San Diego State University
School of Music and Dance

Aztec Concert Choir
Spring 2016

MUSIC 185/385/585
T/Th  5:30-6:45pm

Instructor:    Dr. Patrick Walders
              sdsuchoirs@gmail.com
              Room M226
              619-594-6315 (e-mail preferred)

Ensembles Office:  School of Music, Room 114B
Ensembles Office Phone:  (619) 594-1600
Office Hours:    By appointment

Graduate Assistants:  Ibis Betancourt  ibisbetancourt@gmail.com
                      Catharine Bishop  catharinevbishop@gmail.com
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                      Paul May  paulthomasmay@gmail.com

Accompanist:   Maria Didur  maria.didur@gmail.com

Final Exam Time: Thursday May 12th, 2016 (3:30-5:30pm)
Website:       www.sdsu.edu/music
Facebook:      San Diego State University Choirs
Remind App:    Text  @sdsuacc to 81010

Purpose of course:  To provide students a large, non-auditioned choral ensemble experience at the college level performing repertoire ranging in different styles, languages, and time periods. To develop sight-reading skills, overall musicianship, and vocal technique in all vocalists. To challenge students to greater musical understanding and artistic advancement and to develop ensemble skills through performance.

Learning Outcomes, Course Objectives, and Goals

Through rehearsals and performances, students will...

• demonstrate a healthy and expressive vocal technique
• develop an understanding of vocal resonance, and how it applies to singing
• demonstrate an understanding of the International Phonetic Alphabet as it applies to diction
• develop an increased knowledge of and appreciation for choral literature
• develop an awareness of expressive devices composers use to communicate their musical ideas
• develop an awareness of the structural function of fundamental musical elements
• demonstrate an understanding and application of solfege
• develop an understanding (or better understanding) of key signatures and music notation
• develop an appreciation of working together toward the completion of unified goals
• develop an ability to articulate and clarify musical structure(s) through performances
• explore Men’s and Women’s Chorus repertoire through rehearsal and performance
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE COURSE

• PUNCTUALITY: Students are expected to be on time for all classes, final rehearsals and performances. Please arrive early, as we begin promptly at the designated time. Please note the Class Participation Policy for this course later on in this syllabus.

• It is requested students contact the Instructor/Conductor when missing class prior to class time. In the case of an emergency please contact the instructor, Dr. Walders.

• PRACTICING OUTSIDE OF CLASS
It is expected that each student will spend 30-60 minutes a week outside of class to learn notes and/or reinforce material covered in class. These practice sessions could involve listening to recordings online and/or practicing individually with a piano, or in a small group, sectional, etc...

• DAILY CLASS PARTICIPATION/PREPARATION (Students should bring the following to every class):
  1. Music
  2. A pencil for marking your music
     There will be pencils and FOUR spare music folders available for students if forgotten.
     To borrow, a REDid Card will be held in place as collateral until the end of class.
  3. Water
  4. A willingness to try new things, a positive attitude, courtesy toward peers, and respect for the music and music-making process.

MUSIC/Scores and DISTRIBUTION

2 means:
• 1 piece of music for this course should be purchased from the SDSU Bookstore:
  Requiem, W.A. Mozart
• Beethoven’s 9th Symphony will be provided to each student.
• When music from the SDSU Choral library is used, students will be assigned numbered scores and that music will be collected during the last week of classes. If a student does not return music, they will be issued an “Incomplete” grade until it is either returned or paid for.

REQUIREMENTS/SUPPLIES*

• MANDATORY PERFORMANCE FOLDER
  Purchased from the SDSU Bookstore. (Approximately $25.00, and will last 4 years and beyond.)
  This folder needs to be purchased by the second week of classes.
• OPTIONAL Practice Folder
  Black 3-ring binder: Students may wish to purchase a one-inch hard back, black, 3-ring binder with inside pockets for music storage. Please purchase this by the second week of classes.

*If a student is having financial difficulties, it is their responsibility to communicate with the Instructor prior to the deadline (2nd week of classes) and make arrangements in order to have music and a folder. Please do not let a difficult financial situation prevent taking this course! ALL students may be eligible to borrow a folder for the semester they are a student- just ask.

Suggested Texts (optional): Conable, Barbara. The Structures and Movements of Breathing
(available online via Amazon.com)
PERFORMANCE ATTIRE*

WOMEN  
All-Black, with SDSU RED “flair”  
“FLAIR” means classy accessories such as light scarves.wraps, bracelets, necklaces, headbands, earrings. Please be sensible about lipstick usage. (Again, think “professional” with an “artsy edge.”)

Choose from:

1. **Full length black dress, black stockings, black shoes** (dress to ankles, sleeves at least 3/4 length)
2. **Long Skirt (Full-length or past the knees), black blouse** (sleeves should be 1/2 -3/4 length) **black stockings, black closed-toe shoes** (no sandals)
3. **Pants**- Ideally, a professional business SUIT that has **matching pants** is preferred, but a mix is ok, as long as the outfit can be considered something one would wear to an important professional interview.

MANDATORY:  
Modest neckline required on all attire.
- Black nylons, black shoes, closed-toe (preferred), low-heel (2” max), and make-up
- “Modest” jewelry.
- If matching separates, the top and bottom of the attire should touch (no showing midriffs).

MEN  
“All-Black, with long, red tie”
1. Long-sleeve, black button-down shirt
2. Black pants/trousers (NO jeans)
3. Black belt
4. Black socks/dress shoes (no sneakers)
5. A long tie that has some kind of “SDSU RED” in it. *(Black and “SDSU RED” colors ONLY.)*

NO PERFUME:  *Due to allergies, NO perfume/cologne or scented hair spray. Deodorant is recommended.*

*The Instructor/Conductors have the right to ask a student to change concert attire if these guidelines are not followed, with the possibility of the student not performing in concert, thus, failing the course, according to this syllabus.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As an opportunity to develop leadership and teaching skills, musical and administrative leadership positions are available to Aztec Concert Choir members. **The positions and job descriptions are found on Blackboard, under Course Documents.**

Examples:

- **Section Leaders (6)** – sets a musical and professional example daily, provide assistance for other members, is in communication with the Conductors/Instructor, assists with daily attendance as-needed
- Aztec Concert Choir Choral Librarian Liaison (1 student)
- Concert Promotion/Social Media Coordinator
- Social Chairs (1 male and 1 female) to organize non-musical activity for members

*Please speak with Dr. Walders and/or TA’s if interested in any of these important roles.*
PERFORMANCES and MANDATORY REHEARSALS (required participation in each class):
Performance Rehearsals are the FOUR (4) final rehearsals leading up to a performance.
---subject to minor changes---

**National Anthem** @ the San Diego Gulls Hockey Game
Friday, February 5th - **call time TBD** (performance right before face-off at 7:00pm)
Valley View Casino Center (also known as the Sports Arena)
3500 Sports Arena Blvd, San Diego, CA 92110
$15 reduced-price tickets

**National Anthem** @ the SDSU Women’s Basketball Game
Saturday, February 20th - **call time TBD** (Game beings at 2:00 pm)
Viejas Arena
Free Admission for singers!

**Requiem Performance #1**
1. Tuesday, February 16th – extended class time, 5:30-7:30pm
2. Tuesday, February 23rd – extended class time, 5:30-7:30pm
3. Thursday, March 3rd – 7:00-9:30pm **Extended class in College Avenue Baptist Church (4747 College Ave, San Diego, CA 92115)** **Regular class time TBD**
4. Saturday March 5th @ College Avenue Baptist Church
   - 4:00-6:00pm  **2:00-3:30pm Concert call time, on stage, in concert attire**
   - 6:00-7:15pm  **3:30-3:50pm** Break
   - 7:15pm  **3:50pm** Line up outside
   - 7:30pm-9:00  **4:00-5:30pm** Concert

**Requiem Performance #2**
1. Tuesday, March 15th - Regular class time 5:30-6:45pm
2. Wednesday, March 16th – Super Wednesday Rehearsal, 7:00-10:00pm Room 114
3. Thursday, March 17th - Regular class time 5:30-6:45pm
4. Sunday, March 20th @ College Avenue Baptist Church
   **Concert Call in the afternoon TBD**
   7:00-9:00pm Concert (SDSU Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, CC and ACC)

**Beethoven 9th Symphony**
1. Thursday, April 7th Regular class time 5:30-6:45pm
2. Tuesday, April 12th – Super Tuesday rehearsal 7:00-10:00pm, Room 114
3. Thursday, April 14th- Regular class time 5:30-6:45pm
4. Friday, April 15th @ Copley Symphony Hall (Downtown)
   **Afternoon call times, TBD**

**NOTE:** It is the responsibility of the student to inform all Professors in the event they must miss class for a concert or rehearsal at least 1 week in advance. (A good plan would be to cut and paste the dates found in this syllabus, and send them to Professors AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER, requesting permission to miss class.)
CONCERT REVIEWS/OBSERVATION

All students must attend at least one (1) of the below concerts and write a 1-page concert review. This document should be typed and attached to the program, sending them via email (PDF files) to the Instructor AND Graduate Assistants (Subject: ACC Concert Observation – student’s name –) by Thursday, May 5, 2016. A concert review includes a page-long evaluation of the concert. (For example, students may describe the concert as a whole, describe pieces individually, and/or describe the diversity between the selections noting languages, texts/translations, and overall presentation/professionalism. It is encouraged and expected that students write using intelligent musical language, vocabulary used in class, and correct grammar.)

A = Completed on time; sent via email correctly; showed thought and effort at the college level
B and below= One or more of the criteria above was not followed or completed

MANDATORY CONCERT ATTENDANCE OPTIONS (Choose 1 of 2 options)

Tuesday, March 15th, 7:30pm
SDSU Bands Concert
Don Powell Theater (SDSU)
$5-10

FRI-SAT March 18-19, 7:30pm
San Diego Pro Arte Voices
“Beginning to End”
$5 Students / $20 General Admission

Friday 3/18: St. Andrew’s by the Sea Episcopal Church (1050 Thomas Avenue, San Diego CA 92019)
Saturday 3/19: St. Paul’s Cathedral (2728 Sixth Avenue, San Diego CA 92103)
GRADING POLICY (for ALL STUDENTS)

MUSIC 185/385/585- Aztec Concert Choir
GENERAL Grading Rubric, Spring 2016

A student earning an “A”:
• came **consistently prepared** to class with assignments ready (i.e.- notes, rhythms, language, solfege, count-singing, etc...), and contributed positively to the progress of the choir and to a standard of excellence on a daily basis as expected
• came **consistently prepared** to class with folder, pencil, music, water, etc...
• followed all procedures and assignments listed in syllabus or announced in class
• had no tardies or lateness issues
• had no unexcused absences or attendance issues
• was elected to and successfully fulfilled role as a Section Leader/Manager/Librarian/other
• demonstrated leadership within the choir, either overtly or by example
• assisted with sectionals, small groups, and/or other volunteer activity

A student earning a “B”:
• **did not come consistently prepared** to class with assignments ready (i.e.- notes, rhythms, language, solfege, count-singing, etc...), and did not contribute as positively to the progress of the choir and to a standard of excellence on a daily basis as expected, *but their effort was noted*
• **did not come consistently prepared** to class with folder, pencil, music, water, etc...
• may not have followed all procedures and assignments listed in syllabus or announced in class
• may have had 1-2 unexcused tardies, or 2-4 excused tardies
• may have had 1 unexcused absence or an attendance issue
• may have been elected to and successfully fulfilled role as a Section Leader/Manager/Librarian/other
• demonstrated some leadership within the choir, either overtly or by example
• may have assisted with sectionals, small groups, and/or other volunteer activity

A student earning a “C”:
• came **consistently UNprepared** to class; assignments not ready, (i.e.- notes, rhythms, language, solfege, count-singing, etc...), and did not contribute as positively to the progress of the choir on a daily basis as expected
• came **consistently UNprepared** to class; missing folder, pencil, music, water, etc...
• did not follow all procedures and assignments listed in syllabus or announced in class
• may have had 2-4 unexcused tardies, or 4+ excused tardies
• may have had 2 unexcused absences or a significant attendance issue
• may not have assisted with sectionals and/or small groups

A student earning a “C-” or lower:
• came **consistently UNprepared** to class; assignments not ready, (i.e.- notes, rhythms, language, solfege, count-singing, etc...), and did not contribute as positively to the progress of the choir on a daily basis as expected
• came **consistently UNprepared** to class (non-musically); missing folder, pencil, music, water, etc...
• did not follow all procedures and assignments listed in syllabus or announced in class
• may have had 4-6 unexcused tardies, or 4+ excused tardies
• did not assist with sectionals and/or small groups

A student earning an”F”:
• missed a dress rehearsal, came late to a concert call, and/or missed a concert **(any unexcused)**
• had more than 3 unexcused absences or a significant attendance issue
• The Grading Scale using points, is:
  • A = 96-100; A- = 90-95; B+ = 86-89; B = 83-85; B- = 80-82; C+ = 76-79; C = 73-75; C- = 70-72;
  • D = 60-70; F = 59 or lower
  • Remember, the CSU grade for average, satisfactory undergraduate work is “C.”
  • A “C” is required for music majors to pass a music course.

Daily Preparation/Participation

Class Participation Policy:
  • Classes/Rehearsals and Performances are an important part of both assessment and sharing in the performing arts. Since the total musical experience of a choir depends on working and growing together, participation in required activities, dress rehearsals and performances is mandatory.
  • It is expected that each student will actively participate in each class period. This means coming prepared to class, bringing music, a pencil, water, and a positive attitude. Consistently exemplifying an active attitude will fulfill the students’ Preparation/Participation grade.
  • Active participation in class and individual/group outside practice sessions are expected. Each student will spend 30-60 minutes a week outside of class to learn notes and/or reinforce material covered in class. If a student needs assistance, please seek out the Instructor/Graduate Assistants/Conductors and it will be provided in a number of ways.

Spare Folders:
  • All students are expected to bring all of the semester’s assigned music (or whatever has been distributed to-date) to each class. If a student forgets their music the director will have four (4) Spare Folders available which can be borrowed for the duration of class in exchange for a student’s REDID as collateral. Each student is allowed two (2) free uses of the Spare Folders per semester, and this will be documented. Beyond two (2), every time a student uses a Spare Folder they will lose three (3) points from their total score/grading scale.

Absences/Tardies
  • All students are allowed one (1) absence, for any reason. The student does not need to discuss these absences with Dr. Walders and/or Conductors. NOTE: These absences MAY NOT be taken during the four (4) mandatory “Performance Rehearsals” leading up to a performance, If a student is absent for any one of these four rehearsals, a full a letter grade will be deducted from their final grade.

  • *With the exception of family tragedy, serious illness, or emergency, no excuses will be permitted for missing or being late for any concert call or performance, and will result in the student failing the course.

Please consider performances as “final exams.” Failure to take a final exam in a “normal” course usually results in significant lowering of grades and/or failing the class.

  • It is the responsibility of the student to e-mail the instructor if one of the aforementioned emergency situations occurs. If a student does not send en email, or cannot provide proof of sending, then the Instructor will issue a “skip” or unexcused absence to the student.

  • A student having more than three excused/unexcused absences will fail the course unless extenuating circumstances exist and they have been cleared by the Conductors and Instructor.

  • Each student is permitted two (2) tardies. Subsequent tardies will affect grades negatively.
Illness/Missing Class Procedure

• If a student is ill and cannot get out of bed, or is contagious with the flu or strep throat, for example, it is expected that the student will be in bed the entire day. If a student attends other classes that day, attendance at class/rehearsals is expected, even if the student cannot sing.

If a student must miss class, then please:
  1. Send an email* to the Instructor/Graduate Students PRIOR (preferred) to the beginning of class, or as soon as possible following the missed class so their file can be updated.
     Subject: “__name__ missing class”
  2. A doctor’s note should be provided the following rehearsal for documentation, and an EXCUSED absence will be issued.

“Marking”
A student is allowed to “mark” (i.e.- sitting off to the side, fully participating in the rehearsal process but is not singing) when they are sick with the consent of the Instructor/Conductors prior to the beginning of class. This will be documented. “Chronic marking” may negatively affect the students’ grade, and is at the discretion of the Instructor/Conductors and after an initial verbal or email warning.
ACADEMIC COURSE DEADLINES and UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The specific deadlines for Spring 2016 are:

- Tuesday Feb 2nd, 2016: Last day to drop, add, change grading, classes

Faculty have the option to drop students from their course for non-attendance or lack of required prerequisites. Students must check their schedule prior to the drop deadline to make sure faculty have performed this action.

SDSU Class Cancellation Policy
The official SDSU cancellation policy is found at: http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/catalog/2011-2012/graduate/Files/430-440_University%20Policies.pdf

Our class will function within the guidelines of this policy. All rehearsals, concerts, exams or assignment due dates impacted by University sanctioned school closings due to weather conditions or other official reasons will be rescheduled or re-assigned in a manner supportive of student learning and with reasonable time for completion of the project.

Academic Honesty
Membership in the student body of San Diego State University carries with it an obligation to act with honor. Students must comply with the SDSU Honor Code (academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course). Blackboard postings and all submitted assignments must be originally and uniquely your creation. When critiquing, alluding to, or referencing the work of others, please comply with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), version 6. Any violation of the Honor Code will be dealt with within that policy. Should you have questions related to plagiarism, cheating, or academic honesty in general, please speak with the Instructor.

Students with Disabilities
This class complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Performance Rights
By participating in this ensemble, students waive their performance rights and assign them to San Diego State University School of Music and Dance. This includes video and audio recordings of rehearsals and concerts.
Memorandum of Agreement

Due on of before the 2nd Tuesday of classes
(Tuesday February 2, 2016)

Understanding of Syllabus (Rehearsals, Concerts, Grading policies, etc.)
I have read the syllabus for the Aztec Concert Choir (MUSIC 185/385/585, Spring 2016) and understand all policies and expectations of the course that are clearly stated in this syllabus.

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Name (print)________________________________________________________________________ Date____________________

Name (signature)____________________________________________________________________ Date____________________