

Jazz Singers

MUEN 1151 and 2151 | MTWR 12:00-12:40pm | MPC 120 (Clarion Choir Room) | Fall Semester 2020

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

Mr. John Calderon
John.calderon@brazosport.edu | (979) 230-3350
MPC 110 | office hours by appointment

Course Description

Brazosport College Jazz Singers is an auditioned vocal ensemble that performs music written in contemporary 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 vocal 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 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)
- Voice and video recording application for smartphone and/or tablet
- Zoom video conferencing application

Five Values of BC Choirs

Communication Professionalism Musicianship Passion Excellence

Grading

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

Music Memorization Tests
20%

Dress Rehearsal and 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 12:00pm
- 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 and Mr. Calderon 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 and Mr. Calderon regularly to ensure that the student is keeping up with class progress.
- Students must inform the director of any conflict with a required event by the end of the **third class meeting (8/28)** to avoid grade penalties. The directors 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 and Mr. Calderon in advance of the absence.
 - The directors consider the absence to be both unavoidable and excusable.
- Make up assignments are at the directors' discretion.

Quizzes

- Quizzes will be given periodically to ensure that you are able to sing your part for all of the music. You will be given a grade on your quiz to let you know how well (or not!) you did.
- Receiving an A, A-, B+, B, or B- will result in no change to your semester average. This is the expectation.
- Receiving an A+ on a quiz will result in 2 points added to your semester average.
- Receiving a C+ or lower on a quiz will result in a 2 point deduction from your semester average.

Participation Guidelines

- **The jazz singers sing from memory. Always rehearse with that goal in mind!**
- 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.

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 and Mr. Calderon!!! 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.

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

Victoria Young, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Office C-114; 979-230-3303; 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 Jazz Singers Events (Subject to Change!)

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

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

Dress Rehearsal with Jazz Band: TBD (likely during class October 19-22)

Jazz Band Concert: Friday, October 23, 7:30pm (tentative)

Jazz Singers Dress Rehearsal: TBD (tentatively Thursday, November 12, evening)

Jazz Singers Performance: Sunday, November 15, 2:00pm call, 4:00pm performance

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

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

****These dates are highly variable this semester, in particular. We don't know if we'll be able to do performances, or if so, what they will look like. However, go ahead and put these dates on your calendar in case we are able to do them!****