

Ball State Concert Choir – MUSC 352-1/550-1B Syllabus, Spring 2026

Conductor:
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Graduate Assistant:
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Accompanist: Stacey Edwards

Office hours: MWF 2:00-3:00, or by appointment
Choral Library hours: posted outside MI 128

Rehearsals: M 3:00-3:50 pm MI 104 Sursa Hall or MI 163 Hahn Hall
W/F 3:00-3:50 pm MI 163 Hahn Hall
T/R 3:30-4:20 pm meeting as Cardinal Chorus and Vox Anima
**Course requirements for Vox Anima and Cardinal Chorus are contained
In separate documents. Concert Choir grades reflect participation in both
the mixed-voice and single-voiced ensembles.

Required Dress Rehearsals & Performances:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Winter Concert</u>			
February 20	Dress Rehearsal	3:00-7:00pm	Sursa Hall
February 21	Concert	7:30pm	Sursa Hall
<u>Cardinal Chorus Winter Concert</u>			
March 14	Dress Rehearsal	10:30am-12:00pm	Sursa Hall
March 15	Concert	3:00pm	Sursa Hall
<u>Cardinal Chorus on Doctoral Lecture Recital</u>			
March 17	Concert	4:30 call; 5:30 concert	Sursa Hall
<u>Vox Anima Women of Song Concert</u>			
March 23	Dress Rehearsal	7:00-9:30pm	Sursa Hall
March 24	Concert	7:30pm	Sursa Hall
<u>Spring Concert</u>			
April 24	Dress Rehearsal	3:00-6:00pm	Sursa Hall
April 25	Dress Rehearsal	9:00am-12:00pm	Sursa Hall
	Concert	7:30pm	Sursa Hall

****Specific call times for all dress rehearsals and performances will be announced.**

Course Description

The Concert Choir is a select mixed-voice ensemble open to students of all disciplines by audition. Over the course of several semesters of participation, members will perform accompanied and unaccompanied music representing a broad spectrum of history and cultures.

Ensemble Objectives

In preparation for performance, students will receive instruction allowing them to advance music literacy skills, build vocal strength, accuracy, and flexibility, and connect their understanding of choral music to other disciplines and the greater context of history. Over the course of this semester, students should progress toward excellence in music performance, including performance-level mastery of assigned repertoire and comprehension of the meaning and context for assigned repertoire. Students with questions or concerns about course design, content such as repertoire, or performance expectations are encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Membership Requirements

Membership in the choral ensembles is an agreement to participate fully in all activities of the choir. Concert Choir membership is assumed to be a full-year commitment, except in cases of student teaching or graduation. Concert Choir fulfills the School of Music Designated Ensemble requirement through singing in both the mixed-voice (MWF) and voicing-specific (TR) formats. Exceptions to this policy are rare and will be considered on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Expectations and Grading Policy

Attendance and assignment grades are calculated **cumulatively** across both Concert Choir **and** Cardinal Chorus/Vox Anima activities.

Ensemble members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances during the semester. While a singer may be able to learn one's notes independently, neither the experience of developing the ensemble sound and artistry nor that of live performance can be made-up outside of class. Please record the schedule of events in your personal calendar. Preexisting conflicts with rehearsals or concert dates must be submitted in writing to the conductor *no later than Friday of the first full week of classes*. The nature and frequency of these conflicts will be evaluated to determine participation in the ensemble. Arrive for rehearsal with all provided scores and a pencil. *Please do not leave a rehearsal in progress unless it is a true emergency*. Attend to personal needs before and after class. A consistent lack of musical preparation or participation is not acceptable and will result in a diminished grade.

Absences are considered unexcused with the following exceptions: 1) personal illness with medical excuse; 2) death or emergency in the immediate family; 3) University-approved activity with a Travel Notice. All absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the instructor. Documentation must be presented within one week of the absence.

Students absent from a rehearsal for any reason are responsible for material covered in class and should seek updates from classmates on what was missed. Personal responsibility and communication are key to maintaining a good standing in this ensemble. This includes contacting the instructor and GA about absences. It is not the instructor's or GA's job to seek you out. "Ghosting" the course is an unproductive and unacceptable way of dealing with problems.

Rehearsal Attendance counts for 80% of the final grade, calculated according to the following scale:

1 absence = 98 2 absences = 96 3 absences = 94 4 absences = 92 5 absences = 90
6 absences = 88 7 absences = 85 8 absences = 80 9 absences = 70 10 absences = 60
11+ absences = F

Each tardy equals ½ absence. For students using a substitution for T/R rehearsals, attendance credit correlates to time in rehearsal (e.g., 2-hr rehearsal = 2 attendance events).

Out-of-Class Assignments, both singing and non-singing, will be designed to increase mastery and understanding of semester repertoire. These assignments count for 20% of the final grade.

Final Grading Scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69 F=less than 60

+/- grades may be given for final percentages within 1% of the margin between letter grades

Unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal will result in a loss of two (2) letter grades. (15% penalty)

Unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade.

The conductor reserves the right to prohibit anyone who misses a dress rehearsal from performing. Excessive absences over the course of the semester may result in dismissal from the ensemble at any time. Students participating for zero credit are expected to meet all attendance requirements.

No texting, phone calls, or any use of social media during rehearsal. Violations will result in loss of credit for the day.

Sick Bay policy: To encourage good vocal health habits, students who request specific permission not to sing a rehearsal due to health concerns or another substantial vocal commitment will be permitted to sit out on a limited basis. Use of this privilege will be monitored, with excessive use being cause for concern. Students will complete the Sick Bay Form to earn attendance credit for the day.

Musical Scores, Concert Attire, and Other Requirements

Each singer will be issued scores from the BSU choral library at the beginning of the semester and must return all scores by the final day of classes for the semester. Replacement fees will be assessed for lost scores. Some scores may be provided as a PDF via Canvas. When instructed, students are to print copies for themselves or utilize a tablet/iPad. Singers may **not** read scores from a cell phone in rehearsal or performance. Singers must provide a black folder for performances.

Each choir member is responsible for providing one's own concert attire.

Concert Choir's performance attire is an all-black outfit of the student's choosing, consisting of four elements: black top, black bottom, black dress shoes, black dress jacket/suit coat. See the Concert Attire document posted on Canvas for more details.

All students must wear black, closed-toe dress shoes. Heels no taller than that of a standard character shoe. Small, stud-type earrings are permitted. No hoop or dangling earrings, necklaces, or colored headbands. Cologne, perfume, or scented lotions are not allowed in performance – deodorant, yes!!

Students will be asked to present their attire for approval by a specified date, in advance of the first performance, and ensemble directors retain the right to redirect according to the guidelines. Questions about performance attire should be brought to the conductor well before the performance season.

Technology Requirements: Audio recording equipment of modest quality will be needed to create and submit part-check assignments. Contact the instructor during the first week of the semester if this presents a barrier to your participation.

Communication: Ball State University considers your **bsu.edu** e-mail account an official mode of communication. Check it often. Please enable notifications for Canvas announcements. You are responsible for all information contained in this syllabus, posted on Canvas, or sent via BSU e-mail.

Subject to Change: This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances – either those that affect an individual student (e.g. long-term illness, quarantine, etc.) or the entire class (e.g. campus closure, alterations to daily schedule, etc.). Pay attention to in-class announcements, e-mails, and Canvas postings for the most current information.

Policy Statements

University Statement

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

Disability Statement

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's [Disability Services Office](#) coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#), the resources on Ball State's [Freedom of Expression webpage](#), and [Ball State's Beneficence Pledge](#).