

Welcome to all of you as new CU-Mansfield students!

I am aware that you are interested in singing in one of the choirs for the coming year so I am sending some important information. We have two major choral ensembles: Festival Chorus and Concert Choir. You can read about them and the smaller choirs in the audition notes below. The excerpts are available at <https://music.mansfield.edu/student-resources.cfm>.

So that you can plan your year and gather excitement to sing, I have included some of the repertoire for the Fall Semester and the Choral Calendar. The SSAA (Grace Notes) and TTBB (Steadman Singers) are all members of the Festival Chorus and Concert Choir, and they join together on Thursday nights for one hour each to rehearse. Everyone enjoys these groups, which only meet in the Fall semester.

All voice majors are required to sing a placement audition. So, do plan to sign up for a time on my door at Butler 105 according to which group you plan to join: Festival Chorus or Concert Choir. See the directions in the attachment.

I look forward to working with you all!

TIME PIECES (Choral Collage – Oct. 20)

Festival Chorus

Old time religion (Hogan)
Long time ago (Copland)

Concert Choir

Clocks (Chatman)
Every time I feel the Spirit (Dawson)
Time Flies (Berger)

Grace Notes

No Time (Brumfield)
Sentimental Journey (Brown)

Steadman Singers

Ain't got time to die (Purifoy)
Hard times come again no more (Parker)

Chamber Singers

Time after time (Sullivan)

As time goes by (Carubia)

CALENDAR OF CHORAL EVENTS Fall 2024

Monday, August 26	Classes begin
Sept. 15	Concert Choir Retreat
Fri. & Sun., Oct 4 & 6	PRISM Concerts
Sun., Oct. 20, 2:30 pm	Choral Collage, all MU choirs in concert
Friday, Oct. 25, 4:00 pm	Tenor/Bass Choral Festival Concert
Oct. 27, 7 pm	Chamber Singers Concert
Nov. 23-28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 6, 7:00 pm	Dress rehearsal: Holiday Choral Concert
Dec. 7, 7:30 pm	Holiday Choral Concert
Dec. 8, 2:30 pm	Holiday Choral Concert

CHORAL PLACEMENT AUDITIONS - FALL 2024

The choral program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to continue their choral music participation during their college years. Both music majors and non-music majors are invited to participate in any of the groups.

To be held Saturday & Sunday, August 24 & 25 in Butler 105. When you arrive on campus, please sign up for a time on the door of Butler 105. All voice majors must sing placement auditions and be in a large ensemble - either Festival Chorus or Concert Choir.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Concert Choir MUEN-304 (meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday from Noon to 12:50 pm, and Thursdays 7-8 pm for SSAA & 8-9 pm for TTBB)

A select mixed choir of about 50 voices. Rehearses four hours a week on choral literature spanning five centuries and in a variety of languages. Joins with other choruses for festival concerts and takes an annual tour. The group has performed at state, regional, and national conventions for more than twenty consecutive years, toured Europe in May of 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017 & 2022 and produced twenty compact discs. Audition required.

Please be prepared to sing a brief solo of your choice that displays your best tone quality. You will also be asked to vocalize for range, sing tonal memory patterns, sight-read, and sing the two choral excerpts located on the Music Department website or attached to this handout. Choose the melodic line according to your voice part and sing with the text. Work for musical accuracy and precision.

Festival Chorus MUEN 301 (meets Tues. 7-9 pm and Thurs. 7-8 pm for SSAA & 8-9 pm for TTBB)

A large mixed chorus open to all university students as well as community singers. Rehearses three hours a week and performs a variety of choral repertoire including major choral works. Has performed Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *B Minor Mass*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Brahms's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation*, Honegger's *King David*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Jenkins' *The Armed Man*, Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*, Mozart's *Requiem & C Minor Mass*, Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and Whitbourn's *Annelies*. Also joins with the Concert Choir to form separate SSAA and TTBB choruses. Students must sing for voice placement into the soprano, alto, tenor, or bass sections.

Please be prepared to sing a brief solo of your choice or "My country 'tis of thee". You will also be asked to vocalize for range and match pitches.

Chamber Singers MUEN 304 (meets two days: Mon., Wed., or Fri. 2:00-2:50 pm)

A highly select ensemble of 12-16 singers, which specializes in music for the vocal chamber ensemble. Rehearses two hours a week. There are also occasional off-campus performances. Audition required. **Same audition as Concert Choir. Call-backs will include some assigned madrigal and vocal jazz music.**

THERE WILL BE A FORM TO FILL OUT BEFORE YOU AUDITION FOR THE CHORAL ENSEMBLES in Butler 105. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM BEFORE YOUR AUDITION TIME.

Auditions are five-minutes long for Festival Chorus, and up to 10-minutes for the Concert Choir. When you come to Butler 105, please sign up for two slots if you are auditioning for Concert Choir and for one slot if you are selecting placement into the Festival Chorus.

Those auditioning for Concert Choir must prepare the two choral examples found on the Music Department website under *Vocal*.

Summary:

The choral program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to continue their choral music participation during their college years. Both music majors and non-music majors are invited to participate in any of the groups. Academic credit is available for Festival Chorus (MUEN 301), Concert Choir (MUEN 300), and Chamber Singers (MUEN 304). Visit the Music Department Website and click Ensembles for more information. Placement auditions will be held Saturday & Sunday, August 24 & 25, in Butler 105. Festival Chorus is open to all students through voice placement into the soprano, alto, tenor, or bass sections. Membership in the Concert Choir requires a more rigorous audition. Information and a sign-up sheet are available on the door of Butler 105. Incoming freshmen are encouraged to find a time on Saturday. Please write or call Dr. Peggy Dettwiler if you have questions (570-662-4721 or email pdettwil@commonwealthu.edu).