choir members, we will have direct contact with some of the greatest music from many centuries - truly the best of humanity throughout the ages! We are glad that you have chosen to make this experience a part of your life this year.

***WELCOME TO THE UNLV CHOIR FAMILY!***

*"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing  
the inexpressible is music." (Aldous Huxley)*

**I. REHEARSAL GOALS**

- A. Discover, explore and create artistic expression. Combine knowledge with imagination in order to reveal artistry.
- B. Experience a wide variety of choral literature.
- C. Master the many challenging aspects of choral singing. These elements are the foundation of our rehearsals.
  - 1. Posture & Breath
  - 2. Choral Tone
  - 3. Choral Blend
  - 4. Choral Balance
  - 5. Choral Intonation
  - 6. Rhythmic Energy
  - 7. Diction
  - 8. Phrasing & Articulation
  - 9. Text Analysis
  - 10. Expression & Communication
  - 11. Honesty & Vulnerability
  - 12. Respect for and appreciation of all aspects of the choral art as well as all members of the ensemble.
- D. Individual Growth
  - 1. Develop each singer's vocal skills, listening skills and interpretive skills.
  - 2. Develop self-esteem, musicianship and musical independence.
  - 3. Nurture the individual's role as a positive, vital member of the choir.
  - 4. Experience and contribute to the UNLV Choral Tradition and the "Choir Family" -a relationship which enables ensembles to transcend everyday experiences when performing quality choral literature.
  - 5. All members of University Concert Singers & Chamber Chorale are expected to be leaders in all choral activities at UNLV - i.e., superior attendance and dependability, positive attitude, and a genuine desire to contribute and grow with the ensemble(s) in order to create the finest possible experiences in rehearsals and performances.

*"The purpose of music is to enable the mind  
to comprehend eternity and to enjoy ecstasy."  
(A woman drummer)*

**II. PERFORMANCE GOALS**

- A. Bring all of our rehearsal goals to fruition on stage!
- B. Create art and musical-dramatic energy in a concert setting. Share a work of art openly and sincerely with each other and with the audience in a performance environment.
- C. Develop performance skills and techniques that contribute to a successful, meaningful concert for singers and audience.
- D. Demonstrate concert etiquette on- and offstage.

*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm!*

*Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.*

### III. ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE

Because rehearsals are the laboratory in which great performances are developed, the established rehearsal schedule must be given top priority by every member of the ensemble. Punctuality and regular attendance are crucial to our musical and psychological health. Any time an individual is absent from a rehearsal or performance, the entire group suffers a loss.

- A. Members are expected to participate fully in all rehearsals and performances.
- B. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled and announced in advance. (A complete semester calendar will be distributed separately.) Such rehearsals are an integral part of our growth together and are not optional! Plan ahead!
- C. Do not permit committees or faculty members to schedule meetings with you during rehearsal times. If they insist, explain that you have a class (rehearsal) conflict. The same procedure holds for scheduling make-up classes or exams. Please inform the instructors immediately if you run into problems. Oftentimes faculty members can work out scheduling difficulties that seem insurmountable. Likewise, do not schedule doctor or dental appointments, job interviews, job commitments, or any personal obligations during choir.
- D. NEVER MISS A REHEARSAL WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE INSTRUCTORS IMMEDIATELY. Call the Choral Studies Office in advance (and as soon as possible); leave a message on the machine if no one is in. To be absent without accounting for oneself hurts the musical progress and overall wellness of the choir.
- E. More Information About Absences
  1. Absence from rehearsal or performance is acceptable only in cases of extreme personal emergency (i.e., a death in your family), extreme illness on the part of the student (i.e., illness which requires that you must stay in bed), observance of religious holidays, or participation in official UNLV extracurricular activities (see below). If you are so ill that you cannot come to a rehearsal or performance, please contact the Choral Studies office in advance and as soon as possible.
  2. Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day of late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays that do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university that could not be avoided.
  3. Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).
  4. Poor reasons for being absent: slight sore throats and colds, small headaches or pains, homework, parties, hangovers, jobs, tests, etc.

*"One of the deep secrets in life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others." (Lewis Carroll)*

*"We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give."  
(Sir Winston Churchill)*

#### IV. GRADING POLICY

Every member of University Concert Singers & Chamber Chorale is expected to earn a grade of B or above! Grade evaluation in the UNLV Choral Ensembles is based upon the instructors' evaluation of each student's:

- A. Work ethic (dependability, reliability, maturity, personal growth)
  1. **TAPE** = right **T**ime, right **A**ttitude, right **P**lace, right **E**quipment
  2. **TEAM** = **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**usic
  3. Arrive on time, prepared to work, and equipped with all necessary materials (music, folder, pencil, water bottle, syllabus, handbook, calendar, journal, etc.).
  4. **NOTE: ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF BEFORE ENTERING THE REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE VENUE.**
  5. **NOTE: GUM IS NOT ALLOWED IN ANY REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE VENUE.**
  6. **NOTE: PLEASE REMOVE TONGUE/LIP PIERCINGS BEFORE ENTERING A REHEARSAL.**
  7. Positive attitude and effort in terms of your own progress and in terms of encouraging and supporting other members of the ensemble.
  8. Maintain focus and discipline.
  9. Your ears should always be bigger than your voice.
  10. Your heart should always be bigger than your voice.
- B. Vocal and musical ability
- C. Accurate and thorough musical preparation. Singing "check-ups" of music we are learning (in small groups and/or individually) may take place throughout the semester.
- D. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances
  1. Chamber Chorale & Concert Singers: Three (3) rehearsal absences of any kind within one semester may lower the semester grade to A-. Four (4) rehearsal absences of any kind may lower the grade to B+. Five (5) rehearsal absences of any kind may lower the grade to B. Six (6) rehearsal absences of any kind may lower the grade to C. Seven (7) rehearsal absences of any kind is grounds for immediate dismissal from the ensemble and a failing grade (F) in the class.
  2. Concert Singers: note special policies which apply as #3 and #4 below.
  3. Varsity Men & Women's Chorus: Two (2) rehearsal absences of any kind may lower the grade to B. Three (3) rehearsal absences of any kind may lower the grade to C. Four (4) rehearsal absences of any kind is grounds for immediate dismissal from the ensemble and a failing grade (F) in the class.
  4. Absence from any final rehearsals (or a portion of any rehearsals) during the two weeks before a performance, the week of a performance, and/or absence from the performance itself, is grounds for immediate dismissal from the ensemble and a failing grade (F) in the class.
  5. Punctuality is expected at all times. Three (3) tardies during a semester is equivalent to one (1) absence and will be counted as such when determining the semester grade.
  6. Attendance at outside sectional rehearsals will be a positive factor in determining the semester grade.
- E. Proper concert attire at all performances. Improper concert attire (missing items, wrinkled or dirty clothing) will impact the semester grade.
- F. Written journal of concepts learned, musical experiences and reactions, and creative writing to be turned in at least once each semester.
- G. An academic hold may be placed on your university registration, transcripts may be withheld and/or your grade in this class may be lowered or denied as a result of the following:
  1. Failure to return music by announced deadlines.
  2. Failure to pay for lost/damaged music or other fees (uniforms, ticket sales, special projects, fund raising) by announced deadlines.

## V. UNIFORMS

Please read attached uniform information sheet. (For further information on concert attire and appearance requirements, please read separate "Concert Etiquette" handout, which will be distributed during the semester.)

## VI. CONCERT FOLDERS

All singers must provide their own solid black concert folder for rehearsals and performances. This may be a thin 3-ring notebook or a standard choral performance folder with elastic bands. **BRING YOUR BLACK FOLDER TO ALL REHEARSALS.**

## VII. CHORAL MUSIC FUNDS

The UNLV Choral Ensembles generally avoid fund raising activities that do not directly relate to musical performance. However, as funds for our existence are quite limited, it will be necessary this year for each member of the University Choral Ensembles to raise \$50 each semester. (Chamber Chorale fund raising requirement may be significantly higher if a major tour is planned.)

- A. Each member of the University Choral Ensembles is encouraged to sell a minimum of 10 tickets to each of our concerts where admission is charged.
- B. Procure donations to the *UNLV Friends of Choral Music*. Donations from individuals and businesses to *UNLV Friends of Choral Music* may be tax-deductible.
- C. Members of the University Choral Ensembles may be asked to participate in special performances, activities and/or fundraisers in order to produce this year's performance projects.

*Success takes purpose, planning, practice and patience.*

*Make an effort, not an excuse.*

## VIII. LEADERSHIP & COMMUNICATION

- A. Concert Singers & Chamber Chorale Leadership Team
  1. Concert Singers and Chamber Chorale elect officers each spring for the following year. The elected officers determine structure of the board.
  2. Prof. Weiller appoints section leaders. Responsibilities include:
    - a. Provide outstanding musical leadership in the choir and demonstrate thorough personal preparation.
    - b. Lend willing and positive musical assistance to the choir, especially one's own section.
    - c. Provide your colleagues with assistance whenever needed. Organize sectional rehearsals outside of class.
    - d. Assist with paperwork (attendance, tickets, money, music distribution and collection).
  3. Assistant conductor(s) may be appointed by Prof. Weiller.
  4. Board meetings (officers, section leaders, assistant conductors) are usually announced in advance and choir members are invited to attend. Your input and ideas are appreciated and respected!
- B. Women's Chorus & Varsity Men will determine their own leadership structure/elections each year.
- C. All choir members should regularly check the bulletin boards outside the Choral Studies office (HFA-135) and in the rehearsal room (BMC-159) for special notices, news and humor!
- D. All choir members are encouraged to become fully involved in the life of our choir family, V-O-C-E (voice, opera, choral ensembles) and the entire music department.

E. E-mail communication <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/>

1. Rebelmail is UNLV's Official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only.
2. Students are expected to check their Rebel e-mail account regularly in order to stay current with course-related communications, recognizing that certain communication may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily. Undeliverable messages returned because of either a full inbox or use of a 'spam' filter will be considered delivered without any further action required by the instructor.
3. Students may configure their Rebelmail accounts to forward their e-mail to preferred private accounts.

**IX. ACDA (AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION)**

All choir members are invited to join UNLV's student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). We are very proud of our ACDA chapter and their support of choral music on our campus. Please see Prof. Weiller if you would like to join ACDA this year.

**X. IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES & INFORMATION**

A. Academic Misconduct Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>

B. Copyright The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>

C. Disability Resource Center The Disability Resource Center (DRC) determines accommodations that are "reasonable" in promoting the equal access of a student reporting a disability to the general UNLV learning experience. In so doing, the DRC also balances instructor and departmental interests in maintaining curricular standards so as to best achieve a fair evaluation standard amongst students being assisted. In order for the DRC to be effective it must be considered in the dialog between the faculty and the student who is requesting accommodations. For this reason faculty should only provide students course adjustment after having received this "Academic Accommodation Plan." UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC-A), Room 143, phone (702) 895-0866, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit <http://drc.unlv.edu>

D. Student Success The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex, #22 on the current UNLV map. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring>

**UNIVERSITY CHORAL ENSEMBLES  
UNIFORM INFORMATION 2010-2011**

**PAYMENT DEADLINE FOR FALL SEMESTER IS TUESDAY, 9/07/2010.**  
**PAYMENT DEADLINE FOR SPRING SEMESTER IS THURSDAY, 2/1/2011.**

**WOMEN**

The gown and jewelry are manufactured by Southeastern Performance Apparel and will be ordered for you. You will need to have the gown hemmed when it arrives. Care instructions: manufacturer says that the fabric is washable stretch velvet and crepe.

- Total cost for gown and jewelry is \$73.  
Cash (exact amount) or checks payable to Board of Regents, UNLV.
- Dress shields *highly recommended*.
- Flesh-tone nylons and black, closed-toe dress shoes. Black ballet slippers (or something similar) are recommended - flat or low heel. Keep in mind that you will be standing for long periods of time. Select a shoe that will be comfortable for performances. (Note: no boots, tennis shoes, etc!) You are responsible for purchasing the shoes on your own.
- All women must wear make-up suitable for stage performance (minimum requirement is lipstick and blush). You may need to wear more make-up than you are accustomed to.

**MEN**

A special claret-colored vest and necktie will be ordered for you from Southeastern Performance Apparel. White pleated tuxedo shirt with wing-tip collar will be ordered for you if you don't already own one.

- Total cost for vest and tie is \$54. Shirt is an additional \$12.  
Cash (exact amount) or checks payable to Board of Regents, UNLV.
- Standard single-breasted black tuxedo jacket (no tails, no cutaways, etc.) and black tuxedo pants - can be new or used. If buying from a rental shop, ask for retired or used tuxedos - you will save a fortune! You are responsible for purchasing the jacket and pants on your own in time for our first concert.
- Black dress shoes (polished!) and solid black socks. You are responsible for purchasing the shoes and socks on your own.

**EVERYONE**

- No personal jewelry. Please remove all visible piercings, including all ear, facial, and/or tongue piercings.
- Hair brushed away from face or pulled back. (Women may pin up their hair). No flashy chair clips, etc.
- No cologne or perfume.
- No part of your uniform should ever be missing! You must have your uniform with all accessories as listed above for every performance at which your uniform is required. Your complete uniform must be clean and pressed for all performances. No exceptions!



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As a member of the University Choral Ensembles:

- I have thoroughly read the course syllabus in its entirety, and I understand the requirements and expectations associated with membership in this (these) ensemble(s).
- I will adhere to all requirements and requirements as presented in the syllabus.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Choir(s): \_\_\_ Chamber Chorale  
\_\_\_\_\_ Women's Chorus  
\_\_\_\_\_ Varsity Men's Glee Club  
\_\_\_\_\_ Concert Singers

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*PERMISSION GIVEN TO POST BY DR. DAVID WEILER*