

**The University of Toronto
Faculty of Music Choruses
Fall 2018 – Winter 2019**

All choral ensembles in the FOM rehearse four hours per week and perform in concerts as assigned by the Performance Division throughout the academic year. During performance weeks, scheduled dress rehearsals will require additional time.

Personnel:

Dr. Elaine Choi, Conductor of Women's Chorus elaine.choi@mail.utoronto.ca

Dr. Lori-Anne Dolloff, Conductor of Women's Chamber Choir lori.dolloff@utoronto.ca

Mr. David Fallis, Conductor of MacMillan Singers macfall@sympatico.ca

Dr. Mark Ramsay, Conductor of Men's Chorus mark.ramsay@mail.utoronto.ca

Professor Gordon Foote, Associate Dean for Performance gordon.foote@utoronto.ca

Ms. Eddy Aitken, Performance Administrator edna.aitken@utoronto.ca

Objectives:

1. To study and perform challenging choral literature, both sacred and secular;
2. To develop and demonstrate stylistic understanding of choral repertoire spanning six centuries through diligent rehearsal and exemplary performance;
3. To develop and demonstrate refined ensemble skills that reflect the maximum effort of each member: vocally, aurally, intellectually and personally;
4. To develop and share a love of choral music and singing with one another and with our audiences;
5. To represent U of T's long tradition of excellence in performance.

Singers' responsibilities:

1. Be prepared: have your music folder and a pencil at each rehearsal.
2. Be prompt: rehearsals must start and end on time.
3. Be a leader: take responsibility for learning the notes and giving 100%.
4. Be proactive: check your calendar to avoid conflicts with choral events.
5. Be cell phone-free at rehearsals. (*See policy about use of electronic devices.*)
6. Be sure to return your music in good condition. The Performance Collection Library charge is \$20 per ITEM if you lose anything.

Attendance: Dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Absences will be handled according to the *U of T Choral Ensemble Attendance Policy* (This is posted online on the Performance Area website.) Specific information for each choir is provided on the individual ensemble syllabi as well as on calendars physically posted on the board across from Room 107 in the Edward Johnson Building.

Evaluation criteria: Although each conductor will determine exact evaluation measures for his/her ensemble, the principles are these:

Grade breakdown is roughly 35 - 40 points for attendance and engaged participation; 45 - 50 points for knowledge of music; and 10 - 15 points for other assignments.

Choir managers will keep attendance records; be sure you check with them daily to be sure you are marked present. Unexcused absences will affect grades. (*See U of T Choral Ensemble Attendance Policy.*)

Knowledge of music is evident by the way you sing in small groups or quartets for prepared note checks, and also by observation of the conductors and graduate assistants. Score marking, as requested by conductors, is important to your knowledge.

Other assignments will include such measures as written concert evaluations (of yours or others' performances), self-evaluations of note checks (rubrics will be provided), and assignments related to the specific music (e.g. answering written questions about text or performance style). Each conductor will clarify assignments for their ensembles.

Note: See the Performance Area website for the ensemble grading rubric used at U of T.

Performance Notice Boards:

There are notice boards located outside Room 107 on the east and west walls. It is the responsibility of each student to check these boards regularly for information. If you overlook a message and miss a rehearsal, you will lose credit for that day. The west wall message board is where you will find schedules, seating assignments and rehearsal times for choirs. The east wall message board contains master class information, recital/jury schedules and information, and messages to individual students.

You must check e-mail for weekly rehearsal plans as you are expected to prepare for each class. These come from the managers or conductors and contain important reminders and information.

Concert Dress: (*Please see your conductors if you have issues about concert dress.*)

Women are expected to wear floor-length black skirts or dresses with close-toed shoes and black hosiery. Tops should be black, have tasteful necklines, and have at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. Hair should be worn off the face (without coloured bows or ribbons) and jewelry should be simple, without dangling earrings. *Bare legs, flesh-tone hose, open-toe shoes or sandals, clunky boots, and black dress pants are not acceptable.* Covering tattoos is preferable if possible. The goal is to be as non-distracting as we can.

Men wear black tuxedos, white shirts and black bow ties, black shoes and black socks. *Black jeans, casual pants, white socks or no socks, and black athletic shoes are not acceptable.* You will receive information early in the fall about places to purchase performance attire if you do not own it already.

Black folders: We use black choral folders for protecting and storing music, both in rehearsal and in performance. Regulation folders are available for purchase at Remeny Music Store on Bloor Street West, between Avenue Road and Bedford, on the north side of the street.

Rehearsals and performances are scent-free zones. This avoids discomfort for allergy sufferers.

General Information:

1. **Mark music ONLY in pencil.** All music must be returned in good condition to avoid your grades being held. Lost music charge is \$20 per item. Choir managers will outline procedures for returning music. Rental music that is returned late incurs a monthly fee. Sign out music in the Performance Library, Room E016.
2. **Academic Integrity** is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community that honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently. See Section B of the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf> There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values they protect.
3. **Accessibility Needs:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.
4. **Use of Electronic Devices:** Cell phones, tablets and laptop computers distract peers and instructors; they are not to be used during rehearsals. Therefore, there is to be NO TEXTING or electronic social networking during rehearsal. Phones may be used only during formal breaks in rehearsals. Students who fail to comply with this expectation risk having the offending behavior being reported to the Registrar.