

**Carnegie Mellon University
School of Music
Course Syllabus**

CMU Chorus 57-419 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 4:50pm

CMU Singers 57-422 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00pm to 5:50pm MM 119

Thomas W. Douglas, Professor

MM 124

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SCOPE OF COURSE

The CMU Chorus is a SATB choir composed of Freshman and Sophomore voice majors, other music majors, and other University students from other schools on campus. The Chorus performs two concerts with the CMU Philharmonic as the Festival Chorus, which includes junior and senior voice majors: the Holiday concert and the Winter Oratorio concert with a prominent guest conductor. The Chorus also performs a spring concert. Membership is by audition.

The CMU Singers is a specialized group of 12-16 singers, who are also members of the CMU Chorus, who perform music written especially for a small vocal ensemble. These students must demonstrate an advanced level of vocal ability and musicianship to handle the most challenging of vocal repertory suitable for young singers. Membership will be determined by the CMU Chorus audition or by special invitation.

All students will audition at the beginning of the academic year and other new members in January when openings are available.

OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL CONDUCT OF COURSE

The primary objective is to expose the students to rehearsals that will introduce, enhance, encourage and reinforce various performance disciplines necessary for success in a broad spectrum of the professional performance world. Students will have the opportunity to learn skills in music theory, sight reading, working with a conductor, professional performance dress and etiquette, intonation, vocal styles, languages and appropriate leadership skill, among other things.

The repertory this year will include, but not limited to **Handel: Messiah, Bernstein: Chichester Psalms, and Mussorgsky/Douglas: Pictures at an Exhibition**. All students will perform in each concert. Students are expected to enter the room quietly and remain so until the rehearsal begins promptly at the prescribed times. This pre-rehearsal time should be used to review music. No food is permitted in rehearsal, only water. No water is permitted on stage during performances. No cell phone conversations, texting, computers or unrelated talking is ever permitted in rehearsal or performances. Any potentially expected emergency situations should be discussed prior to rehearsal.

Rehearsal dress is casual however, no bare feet, inappropriate clothing, noisy jewelry, hats or any clothing with offensive mottos. Respectful and tasteful appearance is the protocol.

CONCERT DRESS CODE

MEN: Black tuxedo or suit, white long sleeve formal or dress shirt, black bow tie, black socks, black dress shoes. You should have a black cummerbund or vest. All colors must be solid.

WOMEN: Solid black elegant ankle length skirt or dress, solid black blouse or top. Shoulders and back must be covered. No plunging necklines, sequins, glitter, beads, or contrasting or multiple colors, or accents, black dress shoes.

Here are resources that you may use to find the appropriate apparel.

Stage Accents

www.stageaccents.com

Formal Fashions, Inc.

<https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/>

Southeastern Performance Apparel

<http://www.sepapparel.com/>

GRADING

Grading will be based on the following criteria: attendance in rehearsals and concerts, preparation in rehearsals and professional deportment. Though the students are examined at each rehearsal, periodic frequent singing/testing as individuals or in quartets will take place.

A-Exceptional work that consistently exceeds the standard conservatory level expected of students in the School of Music

B-Above average work which meets the standard expected of students in the School of Music

C-Good work which is below the standard expected in the School of Music D-Work markedly below the standard of the School of Music R-Failing Grade which requires that the course be repeated

MATERIALS

Students should supply and maintain a black three-ring binder or standard choral folder for rehearsals and performances. During rehearsals or performances, single unattached pages should never be used. Music will be distributed and should be returned following each concert as instructed.