UNLV CHORAL ENSEMBLES 2013-2014
AUDITION & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

University Concert Singers • Chamber Chorale
Varsity Men’s Glee Club • Women’s Chorus

Professor David Weiller, Director of Choral Studies
Dr. Jocelyn Jensen, Women’s Chorus
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Welcome!

Congratulations on your decision to sing in the UNLV Choral Ensembles. We welcome all members of the UNLV campus - new and returning students, faculty, staff - as well as alumni and community members, and we encourage you to participate. Membership in the choirs is based upon the conductor’s evaluation of your potential contribution to the ensemble as well as your previous musical experience. The need to maintain a balanced ensemble with the proper number of singers in each section is also an important factor.

Singing in the UNLV choirs is different from every other class on this campus. It is very important for every singer to realize that membership in a performing ensemble involves much more than the usual 1-credit class. Your participation on the "choir team" requires a serious personal commitment on your part to the music, the other members of the ensemble, and to the UNLV Choral Tradition which has been established through the hard work and talent of many generations of singers. The quality and spirit of your work affects many other people.

If you are a returning UNLV choral singer, welcome back! Remember that careful consideration is given to the quality of your work thus far in UNLV V-O-C-E (Voice-Opera-Choral Ensembles) in terms of your musical/vocal talent, your work ethic (preparation, attitude, contribution, past attendance and punctuality), as well as your overall work and GPA as a university student.

EXCELLENCE can be attained if you
...CARE more than others think is wise,
...RISK more than others think is safe,
...DREAM more than others think is practical,
...EXPECT more than others think is possible.

Ensemble Requirements, Scholarships, Etc.

All vocal music majors must meet the ensemble curricular requirements as outlined in the current copy of the V-O-C-E 2013-2014 Undergraduate Ensemble Requirements and Guidelines (posted on the Choral Studies bulletin board, and available for distribution). If you are a vocal scholarship recipient, you must register for at least 12 credits including two ensembles and applied lessons. Additional talent-based scholarship assistance may be available for students who perform in an additional choral ensemble beyond their scholarship requirements. Contact Prof. Weiller for further information.
University Concert Singers

Rehearsal schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 1:00-2:20 pm
Register for MUSE 108, 408, 508 (1 credit)
First rehearsal: Monday, August 26, 1:00-2:20 pm, BMC-159

University Concert Singers is the music department’s main choral ensemble of 50-65 singers. An enthusiastic music critic praised the choir for a performance in which "...the singers, conuder, accompanist, and audience members all but danced in the pews." Past seasons have included a wide variety of a cappella repertoire as well as major works with orchestra, musical theatre concerts, African-American spiritual concerts, and performances for university academic ceremonies.

Membership in Concert Singers is open by audition to undergraduate and graduate music majors and non-music majors. We have a great season planned with a variety of repertoire! Special projects this year include a performance of the Mozart Requiem with the University Symphony Orchestra.

Concert Singers meets three days per week. We rehearse as a mixed choir on Mondays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays, all members of Concert Singers sing in the Women’s Chorus or Varsity Men’s Glee Club. (Note: Register only for Concert Singers; do not register for Women's Chorus or Varsity Men.)

Additional singers may choose to join the Women’s Chorus or Varsity Men without being in Concert Singers, so spread the word to your friends who may wish to sing just one day per week. (See further information below.)

ALL FORMER MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS OF CONCERT SINGERS must audition.

• Complete the attached UNLV Choral Ensembles Information Form and bring it to your audition. Please arrive early and warmed up. Practice rooms will be available.

• You do not need to prepare anything in advance. However, you are strongly encouraged to bring a vocal solo of your own choice with piano accompaniment. Prof. Weiller will accompany you; please provide a copy of the music.

• Sing “America” (“My country ’tis of thee...”) and various vocal exercises to further determine vocal range, flexibility and dynamic colors.

• Tonal memory patterns. (A short pattern of 5-7 pitches will be played on the piano; you then sing the pattern.)

• Sight-read basic rhythmic patterns and melodic patterns.

• Sight-read a choral score.
Chamber Chorale
Rehearsal schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2:30-3:50 pm, BMC-159
Register for MUSE 103, 403, 503 (1 credit)

The UNLV CHAMBER CHORALE has been praised for their "joyous singing, remarkable delicacy and poise, impressive performance and expressive fervor." This select vocal ensemble of 20-32 singers performs a wide variety and extensive amount of challenging repertoire. The Chorale performs several times throughout the year and often tours in the spring semester. Students selected for Chamber Chorale must have at least one (1) full year of concurrent or prior enrollment in Concert Singers. All students selected for Chamber Chorale must be enrolled in private voice lessons each semester through the UNLV Department of Music. (When possible, scholarship assistance may be provided to offset lesson fees.)

ALL FORMER MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS OF CHAMBER CHORALE must audition.
Sign up for a 12-minute individual audition, August 22-26. The sign-up sheet is posted outside Prof. Weiller’s studio, HFA-135. Complete the attached UNLV Choral Ensembles Information Form and Understanding of Commitment; bring both to your audition. Please arrive early and warmed up. Practice rooms will be available.
Note: Students who are new to the UNLV Choral Ensembles this year should provide contact information for a reference, or a letter of recommendation, from their high school choral director or previous college conductor.

• Sing a memorized vocal solo of your own choice with piano accompaniment (classical art song - no pop, jazz or musical theatre). Prof. Weiller will accompany you; please provide a copy of the music in the correct key. The purpose of this is to hear you sing music that you know well and that demonstrates the beauty and flexibility of your voice as well as your musicianship.

• Prepare your voice part(s) to “Weep You No More, Sad Fountains” by John Dowland. The purpose of this is to assess your musical skills (pitch and rhythm accuracy, musicality, diction, etc.) through personal preparation. You will sing your part while Prof. Weiller plays the other voice parts on the piano. You may prepare and audition for more than one voice part.

• Sing the melody to “How Can I Keep From Singing?” unaccompanied, in any key of your choice. The purpose of this is to check for pitch accuracy on an a cappella prepared piece.

• Read aloud the following German text using the rules for sung diction. (Seek help if you need assistance.)

  Innsbruck, ich muss dich lassen,
  Ich fahr dahin mein Strassen,
  Mein Freud ist mir genommen,
  Die ich nit weiss bekommen,
  Wo ich im Elend bin.

  Innsbruck, I must leave you;
  I must travel my roads
  My joy is taken from me;
  I don’t know how to regain it
  since I am in such misery.

• Read aloud the following French text using the rules for sung diction. (Seek help if you need assistance.)

  La nuit froide et sombre
  Couvrant d’obsrue ombre
  La terre et les cieux
  Aussi doux que miel,
  Fait couler du ciel
  Le sommeil aux yeux.

  The night cold and dark (somber)
  covering with obscure shadow (dark shade)
  earth and heaven,
  as sweet as honey
  pours from the sky
  the sleep into the eyes.

• The audition may also include:
  • Sing “America” (“My country ‘tis of thee...”) and various vocal exercises to further determine vocal range and flexibility throughout your register(s) and with a variety of dynamic colors.
  • Sight-read basic rhythmic patterns and melodic patterns.
  • Tonal-memory patterns. (A short pattern of 4-5 pitches will be played on the piano; you then sing the pattern.)

CHAMBER CHORALE CALL-BACKS (The call-back list will be posted Monday morning, August 26.)

• On Monday, August 26 (2:30-3:50 p.m. in BMC-159) there will be a required meeting and a short rehearsal of the quartet piece, “Weep You No More, Sad Fountains” by John Dowland.

• On Wednesday, August 28 (2:30-3:50 p.m.) there will be required quartet call-backs, singing the Dowland piece.

• Final membership list will be posted no later than Friday morning, August 30 (this is the last day to add classes). The first complete rehearsal of the 2013-2014 Chamber Chorale will take place that afternoon and will include a “Get Acquainted Social.”
Varsity Men’s Glee Club

Rehearsal schedule: Tuesday, 1:00-2:20 pm
Register for MUSE 106, 406, 506 (1 credit), or non-credit through Continuing Education
First rehearsal: Tuesday, Aug. 27, 1:00-2:20 pm, BMC-118 (Rando Recital Hall)

VARSITY MEN’S GLEE CLUB enjoys a strong tradition of energetic music making in an atmosphere of camaraderie. The men begin most performances by jogging raucously onto the stage, followed by their traditional theme song, "We Meet Again Tonight." Varsity Men's Glee Club has performed for regional and national festivals sponsored by Intercollegiate Men's Choruses and has also appeared at many university and civic events in Las Vegas.

Repertoire includes "classical" choral music of all styles as well as folk tunes, spirituals and musical theatre selections. There will be 1-3 performances each semester. Membership is open to UNLV students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Membership in Varsity Men is contingent upon instructor approval; a brief audition will take place during the first class meeting.

This is a university level ensemble and is offered as a 1-credit course in the university catalog (MUSE 106, 406, 506). Community members and students who do not need academic credit for this course have the option of registering instead through UNLV Continuing Education. Under this option, no course credit or grade is given, and the class does not appear on your university transcript. However, Continuing Education students must meet all course requirements as outlined in the class syllabus. To register through Continuing Education with a credit card, call (702) 895-3394, or visit online: continuingeducation.unlv.edu/register.

Women’s Chorus

Rehearsal schedule: Tuesday, 1:00-2:20 pm
Register for MUSE 105, 405, 505 (1 credit), or non-credit through Continuing Education
First rehearsal: Tuesday, August 27, 1:00-2:20 pm, BMC-159

The UNLV WOMEN’S CHORUS performs a broad choral repertoire written specifically for women’s voices. "We come together from every walk of life. There are accountants, students, teachers, domestic engineers and engineers. We are salespeople, hotel workers, nurses and waitresses. We are young and very young, older and, yes, even older than that! We share a love for singing and an understanding of the uniqueness of women in this complex society." The choir appears each year at "Take Back the Night" sponsored by the UNLV Women’s Center as well as at several other concerts on campus.

Repertoire includes "classical" choral music of all styles, as well as folk tunes, spirituals, and musical theatre selections. There will be 1-3 performances each semester. Membership is open to UNLV students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Membership in Women’s Chorus is contingent upon instructor approval; a brief audition will take place during the first class meeting.

This is a university level ensemble and is offered as a 1-credit course in the university catalog (MUSE 106, 406, 506). Community members and students who do not need academic credit for this course have the option of registering instead through UNLV Continuing Education. Under this option, no course credit or grade is given, and the class does not appear on your university transcript. However, Continuing Education students must meet all course requirements as outlined in the class syllabus. To register through Continuing Education with a credit card, call (702) 895-3394, or visit online: continuingeducation.unlv.edu/register.
UNLV CHORAL ENSEMBLES INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY.

NAME (exactly as you wish it to appear in printed programs):

CURRENT ADDRESS

CURRENT CITY/STATE/ZIP

CURRENT PHONE NUMBER(S) home cell other

UNLV REBEL E-MAIL ___________________________ OTHER E-MAIL ___________________________

PERMANENT ADDRESS ___________________________

PERMANENT CITY/STATE/ZIP ___________________________

PERM. PHONE ___________________________

BIRTH DATE ___________________________ MAJOR __________________________________

STATUS: UNLV Undergraduate _____ UNLV Grad Student _____ UNLV Alumnus _____
CSN Student _____ Community Member _____ UNLV Faculty/Staff _____

Do you have previous choral and/or vocal experience? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please name specific high schools, colleges, churches, community choirs, professional singing, etc.

List other musical experience (voice lessons, instrumental ensembles, instrument lessons, etc.)

List other interests, activities, hobbies, etc.

Do you have particular talents, skills or business/professional contacts that may be of help to the UNLV Choral Ensembles? __________________________________________

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

1 excellent
2 good
3 average
4 below average

Range & Tessitura

Size of voice (large-small) 1 2 3 4
Tone quality/dynamic range 1 2 3 4
Intonation 1 2 3 4
Diction (English) 1 2 3 4
Diction (Foreign languages) 1 2 3 4
Tonal Memory 1 2 3 4
Sight Reading/Rhythmic 1 2 3 4
Sight Reading/Melodic 1 2 3 4
Sight Reading/Choral Excerpt 1 2 3 4
Overall Musicianship 1 2 3 4

Additional comments:

rev. 8/2012
UNLV CHAMBER CHORALE
UNDERSTANDING OF COMMITMENT

If accepted into the 2013-2014 UNLV Chamber Chorale, I agree to:

1) ...enroll in and perform in this ensemble for the entire 2013-2014 academic year.

2) ...participate in all rehearsals and performances, including travel commitments. (The rehearsal/performance calendar will be distributed at the beginning of fall semester, and I understand that it is subject to change.)

3) ... adhere to all requirements as outlined in the course syllabus, including fund raising requirements. (The syllabus will be distributed at the beginning of fall semester.) The fall semester requirement is due on Friday, December 6, 2013. The spring semester requirement is due Friday, May 9, 2014.

4) ... adhere to the V-O-C-E 2013-2014 Undergraduate Ensemble Requirements and Guidelines. (See Prof. Weiller for a copy.)

5) ... enroll in private voice lessons each semester through the UNLV Department of Music.

Signature ___________________________________________ Date _______________________

Name (please print) ___________________________________________
America
(My Country, 'Tis of Thee)

Words: Samuel F. Smith
Music: Thesaurus Musicus

Piano

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I

sing land where my fathers died Land of the pilgrim's pride

From every mountain side, let freedom ring
13. Weep you no more, sad fountains

Words: Anon.

1st Verse Only

JOHN DOWLAND
(1563-1626)

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moun-tains
smil-ing. Heav'n's sun
do-th gen-tly waste. But my sun's heav'n-ly

When fair at ev'n he sets. Rest you then, rest, sad

Heav'n's sun doth gent-ly waste. But my sun's, my sun's heav'n-

rest, rest.

tains Heav'n's sun doth gent-ly waste. But my sun's heav'n-

ling, When fair at ev'n he sets. Rest you then, rest,

- tains Heav'n's sun doth gent-ly waste. But my sun's heav'n-

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- tains Heav'n's sun doth gent-ly waste. But my sun's heav'n-

- ling, When fair at ev'n he sets. Rest you then, rest,
How Can I Keep From Singing?

(Solo)

Words: Attributed to "Pauline T."
Music: Robert Lowry
Arrangement: Sally DeFord and James Loynes

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

Heard the sweet though far-off hymn that hailed a new creation.

Through all the turmoil and strife, I hear the music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and sorrows?

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