

**Request for Graduate Course Addition**

1. Prepare one paper copy with all signatures and supporting material and forward to the Graduate Council Chair.
2. E-mail one identical PDF copy to the Graduate Council Chair. If attachments included, please merge into a single file.
3. **The Graduate Council cannot process this application until it has received both the PDF copy and the signed hard copy.**

College: Arts & Media      Dept/Division: Music      Alpha Designator/Number: MUS 507       Graded     CR/NC

Contact Person: Michael Stroehler, Richard Kravchak

Phone: x63109; x62710

**NEW COURSE DATA:**

New Course Title: Marshall University Chamber Choir

Alpha Designator/Number: M U S 5 0 7

Title Abbreviation: C h a m b e r C h o i r

(Limit of 25 characters and spaces)

Course Catalog Description: (Limit of 30 words) Advanced, auditioned choral ensemble open to all university students. Repertoire performed locally and on tour includes great chamber literature of the past five centuries. Three rehearsals per week. (PR: Audition with Director)

Co-requisite(s): \_\_\_\_\_ First Term to be Offered: Fall 2015

Prerequisite(s): Audition with Director \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Hours: 1

Course(s) being deleted in place of this addition (*must submit course deletion form*): MUS 520: Principal Ensemble

Signatures: if disapproved at any level, do not sign. Return to previous signer with recommendation attached.

Dept. Chair/Division Head _____	Date _____
Registrar _____	Date _____
College Curriculum Chair _____	Date _____
Graduate Council Chair _____	Date _____

## Request for Graduate Course Addition - Page 2

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College: Arts & Media

Department/Division: Music

Alpha Designator/Number: MUS 507

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Provide complete information regarding the new course addition for each topic listed below. Before routing this form, a complete syllabus also must be attached addressing the items listed on the first page of this form.

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1. FACULTY: Identify by name the faculty in your department/division who may teach this course.

David Castleberry

2. DUPLICATION: If a question of possible duplication occurs, attach a copy of the correspondence sent to the appropriate department(s) describing the proposal. Enter "**Not Applicable**" if not applicable.

Not Applicable.

3. REQUIRED COURSE: If this course will be required by another department(s), identify it/them by name. Enter "**Not Applicable**" if not applicable.

Not Applicable.

4. AGREEMENTS: If there are any agreements required to provide clinical experiences, attach the details and the signed agreement. Enter "**Not Applicable**" if not applicable.

Not Applicable.

5. ADDITIONAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS: If your department requires additional faculty, equipment, or specialized materials to teach this course, attach an estimate of the time and money required to secure these items. (Note: Approval of this form does not imply approval for additional resources.) Enter "**Not Applicable**" if not applicable.

Not Applicable.

6. COURSE OBJECTIVES: (May be submitted as a separate document)

Rehearsal and performance experience in a smaller choral ensemble. Exposure to a variety of choral literature.

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7. COURSE OUTLINE (May be submitted as a separate document)

Three (3) rehearsals per week; 1-3 performances per semester. May include off-campus performances.

8. SAMPLE TEXT(S) WITH AUTHOR(S) AND PUBLICATION DATES (May be submitted as a separate document)

Not applicable. Musical repertoire chosen by the director.

9. EXAMPLE OF INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS (Lecture, lab, internship)

Lab setting

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### 10. EXAMPLE EVALUATION METHODS (CHAPTER, MIDTERM, FINAL, PROJECTS, ETC.)

Attendance; Participation and level of preparation for rehearsals and performances.

### 11. ADDITIONAL GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS IF LISTED AS AN UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE COURSE

Graduate students will be expected to perform at a level equivalent to or above Level 6 on the MU Applied Music Levels system (see attached).

### 12. PROVIDE COMPLETE BIBLIOGRAPHY (May be submitted as a separate document)

Not applicable.

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Please insert in the text box below your course summary information for the Graduate Council agenda. Please enter the information exactly in this way (including headings):

Department:  
Course Number and Title:  
Catalog Description:  
Prerequisites:  
First Term Offered:  
Credit Hours:

Department: Music  
Course Number and Title: MUS 507 Marshall University Chamber Choir  
Catalog Description: Advanced, auditioned choral ensemble open to all university students. Repertoire performed locally and on tour includes great chamber literature of the past five centuries. Three rehearsals per week. (PR: Audition with Director)  
Prerequisites: Audition with Director  
First Term Offered: Fall 2015  
Credit Hours: 1

Applied Music Level System: To maintain consistency throughout the applied music program, the Department of Music adheres to a system of levels that describe the relative performing abilities across the various curricula and according to the number of years of study. Students must refer to the syllabi of studio teachers to determine the specific studies and repertoire required at each level.

Level	Elective	Music Minor	BA Music Ed	BFA	MA
<b>1</b>	Standard entry level	Minimum acceptance			
<b>2</b>	Third year of study	Standard entry level	Probationary entry		
<b>3</b>		Second year of study	Standard entry level	Probationary entry level	
<b>4</b>			Second year of study	Standard entry level	
<b>5</b>			Upper division study (based upon successful completion of sophomore hearing)	Second year of study	
<b>6</b>			Completion of third year of study. Permission to schedule Senior Recital hearing.	Upper division study (based on successful completion of sophomore hearing)	
<b>7</b>			Graduation (based upon successful completion of Senior Recital)	Completion of third year of study (based upon successful completion of Junior Recital)	
<b>8</b>				Graduation (based upon successful completion of	Standard entry for Performance major
<b>9</b>				Honors undergraduate - Performance	Second year of study for Performance major
<b>10</b>					Recital and graduation for MA Performance major (based upon successful completion of graduate recital)

## MARSHALL UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR FALL 2015

MUS 207/407/507 Chamber Choir (1 cr.)

Dr. David Castleberry, Director

Marshall University

[castlebe@marshall.edu](mailto:castlebe@marshall.edu) 696-2963, Smith Hall #164

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. by appointment

Class meets in Smith Music Hall #150, MWF 2:00 – 3:20 p.m.

### Course Description

Advanced, auditioned choral ensemble open to all university students. Repertoire performed locally and on tour includes great chamber literature of the past five centuries. Three rehearsals per week. (Prerequisite: Audition with Director)

The Marshall University Chamber Choir is an outstanding, select choral ensemble which performs some of the most distinguished choral literature from the past five centuries. The ensemble has performed for conferences of MENC, ACDA, and AGO, and has presented performance tours to Virginia, the Washington, DC area, Cincinnati, and Charleston, South Carolina's Piccolo Spoleto Festival. The Chamber Choir has been featured in an hour-long WPBY-PBS program, "Choral Fusion," and is the recipient of numerous broadcast awards. The choir has recorded a two-CD set, "This is the morne," and a disc that features live performances from our highly successful 2012 concert tour to France.

The Chamber Choir is an auditioned ensemble whose membership includes students from across the entire Marshall University campus. Although many members pursue degrees in music performance or music education, students from other disciplines are active in this and other performing organizations at Marshall University.

### Course Objectives

The purpose of the Chamber Choir is to provide students with rigorous, rewarding choral experiences that will expand their understanding of choral literature and the techniques needed to become better musicians, teachers, and recipients of the many benefits available through choral music. Students who participate in this ensemble will become better vocalists and better musicians, and will develop a deeper understanding of the craft employed in the fashioning of outstanding choral music-making. Among the subject areas covered are aspects of music history, styles, techniques, theory, and vocal/choral pedagogy, as well as practice in and mastery of diction in multiple languages. The MU Chamber Choir practices and performs some of the finest choral literature available at a level commensurate with that of the finest undergraduate ensembles anywhere. The ensemble has brought considerable credit to the program, the college, and the university. To this end, expectations of its members are high. These must be understood from the outset by all participants. Students unwilling or unable to accept these requirements should not participate. Responsibilities include:

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and be on time. In the case of university-excused absences or emergencies, students should make every effort to contact the director in a timely fashion regarding their absence, preferably in advance of rehearsal. Because an electronic message can be left for the instructor at any time, there are few excuses imaginable for failing to provide notification or explanation of absence. Each unexcused absence may result in the lowering of the course grade by one letter per absence. **More than three unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the choir.**

(\*This policy is instituted in fairness to the majority of students who, without prompting, attend all rehearsals and participate fully in the efforts of the choir. The policy is instituted also out of regard for students unable to gain admittance to the Chamber Choir, due to the selective nature of the ensemble. Participation in Chamber Choir is an honor; not a right.)

## Participation

While regular attendance is extremely important to the choir's success, it is just as important that students contribute maximal effort during rehearsals. The learning that enables a predominantly undergraduate ensemble to perform at a professional level is often challenging and time-consuming, and occasionally taxes the patience of even the most enthusiastic musicians. The rewards of this effort, though, are greater, and include mastery of the skills needed to become outstanding vocalists or teachers of vocal or choral music. Enthusiasm for the work of the ensemble is not only helpful – it is essential.

Participation will be evaluated according to:

- timely learning of music studied and performed
- a high level of concentration and energy during rehearsals and performances
- skill development applicable to the repertoire studied and performed
- a pro-active, positive approach to ensemble membership
- mutual support of fellow singers

Students who do not pursue these goals to the best of their abilities will be advised by the director as to areas needing remediation. Failure to address these areas promptly will result in either: a) lowering of the final grade, or b) dismissal from the ensemble.

## Results

Participants will:

- \* Gain a fuller understanding of the musical and technical demands of the music performed.
- \* Draw upon and synthesize these materials together with studies in music history, theory, styles, and vocal/choral pedagogy.
- \* Develop increased security in the application of techniques learned so that they can apply them to other music, whether in a choral setting, individual applied studies, or other music studies.
- \* Demonstrate these results in successful concert performances.

## Grading

Grades are determined according to the criteria outlined above and are determined by the level of participation and accomplishment achieved by each singer. There is an expectation that all students will achieve excellence in this ensemble, as determined through the audition process and active, committed participation in rehearsals and concerts. Continued participation in Chamber Choir depends upon fulfillment of these expectations.

A= outstanding effort, applied consistently throughout the semester.

B= good effort throughout the semester.

C= fair or inconsistent effort during the semester.

D= inconsistent effort, usually marked by absence or lateness to rehearsals.

F= failure to meet the level of effort needed to contribute positively to performances by the ensemble.

To reiterate the importance of regular attendance at all rehearsals: **each unexcused absence may result in the lowering of the course grade by one letter per absence. More than three unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the choir.**

## Cell Phones

Cell phones may not be used and text messaging is NOT ALLOWED during class. Your phone may be left on for emergencies, but should be kept in "silent" mode.

## Vocal Responsibility:

Good vocal health is one of the most basic and important aspects of the successful singer's life. This, of course, includes the wise use of the voice when singing or speaking. But it also includes rest, care of general physical health, and personal habits that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being. These are encouraged regularly by vocal teachers at Marshall University. Perhaps more than any other musical performers, singers manifest directly in their performance the results of the care they give to their instruments.

Almost everyone gets sick at one time or another. This is natural. Chronic problems with the voice that prevent consistent rehearsal and vocal process, however, are a matter for serious concern. Such problems will end a professional singer's career quickly, regardless of their cause. A single cancellation may be forgiven by an opera or theatre company. But repeated cancellations will lead quickly to dismissal and a reputation of unreliability being spread about a singer.

It is unrealistic to expect singers to suddenly acquire good habits when they become professionals. Rather, good habits begin when one is a student. Singers must be mindful that progress is judged during a semester and from year to year by the seriousness of purpose they bring to the care and concern they show for vocal health.

#### University-Wide Policies

You may access university-wide policies by following this link:  
<http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/>

#### Performances

Performances by the Chamber Choir are tantamount to exams. They are the result of the rehearsal process and provide musical rewards and personal satisfaction in bringing significant projects to completion. Unlike exams for many other courses, however, there is no way to "make up" a missed concert. Missing a performance without a valid excuse is the most serious of all absences and will result in failure of the course. (See university policy for excused absences.) If students anticipate a conflict with a concert date or dress rehearsal date, they should consult the director at the very earliest opportunity.

#### Concert Attire

For women, concert dresses ordered from Southeastern Apparel. See director for information. For men, black tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, black dress shoes.

#### Rehearsal and Concert Schedule:

The Chamber Choir rehearses each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 2:00 to 3:20 p.m. in SMH #150. Students will be notified in advance of any changes of schedule, including extra rehearsals and performances.

#### **Concert Dates and commitments:**

**October 16: Jay Leno Performance at Keith Albee Theatre, times TBA**

**October 31: MU Fall Choral Festival, all day/evening**

**November 1: MU Fall Choral Festival, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**November 9: Chamber Choir Fall Concert, Sunday at 3 p.m. Call time is 2 p.m.**

**December 1: Messiah Dress Rehearsal, 6 p.m.**

**December 4: Messiah Performance I, 7:30 p.m. concert**

**December 7: Messiah Performance II, 3 p.m. concert**

**\*Other dates may be added. Every effort will be made to give advance notice of additional commitments.**