

Vox Aquilae

UNT Early Music

Fall 2025 Syllabus

MUEN 4530-002

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Allen Hightower, Conductor
Eric Martinez, Conducting Associate

Allen.Hightower@unt.edu (936) 714-1220
EricMartinez9@my.unt.edu (407) 600-0060

Weekly Vox Aquilae Rehearsals

Monday, Wednesday 2:00PM-2:50PM in Voertman Hall
Friday, 2:00PM-2:50PM in Choir Room

Concert 1: The Bach Circle

- Tuesday September 23 – 4:15-5:00PM in 253 Vox Rehearsal with BO
- Tuesday, September 30 – 4:15-5:00PM in 253 Vox Rehearsal with BO
- Thursday, October 2 – 4:15-5:15PM in 253 Vox Rehearsal with BO
- **Friday, October 3 – 6:00-10:00PM Dress Rehearsal in Voertman**
- **Saturday, October 4 – 8:00PM CONCERT in Voertman**

Concert 2: Classical Treasures

- Tuesday, November 11 – 4:15-5:00PM in 253 Vox Rehearsal with BO
- Thursday, November 13 – 4:15-5:00PM in 253 Soloists with BO
- Tuesday, November 18 – 4:15-5:00PM in 253 Vox Rehearsal with BO
- **Thursday, November 20 – 6:00-10:00PM Dress Rehearsal in Voertman**
- **Friday, November 21 – 8:00PM CONCERT in Voertman**

Course Purpose:

This course partially fulfills the ensemble requirement for degree programs within the College of Music. Through the preparation of excellent Early Music choral literature, the Vox Aquilae experience is designed to deepen student's musical understanding, develop ensemble skills, and prepare them for lives as excellent musicians and as productive citizens. The singers and the conductor share equally in the responsibility of preparing for each rehearsal. Through intentional preparation and with a positive sense of expectation, the goals for this choral organization can be accomplished.

Member Preparation:

In order to assure a positive musical experience for everyone involved, it is required that each member dedicate outside preparation time to the assigned material. Dr. Hightower will endeavor to assign specific portions of the repertoire to be prepared for each rehearsal, with the expectation that each singer will arrive with the assignment solidly prepared.

Standard Uniform:

Concert black is the uniform for Vox Aquilae. You may wear a coat if you wish, but it is not required. Please choose attire that is ensemble-oriented. The attire should be neatly pressed and tastefully hemmed for all performances.

Hair: Long hair should be neatly pulled back away from the face. Hair color should be among those colors that appear in nature. Colors such as pink and purple do not enhance the uniformity of the ensemble's appearance.

Materials:

- You will provide your own iPad or black rehearsal folder for your music.
- Music will be provided as a hard copy and shared electronically and should be brought to all rehearsals.
- Have a pencil at each rehearsal to mark all musical information.

Course Content:

Vox Aquilae is a laboratory course for the development of advanced ensemble skills for the vocalists. The focus will be upon music of the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical eras of music.

Attendance and Grading Policy:

- There is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences. Your final grade is not lowered for the first 2 absences. For each subsequent absence, your semester grade is reduced by a full letter grade. Two tardies are considered 1 absence.
- Dr. Hightower begins rehearsal at exactly 2:00 p.m. If you enter after he has begun, you are considered tardy to rehearsal. Eric Martinez as teaching assistant will carefully record attendance. Please be in your place promptly at 2:00 pm.
- As pre-professional musician, communication is the key. Please sure that if you have conflicts such as an audition, you communicate this information to Dr. Hightower and Eric prior to the anticipated absence. There should never be a time in which Dr. Hightower and Eric are unaware of where you are at the start of a rehearsal.
- Throughout the semester there are Tuesday/Thursday rehearsals with Baroque Orchestra during their rehearsal time: T/TH 4:15-6:00 pm. These times and dates are included in this document. If these rehearsals conflict with other commitments, please proactive and initiate appropriate dialogue with the impacted persons.
- Because we continue to live and move and have our being in a post-pandemic world, there will be unique considerations given to covid-19 illnesses. You should not attend a rehearsal or other choir obligation if doing so violates the prescribed protocols of the University of North Texas.
- Absences for covid-19 will not count against you if you communicate with us and present appropriate documentation of your diagnosis. If a student is absent 4 or more times before a performance or has not passed the performance examination for that concert, the student will not be afforded the privilege to perform in the concert, and those points will be deducted from the final grade.
- If you sense that you are not feeling well, it is best for you not to attend the rehearsal. At your first convenience, please reach out to Eric Martinez. His contact information is listed above.
- **Cell phones** should not be out during the scheduled rehearsal period. If a member is found to be using a mobile device during rehearsal, they may be asked to leave the rehearsal and will lose credit for that day's rehearsal. This can result in the lowering of the final grade by one complete letter.
- **iPads in Rehearsal:** For singers utilizing a device to read their music, it is understood that you will only have your music on the screen during our rehearsal. Using the device anything other than our rehearsal process is inappropriate. Do not monitor email or texts during rehearsal.
- **Missing a Dress Rehearsal:** Missing a dress rehearsal will negatively impact your grade by a full letter grade.
- **Missing a Performance:** Missing a performance can result in failure for the course for the semester.

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](#). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar, Fall 2025

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2025

See above

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

Link: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

