

SYLLABUS
MUAG 5225/4225 - ORATORIO REPERTOIRE AND PRACTICUM - Fall 2025
Location: Music 290 - Time: MWF 12:00 – 12:50 p.m.

Dr. Stephen Morscheck
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Office Hours: by appointment.

Purpose: In this course we will study the history, development, and some representative works of the vocal genre called *oratorio*. Students will become more familiar with specific works by studying and performing various vocal selections from these works in class i.e., arias, ensembles, etc.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. In the event of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to remain current with class content, assignments, singing in class, quizzes, exams etc. Please communicate with the instructor prior to being absent on a day that you are scheduled to sing in class so that adjustments can be made to the lesson plan. At the end of the semester do not schedule a jury during class time.

Vocal Rest: Past history shows that there **may be** cases where sickness, vocal fatigue, applied professor or physician ordered vocal rest will require individuals scheduled to sing in class to postpone a performance. This is understandable and will be handled on a case by case basis and the class calendar. Other forms of fulfilling class requirements may be assigned if the performance is not able to be rescheduled.

10% **Reading Assignments (1)**

30% **Exams (3)**

20% **Repertoire Resource Guide (More details to follow)**

40% **Class Performances** - Selections need not be memorized, but must be prepared to a level equal to the preparation expected for the following real world situation: Class performances, beginning with *Messiah*, will be graded. **S / LS / U**

Grading: (90 - 100 = A, 80 - 89.5 = B, 70 - 79.5 = C, 60 - 69.5 = D, 59.5 and below = F.)

Recommended Resources:

1. Handel, George Frideric, *Messiah*, Novello Handel Edition, Watkins Shaw.
2. Handel, George Frideric, *Messiah*, Oxford University Press, Clifford Bartlett, 1998.
3. Smither, Howard E., *A History of the Oratorio, Vol. 1 & 2: The Oratorio in the Baroque Era: Italy, Vienna, Paris Centuries*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1977.
4. Steinberg, Michael, *Choral Masterworks: A Listener's Guide*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
5. <https://library.unt.edu/music/>
6. [KingsJamesBible&Apochrypha](#)

Class Schedule – subject to change

Bolded dates indicate in class performances

Date	Content
8/18, 20, 22	Syllabus, Fun Quiz, Course Introduction and Historical Context, Hildegard von Bingen, Fillipo Neri, Emelio Cavalieri: <i>Rappresentazione di Anima e di Corpo</i>
8/25, 27, 29	Oratorio volgare and latino, Giacomo Carissimi (1605 - 1674) and <i>Jephthe</i> (1648) sing through
09/01 No class, 03**, 05	Labor Day **09/03 - TEST #1 , and continue with lecture. George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), <i>Messiah</i> , HWV 56 (1742)
09/08, 10, 12 15, 17, 19 22, 24, 26	<i>Messiah</i> performances
09/29, 10/01, 03 10/06, 08, 10, 13	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) <i>St. John Passion</i> , BWV 245 (1724), <i>St. Matthew Passion</i> , BWV 244 (1727) <i>Christmas Oratorio</i> , BWV 248 (1734)
10/15**, 17 10/20, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31	**10/15 – TEST #2 Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809): <i>Die Schöpfung</i> , Hob. XXI:2 (1798), <i>Die Jahreszeiten</i> , Hob. XXI:3 (1801)
11/3, 05, 07 11/10, 12, 14	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) <i>St. Paul</i> , Op. 36 (1836), <i>Elijah</i> , Op. 70 (1846) Test #3 *11/11 - Ensembles in the Departmental Recital*
11/17, 19, 21	John Adams, <i>El Niño</i> R. Nathaniel Dett, <i>The Ordering of Moses</i> , Undine Smith Moore, <i>Life of a Martyr</i> , Sophia Gubaidulina, <i>St. John Passion</i> <i>Christmas Oratorio</i> preparation
11/24-28	NO CLASS - Fall Break and Thanksgiving

Date	Content
12/01, 03	<i>Christmas Oratorio</i> preparation and performance.
	Do not schedule a jury during class time.
12/09 by 11:59 p.m.	Oratorio Repertoire Resource Guide Due

Additional Information

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>