

Chamber Singers

MUEN 1141, 1142, 2141, 2142

Mr. Ben May, Director of Choral Activities
ben.may@brazosport.edu | (979) 230-3316

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 (Bring to class DAILY)

- Black, 1-inch, 3-ring binder with no 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!)

Other Required Materials

- Metronome, tuner, and voice recorder (or metronome, tuner, and voice recorder apps of your choice)
- Computer with internet access

Five Values of BC Choirs

Communication Professionalism

Musicianship Passion Excellence

Grading

All students begin the semester with 100 points. Points will be subtracted for the following:

Absence from regular rehearsal, <u>for any reason</u> , starting with the fifth absence:	5 points
Unexcused absence from an extra rehearsal	10 points
Unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal	20 points
Absence from a concert or performance, with documented illness/emergency	20 points
Unexcused absence from a concert or performance	40 points
Tardy	1 point
Missing binder and/or music	3 points
Missing class supplies (pencil, Melodia, etc)	2 points
Negative contribution to the group (director's discretion)	1-40 points
"Needs improvement" on a progress check or written assignment	2 points

Points may be added for the following:

Service to the choral area, at director's discretion	1-10 points
Attendance at Thursday evening Civic Chorus rehearsals, at director's discretion	1-10 points
Superior performance on a progress check or written assignment	2 points

Grading Scale:

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

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.

Attendance Guidelines

- Punctuality and attendance are qualities expected of every musician. Regular attendance is crucial to success.
- Any student not participating fully at the beginning of class (12:30pm, promptly) will be assessed a **tardy**.
- If you are unable to sing, you should email Mr. May before the rehearsal begins. You should sit in the section and mark your score.
- If you miss eight or more classes and/or have twelve or more tardies in one semester, for any reason, you may be required to attend performances without singing, or you may be removed from the ensemble, at the director's discretion.
- Both excused and unexcused absences count as absences. If you know you are going to be absent, please notify the instructor by email as soon as possible.

- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to inquire about make-up work and materials covered in class. You are responsible for score markings made while you are absent.
- 20% is deducted from late written or recorded assignments that are turned in by the next class period following the due date. Work will not be accepted after 24 hours past the due date except in extenuating circumstances, which require documentation and exist at the director's discretion.
- Students must inform the director of any conflict with a required choir event by the end of the **third class meeting (1/16)** to avoid grade penalties. The director may assign a supplemental assignment for such cases.

Other Guidelines

- Keep a **calendar** with all of your dates—academic, work, and social.
- 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.

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 Spring Choir Events

Concert: Songs of Love and Passion

Dress Rehearsal (Required): Tuesday, 2/19, 7:00-10:00pm (Clarion)

Extra Rehearsal (Required): Friday, 2/22, 10:00am-12:00pm (Choir room)

Concert (Required): Saturday, 2/23, 6:30pm call, 7:30pm concert (Clarion)

Cantus Workshop and Concert

Workshop with BC Choirs: Tuesday and Wednesday, February 26-27 during class (Required)

Cantus Concert: Saturday, March 2, 7:30pm (Clarion); Extra credit will be awarded if you turn in your program, signed by a music faculty member that you attended and stayed for the entire performance.

Area High School Tour

Friday, March 8 – 8am-5pm (Required)

Region 13 UIL Contest

Tuesday-Thursday, April 2-4 (Students may receive extra credit, at the director's discretion, for volunteer service)

Concert: Our Song is Alive!

Dress Rehearsal (Required): Thursday, 4/25, 7:00-10:00pm

Concert (Required): Friday, 4/26, 6:30pm call, 7:30pm concert (Clarion)

**LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR MUEN 2141
COLLEGE CHOIR (Chamber)**

1. Demonstrate awareness of an ability to perform various musical styles

Assessment: Rehearsals and concerts

2. Demonstrate adequate technical facility to perform ensemble literature

Assessment: Rehearsals and concerts

3. Demonstrate awareness of and ability to perform with proper balance and blend

Assessment: Rehearsals and concerts

4. Demonstrate awareness of and ability to perform with proper intonation

Assessment: Rehearsals and concerts

5. Demonstrate awareness of and ability to perform accurate rhythms

Assessment: Rehearsals and concerts

6. Demonstrate ability to sight-read

Assessment: Rehearsals

(Required): Friday, 4/26, 6:30pm call, 7:30pm concert (Clarion)