



# **Graduate Vocal Literature and Repertoire for Elementary Music**

**MUS 526.01T**

**Darla Meek, instructor**

June 4-15, M-F 12:00-2:30

SUMMER 2018

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Classroom Location: Mesquite Metroplex Center  
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## **University Mission Statement**

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

## **Music Department Mission Statement**

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

## **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide students with in-depth knowledge of choral techniques and literature for elementary students. Students will also prepare and teach choral pieces in a laboratory setting.

## Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student will: (assessment method in parentheses)

- be able to select literature of high quality, and to program a well-balanced concert for elementary-aged children (programming assignment)
- be able to conduct pieces with various moods, dynamics and tempi (rubric)
- be able to structure an effective choral rehearsal, including choosing appropriate warm ups and sight-singing exercises (rubric)
- exhibit skills in the execution of effective rehearsal techniques, including the delivery of instruction, the elicitation of desired student responses, and the communication of appropriate feedback. (rubric)
- have acquired tools for teaching students with special needs, including males with changing voices (class discussion)

## Required Texts and Materials

- Leck, Henry and Jordan, Flossie. (2009). *Creating artistry through choral excellence*. Hal Leonard: Milwaukee, WI, ISBN 978-1-4234-3711-6.
- Rao, Doreen. (1993). *We will sing! Choral music experience for classroom choirs*. Boosey & Hawkes: New York, NY, ISBN 0-913932-50-7.
- Selected octavos, TBD (We will purchase these in bulk.)
- Notation software (Finale preferred)

## Recommended Text

- Goetze, M., Broeker, A., and Boshkoff, R. (2016). *Educating Young Singers: A choral resource for teachers/conductors*. GIA Publications: Chicago, IL. ISBN 918-1-62277-201-8

## Required Materials

The student will organize a three-ring binder and nine dividers, labeled:

1. Syllabus and Class Agendas
2. Observations (*2 rehearsals and 2 performances*)
3. Rehearsal Plans (*copies of classmates' rehearsal plans*)
4. Vocal Techniques for the Young Singer
5. Choral Literature
6. Rehearsal Techniques
7. Conducting
8. Part Singing
9. Director Preparation and Organization (*handouts/notes from your classmates' speeches*)

Bring your notebook to each class session, as well as paper, a writing instrument for taking notes, and the music for pieces being studied. Please have this notebook ready by the second class session. (Notebook DUE Thursday, June 14.)

## **Students Requesting Accommodations Due to Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library, Room 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

## **Musician Health and Safety**

Valuable information and resources are provided on the Music Education website to assist the musician in the prevention of injury and to provide a resource for discovering information about injury assessment and injury recovery.

For more information, go here:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/music/musicianHealthSafety.aspx>

## **Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## Attendance Policy

It is expected that, as working professionals, graduate music education students arrive to every class on time, with assignments completed.

Each class period, an attendance count will be taken. Absent students will, by default, earn a grade of zero for that day's work unless proof of excused absence is provided (jury summons, doctor's note, etc.). Due to its performance nature, CLASS WORK CANNOT BE MADE UP. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than one class. If absences are accumulated after the drop date, the student will receive a failing grade. Tardiness or leaving early will affect the daily classwork grade.

Students who miss a class when an assignment is due are expected to email the homework assignment in Word format as an attachment to an email to the instructor by 11:59 p.m. **on the due date**, with this subject line: MUSIC 465 Assignment #\_, Student Name, Due Date. **No late assignments will be accepted.** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to retrieve the information you missed, and to prepare your assignments, if any, for the following class.

In-class assessments and assignments missed because of absence cannot be made up. This policy will be strictly enforced. Please do not ask me to make an exception.

## Classroom Expectations

All students are expected to follow the Tenets of Common Decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. These tenets are outlined in the *Student's Guide Handbook* under "Policies and Procedures: Conduct." The tenets also apply to all communication to me outside the classroom.

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Students are expected to demonstrate commitment to their course of study by contributing thoughtfully to class discussions, turning in assignments in a timely manner, being prompt and dependable, supporting peers and the instructor, and accepting critiques graciously.

Cell phones should be turned off before class begins, and should be concealed from view throughout the duration of the class period. Please take care of any necessities (food, drink, restroom) before coming to class so that we may proceed without interruption. If you need to bring a bottle of water, please take care keep the cap secured. Dispose of all food and chewing gum before class begins.

In this course, you will be very active...singing, moving, conducting, and improvising. All students are to be actively participating in each lesson, just as you expect your own students to be participating. Students are expected to be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances.

Failure to conform to these expectations of behavior will result in a lowered classwork grade.

One of the most important tools you will use with children is solfege with hand signs. Hand signs must be placed in the correct position in front of the body:

- do': arms above head
- ti: hands at forehead
- la: hands eye level
- sol: hands at chest
- fa: hands at diaphragm
- mi: hands waist level
- re: just below waist
- do,: arms at lower abdomen

Failure to conform to these expectations of behavior will result in a lowered classwork grade. Daily grades will be given according to the instructor's discretion:

- An A will be earned by the student who arrives early with all materials, exhibits superior attentiveness, is fully prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a leader and role model to others.
- A B will be earned by the student who exhibits excellent attentiveness, is prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a valued asset to the ensemble.
- A C will be earned by the student who exhibits average attentiveness, preparation, and class participation.
- A D will be earned by the student who exhibits little attentiveness, preparation, and participation.
- An F will be earned by the student who exhibits no attentiveness, preparation and participation. This student will be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

Since some class members will begin this course with more experience than others, the ability to sing well or conduct gracefully is not alone a necessity for, or an insurance of, a high grade. The ability to work to **improve** the abilities already possessed and to **learn** new skills will be the foundation of the grade received.

## Assignments

1. Research and present a speech pertinent to children's choir administration and directing. We will determine your subject in class. Include handout and power point. (DUE Thursday, June 7)

2. Prepare, teach, and conduct a unison piece from *We Will Sing!* (DUE Wednesday, June 6)
3. Create a mock CHOIR HANDBOOK. (DUE Wednesday, June 13)
4. Prepare, teach, and conduct a unison piece of your choice. (DUE Wednesday, June 13)
5. Prepare, teach, and conduct a two-part piece (DUE Thursday, June 14)
6. Prepare, teach, and conduct a two-part piece (DUE Friday, June 15)
7. 2 Choral Evaluation Forms for children's choir performances (DUE June 6 and June 8)
8. 2 Rehearsal Observation and Reflection Forms for choir rehearsals (DUE June 11 and June 12)

The unison and two-part songs will be taught to the class and instructor as if you were teaching children in a public school choral setting. All songs will have CD accompaniment, or an accompanist will be acquired.

You will upload a copy of your rehearsal plan for the prepared song BEFORE CLASS BEGINS on the day it is due to our class Dropbox. **Upload it in Word doc format** so that I will be able to add any corrections or ideas. You will then perfect your rehearsal plan so that it can be printed by your classmates and placed in their resource notebooks. When you finish this course, you will have a collection of ready-to-use rehearsal plans for unison pieces and two-part pieces.

Observe two **elementary choral performances** and complete a Choral Evaluation Form for each. You may view these performances live, on DVD, or on YouTube. Each performance must include at least five pieces.

Observe two **choral rehearsals** and complete a Rehearsal Observation and Reflection Form for each. You may view these rehearsals live, on DVD, or on YouTube. Each rehearsal must last at least 30 minutes.

The CHOIR HANDBOOK should include the following information:

- a friendly welcome
- membership policies/attendance
- rehearsal etiquette
- behavior procedures
- a performance schedule
- attire
- financial issues
- volunteer opportunities for parents
- a contract for the student and parents to sign

## **Borrowing Materials**

You have free access to all my personal books, CDs, and teaching materials. Several of these items will be placed under reserve in the library. These items are for use in the library only. Simply present your student ID card at the front desk.

If you would like to borrow a resource overnight that is not on reserve, simply sign the **Resource Checkout** sheet. Since other students may need the same item, please return any item you borrow the following class session.

If a resource checked out to you is lost or damaged, you are expected to replace it as soon as possible. If you fail to do so before the end of the semester, **a hold will be placed on your account and you will receive an Incomplete for this course.**

Please take care that you observe the copyright laws, and the limits of fair use.

## Grading System

**Daily Class Performance:** 20% of the total grade

**Presentation of unison and two-part pieces:** 30% of the total grade

**Written assignments:** 30% of the total grade

**Notebook:** 10% of the total grade

**90 - 100 = A**

**80 - 89 = B**

**70 - 79 = C**

**60 - 69 = D**

**59 ↓ = F**

## Academic Honesty

It is expected that you will exhibit ethical behavior concerning your work in this class. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

### CLASS MEETING ONE

Vocal Techniques for the Young Singer

- Posture, Breathing, Warm ups, Vocalises, Tone Unification, Diction, Uncertain Singers

Choosing Repertoire

Song Teaching Methods

Score Analysis

### CLASS MEETING TWO

Part Singing  
Conducting

### **CLASS MEETING THREE**

Students present Unison Song 1 from *We Will Sing!* (15 minutes each)

First Choral Evaluation Form due

### **CLASS MEETING FOUR**

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS on choir administration

- Planning the Rehearsal
- Repertoire
- Style and Interpretation/Languages
- Classroom Management/Environment/Discipline
- Assessment/Grading
- Programming and Performances
- Concerts/Travel/Competitions/Events/Attire
- Social Media/Newsletters/Promotion Materials
- Handbook/ Parent Support Groups
- Recruiting and Auditioning

### **CLASS MEETING FIVE**

GUEST: Ryan and Christy Forkner speak on teaching boys/the expanding male voice

Second Choral Evaluation Form due

### **CLASS MEETING SIX**

FIELD TRIP: Observe Cynthia Nott with the CCGD Summer Camp

First Rehearsal Observation and Reflection Form due

### **CLASS MEETING SEVEN**

GUEST: Linda Harley speaks on vocal technique and literature

Second Rehearsal Observation and Reflection Form due

### **CLASS MEETING EIGHT**

Students present unison song 2 of choice (10 minutes each)

Mock Choir Handbook due

### **CLASS MEETING NINE**

Students present 2-part song 1 (15 minutes each)

Notebooks due

### **CLASS MEETING TEN**

Students present 2-part song 2 (15 minutes each)

Notebooks returned