

**University of North Texas**  
**A Cappella Choir**  
**MULB 1801-500 and 5171-501**  
**Spring Semester, 2017**

**Allen Hightower, Director of Choral Studies**

[Allen.Hightower@unt.edu](mailto:Allen.Hightower@unt.edu)

Music Building, Room 218

940-369-8389 (Office)

936-714-1220 (Mobile)

Office Hours:

Monday: 10:30-12:00, 1:00-1:45 p.m.

Thursday: 1:00-1:45

Or by appointment

**Gideon Burrows, AC Assistant Conductor and Choral Librarian**

[GideonBurrows@myunt.edu](mailto:GideonBurrows@myunt.edu)

Music Building, Choral Studies Office

801-787-0860 (Mobile)

**Rehearsal Times and Locations:**

**Monday-Wednesday: 2:00-3:30 p.m.**

**Choir Room or Voertman Recital Hall**

**Thursday: 2:00-2:50 p.m.**

**Choir Room or Voertman Recital Hall**

The location of each rehearsal will be confirmed via email four hours prior to the start of the rehearsal. The location will also be announced at the end of the previous rehearsal.

**Uniform:**

**Men:** Black tuxedo pants, black jacket, black cummerbund, black studs, black cufflinks, and black bow tie. White wing-tip, pleated shirt. Black socks. Black dress shoes.

You can purchase an entire tux for \$120.00 from Tuxedo Connect

**Women:** Black choir dress including the jacket, nude pantyhose, black shoes, white pearls.

Dress and jacket may be purchased through Stage Accents. The dress is called the Georgette Dress #8650. The jacket is called the Amadeus Jacket #8718. Pearls are provided for you.

**Personal expressions of jewelry:**

- In order to create the most uniform look within the choir, we will not wear non-uniform necklaces. We will not wear ear rings, nose rings, or jewelry displayed through other piercings. Rings should be limited to engagement or wedding rings.

**Hair:**

- Long hair for both men and women 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 don't enhance the uniformity of the ensemble's appearance.

**Materials:**

- A black folder with no writing or markings on the outside of the folder. No UNT symbols please.
- Pencil
- All assigned music

**Attendance and Grading Policy:**

- It is expected that choir members will be present at every scheduled rehearsal and performance.
- It is expected that choir members will be in place at least one full minute prior to the scheduled start of rehearsal with all materials in hand. This includes all music being rehearsed and a pencil.
- **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 will be asked to leave the rehearsal, and will lose credit for that day's rehearsal. This will result in the lowering of the final grade by one complete letter.
- **Excused Absences** must be arranged no less than one week prior to the rehearsal in question. An arranged Excused Absence Request Form should be submitted in writing to the Assistant Conductor, Gideon Burrows. The form will be kept in the Choral Studies Office. After the form is submitted to Mr. Burrows, a brief meeting with the choir member, Mr. Burrows, and Dr. Hightower will be scheduled. Approval or denial of the request will be explained at the meeting. An Excused Absence Request will be seriously considered and appropriately scrutinized. If the request is related to the student's professional development such as a graduate school audition, Dr. Hightower will consult the student's voice teacher and Chair of Vocal Studies for appropriate contextualization of the conflicting opportunity. It is anticipated that necessary and arranged absences will be scheduled in consultation with Dr. Hightower and with careful consideration of the A Cappella Choir's calendar. Every effort should be made to avoid missing rehearsals. A Cappella performances must not be missed.
- **Missing a Dress Rehearsal or a Performances** will likely result in a grade of F.
- **Call Times** are to be set with the expectation of members arriving on time. Please do so. If there is a legitimate reason that you may be late, it is expected that you communicate with Dr. Hightower well ahead of time.
- **Emergency Absences** should be extremely rare and beyond the control of the student. Failing to plan ahead for travel time is not an Emergency Absence, but typically lack of planning. If an illness or emergency situation arises shortly before the beginning of a rehearsal, then the student is expected to send a text to both Dr. Hightower and Mr. Burrows to notify them of their situation. Please consult the phone numbers listed at the beginning of this syllabus. When the emergency situation is over, the choir member

should then seek to bring Dr. Hightower up to date well in advance of the next rehearsal.

- **Work conflicts** are not considered to be legitimate reasons for being excused from rehearsals or performances.
- **Weddings** are generally not considered a good excuse for missing a rehearsal or a performance.
- **Each unexcused absence** from a rehearsal will result in the lowering of the final grade by a full letter grade. One unexcused absence will lower your grade to a **B**, two absences to a **C**, three absences to a **D**, and four unexcused absences will result in an **F**.
- **An unexcused absence** from a scheduled performance will result in the student losing credit for choir that semester, receiving an **F**.
- **Sitting out** in rehearsal should be extremely rare. A face to face conversation with Dr. Hightower should take place prior to the beginning of the rehearsal to ask permission to sit out of the choir. Sitting out is appropriate only if considered by a doctor to be contagious. Please present a doctor's note to Dr. Hightower to prove the diagnosed condition. If you do not have a doctor's note, but are unable to sing, you should to speak to Dr. Hightower prior to the rehearsal, and ask permission to mark during the rehearsal. You should take your place in the choir, rather than sitting out of the choir. Dr. Hightower will confirm your condition with your voice teacher following the rehearsal. It is expected that the singer will have music and pencil in hand, and will actively participate in every way other than singing.

#### **Course Content:**

The UNT A Cappella Choir is a laboratory course for the development of advanced ensemble skills for the vocalists. The student will experience significant choral repertoire, improve musicianship skills, and learn ensemble discipline in a collaborative setting. 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.

#### **Course Purpose:**

This course partially fulfills the ensemble requirement for degree programs within the College of Music.

#### **Methods of Assessing Ensemble Member's Progress:**

1. Rehearsals
2. Performances
3. Section Rehearsals
4. Individual singing demonstrations of assigned repertoire

**Grand Chorus** is part of the requirement for membership in A Cappella Choir. The rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. The first rehearsal will be January 24, 2017.

### Course Requirements:

1. A Cappella Choir members are expected to come to each rehearsal prepared to sing their part alone. This will require the singer to spend time outside the rehearsal securing the pitches and rhythms of the assigned choral repertoire.
2. A Cappella Choir rehearsals are for the express purpose of refining the music and for the development of the choir as a whole. These rehearsals are not for teaching the singers their notes.
3. The commitment to the A Cappella Choir is for the entire school year, unless arranged with Dr. Hightower prior to the choir roster being finalized. Graduation and student teaching are considered the appropriate reasons for only singing in the choir for the fall semester.

### Fall Calendar:

Sunday, January 22:	Concert with Honor Choirs 3:00 p.m. (call 2:15)	Murchison
Tuesday, January 24:	Grand Chorus Begins 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Choir Room
Thursday, February 23:	Conducting Recital 8:00 p.m. (7:30 call)	Voertman
Monday, April 3	Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal 2:00-4:00 p.m.	Murchison
Tuesday, April 4	Spring Concert 8:00 p.m. (6:30 call)	Murchison
Monday, April 10	Concert at Custer Road UMC 7:30 p.m. (6:15 call)	Plano
Monday, April 24	G. C. Dress Rehearsal 6:00-10:00 p.m. (5:30 call)	Murchison
Tuesday, April 25	G. C. Dress Rehearsal 6:00-10:00 p.m. (5:45 call)	Murchison
Wednesday, April 26	Grand Chorus/Symphony 8:00 p.m. (6:30 call)	Murchison

**Please keep all scheduled rehearsals for the remainder of the semester open for potential A Cappella Choir recording sessions during our scheduled rehearsal time. Assume that you must be available for each of those scheduled rehearsal sessions until Dr. Hightower informs the choir which rehearsals, if any, will not be used.**

### 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, 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.

LINK: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

### **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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

LINK: Student Code of Conduct - <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](http://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.

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

### **ADA 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 Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation.

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

### **Fall Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)**

<http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1228>

### **Final Exam Schedule**

<http://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

### **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 registered hours per term. 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 being doing so.

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.

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 Blackboard 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. Link: [essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html](http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html)