

Las Positas College  
3000 Campus Hill Drive  
Livermore, CA 94551-7650  
(925) 424-1000  
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

## Course Outline for MUS 45

### CHAMBER CHOIR

Effective: Fall 2019

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 45 — CHAMBER CHOIR — 1.00 units

Development vocal and musical ability to effectively study, interpret, and perform choral literature. Designed for vocalists with previous classical ensemble experience.

1.00 Units Lab

#### **Strongly Recommended**

MUS 6 - Basic Music Skills  
with a minimum grade of C

MUS 44 - Concert Choir  
with a minimum grade of C

#### **Grading Methods:**

Letter or P/NP

#### **Discipline:**

- Music

**Family:** Music Choir

|                     | <b>MIN</b> |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Lab Hours:</b>   | 54.00      |
| <b>Total Hours:</b> | 54.00      |

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 4

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

**Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:**

##### A. MUS6

1. interpret notation of both pitch and rhythm;
2. identify and notate key signatures;
3. interpret expressive markings such as dynamic indications, accents, repeats;
4. perform simple exercises in ear training and sight singing.

##### B. MUS44

1. Develop appropriate vocal technique
2. Hear and sing choral harmonies
3. Perform basic rhythms
4. Show an ability to independently carry one's part

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- A. Demonstrate successful ensemble methods, adhering to director's instructions.
- B. Demonstrate further improvement in performance ability in both solo and ensemble settings.
- C. Study and perform advanced choral harmonies with excellent musicianship.
- D. Perform with accurate notes, rhythms, words, intonation, entrances, cutoffs, articulation, dynamics, expression, and phrasing.
- E. Compare, contrast and perform music from a variety of styles and eras including: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary literature, both sacred and secular.
- F. Audition for solo opportunities when made available.
- G. Display a refined ability to independently carry one's part and sing within an ensemble.
- H. Memorize performance material when necessary.
- I. Demonstrate refined ability in a professional standard of conduct including attendance, participation, attitude and presentation.

#### V. CONTENT:

##### A. Historical Styles

1. Renaissance
2. Baroque

- 3. Classic
- 4. Romantic
- 5. Contemporary
- B. Cultural Styles
  - 1. African
  - 2. Latin
  - 3. Asian
  - 4. Western European
  - 5. Native American
- C. Performance Practices
  - 1. Stage presence
  - 2. Attire
  - 3. Interaction between ensemble participants
  - 4. Movement
  - 5. Solo performance
  - 6. Ensemble performance
  - 7. Follow conductor's directions and gestures
- D. Choral Literature Performance
  - 1. Gospel
  - 2. Madrigals
  - 3. Anthems
  - 4. Chorales
  - 5. Fugues
  - 6. Oratorios
  - 7. Masses
  - 8. Folk songs
- E. Vocal Technique and Musicianship
  - 1. Tone quality
  - 2. Intonation
  - 3. Blend and ensemble
  - 4. Balance
  - 5. Articulation
  - 6. Nuance
  - 7. Breath Support
  - 8. Phrasing
  - 9. Dynamics
  - 10. Rhythmic Precision

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Demonstration** - Ability to sing with skill using blend, expression and other nuances.
- B. **Demonstration** - Public performances with ensembles at concerts, festivals and competitions.
- C. **Classroom Activity** - Rehearsal in ensemble or as individual under the direction of the conductor.

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Memorize the bass part to "Give Me Jesus" by Jester Hairston.
- B. Learn the German pronunciation for the first three songs of Brahms "Marianlieder".
- C. Accurately perform the complex rhythm of "Deck the Halls in 7/8" by James McKelvy.
- D. Rehearse "Hiru Eguberri" by Javier Busto with your section.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### Methods/Frequency

- A. Field Trips
  - Singing at choral festivals.
- B. Class Participation
  - Weekly rehearsals.
- C. Home Work
  - Part-learning assignments.
- D. Class Performance
  - Performances throughout the semester.
- E. Final Performance
  - Final concert.
- F. Other
  - 1. Auditions with instructor
    - a. At instructor's discretion

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Love, Roger, and Donna Frazier. *Set Your Voice Free: How to Get the Singing or Speaking Voice You Want*. Revised ed., Little, Brown and Company, 2016.
- 2. Paulus, Stephen. *Prayers & Remembrances*. 1st ed., Paulus Publications, 2016.
- 3. Jahn, Anthony. *Vocal Health for Singers: A Leading Voice Doctor Answers Over 100 Questions from Vocalists*. Kindle ed., Amazon Digital Services LLC, 2016.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: