

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

MUSIC 259 – 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 258 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 strophic form, chromatic melodies and diatonic harmonic relationships with elements of chromaticism in tonal works.
 - b. Ability to identify performance elements in a recorded or live performance, including intervallic intonation deficiencies at the M3/m3/M2/m2, slight rhythmic alignment errors and minor phases in pulse.
- 2) Performance Skills
 - a. Ability to Perform repertoire excerpts of an advanced difficulty with no technical errors and a developing interpretative fluency.
 - b. Ability to perform repertoire with appropriate understanding of 20th century styles, including diction, tempo and ornaments.
 - c. Ability to perform with appropriate ensemble skills of balance and blend with no 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 state 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

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 sonata-allegro form, atonal melodies and chromatic harmonic relationships with chordal extensions in tonal works.
 - b. Ability to identify performance elements in a recorded or live performance, including intervallic intonation deficiencies at all diatonic intervals and rhythmic misalignment at any point in a performance.
- 2) Performance Skills
 - a. Ability to Perform repertoire excerpts of an advanced difficulty with no technical errors and a compelling interpretative fluency.
 - b. Ability to perform repertoire with appropriate understanding of all major music styles, including diction, tempo and ornaments.
 - c. Ability to perform with appropriate ensemble skills of balance and blend with no lapses and assist other players in achieving blend and balance.

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

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.