

# Chamber Singers

MUEN 1141-01 and MUEN 2141-01 | MTWR 11:00-12:00 | MPC 120 (Clarion Choir Room) | Fall Semester 2020

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Mr. Ben May, Director of Choral Activities  
ben.may@brazosport.edu | (979) 230-3316  
MPC 109 | office hours MTWR 9:30am-10:30am, or by appointment

## Course Description

Brazosport College Chamber Singers is an auditioned choral ensemble that performs music of many eras and many styles.

## Course Objectives

- Students will reflect critically upon personal performance and performances by others.
- Students will strengthen individual vocal, aural, and music literacy skills.
- Students will engage in the creative process through interpretive performance.
- Students will understand choral works studied as expressions of human values in historical and social contexts.
- Students will articulate informed aesthetic reactions to choral works studied.
- Students will employ interpersonal communication skills on a daily basis.
- Students will work with others harmoniously as a member of a team.

## Required Textbook

Cole, Samuel and Leo R. Lewis. *Melodia: A Course in Sight-Singing Solfeggio, Complete (Books I-IV)*. Bryn Mawr, PA: Presser, 1904.

We will use this book to improve our sight-singing. It may be downloaded and printed or viewed on a tablet. Either in print or electronically, you must have the entire book ready when we start class each day. Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

## Required Materials

- Black, 1-inch, 3-ring binder without a clear plastic cover and no writing/graphics on the outside
- Music scores borrowed from the BC Choral library (you will be charged for scores damaged, destroyed, or not returned)
- Pencil (do NOT mark your music with pen!)
- Computer or tablet with internet access
- TonalEnergy Tuner App (available for iOS and Android) **\*\*\*NEW requirement for Fall 2020!\*\*\***
- Voice **and** video recording application for smartphone and/or tablet
- Zoom video conferencing application **\*\*\*NEW requirement for Fall 2020!\*\*\***

## Five Values of BC Choirs

Communication Professionalism Musicianship Passion Excellence
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### Grading

Daily Rehearsal Participation (Includes having all rehearsal materials each day and positive participation)  
50%

Dress Rehearsal Attendance and Participation  
20%

Performance Attendance and/or "Virtual Choir" Project Participation  
30%

### Grading Scale:

90-100 = A      80-89 = B      71-79 = C      61-69 = D      60 or below = F

### Attendance

- Four absences from regular daily rehearsals (not dress rehearsals) are allowed each semester with no penalty
- Ten points will be deducted from the final average for each absence, starting with the fifth.
- One point will be deducted from the final average for each tardy
  - A student is considered tardy if they are not ready to begin rehearsing immediately at 11:00am
- Virtual rehearsals count as rehearsals. An absence from or tardy in a virtual rehearsal will count in the same way as an absence or tardy does for in-person rehearsals.
- **If you will be absent or tardy, regardless of the reason, email Mr. May as soon as you know.**
- If a student will be absent for an extended period (such as a COVID-19-related quarantine), the student should be certain to communicate with Mr. May regularly to ensure that he or she can keep up with class progress.
- Students must inform the director of any conflict with a required choir event by the end of the **third class meeting (8/28)** to avoid grade penalties. The director may assign a supplemental assignment for such cases.

### Make-up Assignments

- Students may make up grade points lost due to absences, as long as the following are observed:
  - The student has communicated by email to Mr. May in advance of the absence.
  - Mr. May considers the absence to be both unavoidable and excusable.
- Make up assignments are at the director's discretion.

### Quizzes

- Periodically, quizzes will be given in Chamber Singers to assess your knowledge of the music. You will receive a letter grade for each quiz so that you know how good (or not!) your performance was.

- If you make an A, A-, B+, B, or B- on a quiz, your final average will not change.
- If you make an A+ on a quiz, two points will be added to your final average!
- If you make a C+ or lower on a quiz, your final average will be lowered by two points.

### **Participation Guidelines**

- Participate energetically and positively with good alignment that supports excellent singing.
- Bring all required materials to every rehearsal and performance.
- Follow instructions and dutifully mark scores.
- Respond favorably to constructive criticism.
- Demonstrate respect for the conductor, collaborative artists, and fellow singers.
- Take ownership of the ensemble by submitting notes to the director, as needed.
- Attend all concerts and performances with proper attire.
- Attend other BC music events whenever possible to support fellow musicians.
- Use cell phones and other technology only to support learning directly. All electronic devices should be turned off before entering the rehearsal space. Ordinarily, only section leaders (attendance) and the Daily DJ (music) may have cell phones out.

### **Other Guidelines**

- Keep a **calendar** with all of your dates—academic, work, and social. This is a skill that is good for life, not just this class!
- If in doubt, **email** Mr. May!!! It doesn't matter how trivial. If there's a chance you will miss class, be late, have a surprise birthday party, etc... send an email!

### **Academic Honesty**

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may, at a minimum, result in points subtracted from your grade in this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services. Academic dishonesty in choir includes altered or faked submissions of recorded progress checks, as well as not adhering to the guidelines for memorization or accompaniment while singing such progress checks.

### **Non-discrimination Policy**

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators

directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at [www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct).

Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator  
Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; [kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu](mailto:kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu)

Victoria Young, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Office C-114; 979-230-3303; [victoria.young@brazosport.edu](mailto:victoria.young@brazosport.edu)

### **Students with disabilities**

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor, 979-230-3236 for further information.

### **Calendar of Fall Choir Events (Subject to Change!)**

Dress rehearsal: Tuesday, October 13, 7-10pm

Choir Concert: Friday, October 16, 6:00pm call, 7:30pm performance

Jazz Singers Performance: Sunday, November 15, 4:00pm – extra credit may be given for attending!

Dress rehearsal: Tuesday, December 1, 7-10pm

Choir Concert: December 4, 6:00pm call, 7:30pm performance