EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 1053 3.0 SECTION A
JAZZ CHOIR I
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/01/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Performs a repertoire grounded in the body of standard songs which have become established in the jazz tradition. Instruction and training in jazz choral technique is provided. Prerequisite: Open to qualified non-majors/minors by permission.
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INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams, Mimmie</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adamsm@yorku.ca">adamsm@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

PRE-REQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE
Open to all music majors, and to qualified non-majors/minors by permission. All students require a placement audition. Lower level is prerequisite for upper level registration.

INSTRUCTOR
Mim Adams, adamsm@yorku.ca, 647-200-4971

COACH
TBA

TIME & LOCATION
T R 14:30-16:00, ACE 223 (Breakout Room ACE 231)

COURSE WEBPAGE
mimadams.com/jazzchoir
The website includes general choir information, as well as music which all choir members must listen to. No grades will be posted on the site.

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
The class focus is on rehearsing repertoire for performance. Students learn and practice ensemble singing techniques using the standard body of jazz repertoire in various jazz styles as well as improvised music.
LEARNING OUTCOMES WITH EXAMPLES
Students will develop and improve the skills required to sing in the jazz choral tradition. Specifically:

- the sounds of harmonic structures in the jazz idiom, and harmonic goals within each piece
- techniques for rhythmic feel in various jazz styles
- melodic and lyrical expression within the jazz genre
- vocal control and dexterity
- general music skills that assist with learning repertoire

All will be studied using repertoire that is rehearsed in-class and prepared for performance at the end of each semester. Students will work on pieces with the entire ensemble and in smaller groups, and will perform accompanied by a rhythm section.

GRADED ASSESSMENT
The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

In-class work 60% (30% each semester)
Breakdown:
Attendance/punctuality/responsibility 20%
Preparation, participation and improvement of skills 15%
Singing tests 15%
Small groups 10%

Sound check and concert 40% (20% each semester)
Breakdown:
Punctuality/responsibility 10%
Memorization and presentation 10%
Skillful artistic performance 20%

Attendance and punctuality is mandatory at all times. It is the student's responsibility to provide advance notice to the course director via email if lateness/absence is unavoidable. Documented proof may be required.

Students are expected to review and practice all music and techniques as homework, and listen to recordings posted on the website. In class, students must arrive prepared, demonstrate active participation in all exercises, and visible improvement of learning parts and executing new skills.

Singing tests (solo/pairs) will involve excerpts of choir repertoire and exercises. Students will be graded on accurate pitch, rhythm, tone, diction, and possibly other items indicated in advance of the test.

Small group performances will take place in-class. Pieces will be introduced in class, but most of the practice will be homework.

Lateness penalty: Singing tests and small groups performed later than the due date will be penalized 10% per class. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc. may be entertained by the course director and will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter).
At sound checks and concerts, punctuality, professionalism and proper attire is expected, all music is to be confidently memorized, and the performance should demonstrate the technical and artistic skills learned in rehearsals.

Missed performances: Students with an unavoidable reason for missing a performance, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g. doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the course instructor. Students will be required to submit a written assignment on a topic related to jazz choir and/or jazz choir singing. Assignments must be emailed to the course director and are due three days after the concert date. The grade given for this assignment will replace the “sound check and concert” component for that semester. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the faculty.

PERFORMANCE DATES
Thursday November 23, York University Jazz Festival.
Exact times TBA, plan for 4:30-7:30pm.
Tribute Communities Recital Hall, free admission

Tuesday March 6, In-Class Small Groups Performance

Thursday March 22, York University Jazz Festival
Exact times TBA, plan for 4:30-7:30pm.
Tribute Communities Recital Hall, free admission

TEST DATES
Thursday October 5 - pairs
Thursday October 19 - solos
Thursday February 8 - solos

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University