University of Calgary Chorus

Fall 2020-Winter 2021 Curriculum Draft Outline

Fall term: Blended synchronous and asynchronous learning
Winter term: Optimistically, face to face learning (with flexibility)

The University of Calgary Chorus serves as an outlet for musical growth in the areas of vocal pedagogy, choral artistry, community building, and experience in choral music repertoire with an emphasis on contemporary music. The chorus continues to appeal to a range of musical abilities while developing individual skills and encouraging student leadership in the areas of conducting, composition, rehearsal management, section leading, and instrumental accompaniment.

While students will engage in a combination of synchronous and asynchronous online learning (particularly in the first term), core learning for the course will be based on non-written work, or “live and interactive” projects, on the subjects listed above, with audio and visual resource materials including voice part tracks, conducting videos, group score analysis, and live online presentations.

Repertoire will be decided on shortly but will include public domain scores and instructor provided scores, as well as purchased materials. (In the spring, a performance of Cherubini’s Requiem in C with the UofC Chamber Choir may be a possibility).

Learning Outcomes

Fall term: Online learning

Tuesdays 12:30-1:45- synchronous online meeting
Thursdays 12:30-1:45- asynchronous learning- instructor has office hours and will be available for online for small groups and individuals who wish to attend or need extra support.

Students will engage in blended types of online learning.

1. Synchronous classes consist of group listening and discussion of chosen materials. Students will be able to discuss and critique choral music from both an analytical and historical context.
2. Students will be divided into smaller groups and will be required to lead their own virtual rehearsals and sectionals.
3. Guest speakers and conductors will speak on various choral topics.
4. Through innovative and creative projects, students will gain a better understanding of how the individual voice operates within a choral setting, engage in discussions regarding choral singing techniques, challenges as the conductor, and concert programming considering current social challenges.

Projects will be a combination of student led and assigned by the instructor and may include the following:
- programming a choral concert (choral pop versus historical versus social justice, etc.)
- writing and arranging choral music (instructor assigned themes)
- creating a virtual choir (as an individual a cappella project or as a small ensemble)
- performance as an accompanist
- creating and interpreting conductor gestures
- creating audio of one’s own voice, singing the repertoire, and experimenting with vocal tone
- online collaboration with other members to create a digital presentation (audio or visual) on the connection between choral music, art, and current global social concerns
- online collaboration with other members to engage in forward-thinking strategies in planning a live-concert in the Winter term
**Winter term:** Ideally, face-to-face ensemble singing

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-1:45

Material covered in the Fall term will transfer to live rehearsals in the Winter term. The bulk of music learning will have been done and the focus will be on the group as a whole, blend, artistic expression, and interpretation.

1. A performance of our repertoire (or a performance of ensembles from within the chorus) in March.
2. A performance of the Cherubini Requiem in C in collaboration with other local choirs in April.
3. Chorus will be flexible to adapt to current social recommendations regarding singing and distancing.
4. Singers will have a strong grasp on musical vocabulary, *listening*, historical context of repertoire, artistic expression, and the importance of ‘togetherness’.
5. Singers will be able to confidently use their voices as individuals with an understanding of basic vocal technique and pedagogy.