

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for MUS 45

### CHAMBER CHOIR

Effective: Spring 2018

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 45 — CHAMBER CHOIR — 1.00 units

Development of vocal and musical ability to interpret and perform the highest caliber of choral literature. Designed for singers with advanced choral ensemble experience.

1.00 Units Lab

#### **Strongly Recommended**

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. MUS44

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Sing in an ensemble and adhere to director's instructions
- B. Demonstrate further improvement in performance ability in both solo and ensemble settings
- C. Hear and sing more advanced choral harmonies, correct pitches and accurate intonation
- D. Perform with articulation, dynamics, expression, phrasing and rhythmic accuracy
- E. Further compare, contrast and perform styles such as Renaissance, Baroque, Classic, Romantic and Contemporary literature, both sacred and secular
- F. Perform solos or improvised solos as necessary
- 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:

##### A. **Methods**

1. Field Trips
2. Class Participation
3. Home Work
4. Class Performance
5. Final Performance

##### B. **Frequency**

1. Audition at beginning of semester
2. Weekly homework
3. Monthly participation in on-campus and off-campus (field trip) performances and festivals
4. End of semester concert performance

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Dayme, Meribeth and Cynthia Vaughn. *The Singing Book*. . 3rd ed., W.W. Norton & Co., 2013.
2. *Vocal Technique: A Guide for Conductors, Teachers, Singers*. First ed., Waveland Press, 2012.
3. Paulus, Stephen. *Prayers & Remembrances*. 1st ed., Paulus Publications, 2016.
4. Love, Roger, and Donna Frazier. *Set Your Voice Free: How to Get the Singing or Speaking Voice You Want*. Revised ed. edit ed., Little, Brown and Company, 2016.
5. Jahn , Anthony . *Vocal Health for Singers: A Leading Voice Doctor Answers Over 100 Questions from Vocalists*. 1st; Kindle ed., Amazon Digital Services LLC, 2016.

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