

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**MUSIC 159 – CHORUS**

3 hours laboratory, 1 unit

**Catalog Description**

Study and performance of standard and contemporary choral literature for choral ensemble. Open to all singers in the community and students of the college.

**Prerequisite**

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in MUS 158 or equivalent

**Entrance Skills**

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Aural Skills
  - a. Ability to identify musical elements in a recorded or live performance, including formal construction for Binary and through composed works, pentatonic melodies and tonic and dominant harmonic relationships in tonal works.
  - b. Ability to identify performance elements in a recorded or live performance, including intervallic intonation deficiencies at the octave and unison, significant rhythmic alignment errors and incorrect accidentals.
- 2) Performance Skills
  - a. Ability to Perform repertoire excerpts of an intermediate difficulty with no technical errors and a developing interpretative fluency.
  - b. Ability to perform repertoire with appropriate understanding of basic style, including diction, tempo and ornaments.
  - c. Ability to perform with appropriate ensemble skills of balance and blend with minor lapses.

**Course Content**

- 1) Rehearse choral music with other choral singers under the direction of the instructor
- 2) Choral techniques, phrasing, expression, and the interpretation of music symbols
- 3) Historical and stylistic information relevant to the music under study

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Perform choral works from different historical and stylistic periods
- 2) Demonstrate proper breathing, vocal technique, posture and stage deportment
- 3) Interpret music notation symbols of pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression
- 4) Apply historical and stylistic details about the compositions and/or composers of the music studied

**Method of Evaluation**

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Oral, written and performance exams that measure students’ ability to read and execute musical scores with technical accuracy, correct posture and breathing, and appropriate stylistic inflections.

- 2) Participation in rehearsals and public performances that measure students' ability to perform musical works in a public setting with technical accuracy, correct posture and breathing, and appropriate stylistic inflections.

### **Special Materials Required of Student**

None

### **Minimum Instructional Facilities**

- 1) Rehearsal room with piano, AV equipment
- 2) Facilities for taping rehearsals
- 3) Library of choral music
- 4) Risers and choral shell for performances

### **Method of Instruction**

- 1) Lecture and demonstration
- 2) Analysis of compositions
- 3) Critique of student performances

### **Out-of-Class Assignments**

Regular practice on a musical instrument or voice

### **Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative examples):
  - a. Purcell, In These Delightful, Pleasant Groves.
  - b. Gershwin, The Man I Love.
- 2) Supplemental: None

### **Exit Skills**

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Aural Skills
  - a. Ability to identify musical elements in a recorded or live performance, including formal construction for Theme and Variations, diatonic melodies and diatonic harmonic relationships in tonal works.
  - b. Ability to identify performance elements in a recorded or live performance, including intervallic intonation deficiencies at the P5 and P4, minor rhythmic alignment errors and significant phases in pulse.
- 2) Performance Skills
  - a. Ability to Perform repertoire excerpts of an intermediate difficulty with no technical errors and a compelling interpretative fluency.
  - b. Ability to perform repertoire with appropriate understanding of classical and romantic style, including diction, tempo and ornaments.
  - c. Ability to perform with appropriate ensemble skills of balance and blend with infrequent lapses.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Evaluate live and recorded performances for technical accuracy and stylistic integrity.
- 2) Perform musical works as part of an ensemble with technical proficiency and appropriate stylistic interpretation.