

EARLY MUSIC VOCAL ENSEMBLE

MUEN 1118/3118/5118, SPRING SEMESTER 2017

1 CREDIT HOUR

CRN: 21277 OR 21281

LOCATION: MUSIC BUILDING, ROOM 328

MEETING TIMES: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 2:00PM TO 3:20PM

INSTRUCTOR

DR. MARIO ASCHAUER

OFFICE: MUSIC BUILDING, ROOM 315

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

THE EARLY MUSIC VOCAL ENSEMBLE (EMVE) SPECIALIZES IN REPERTOIRE FROM THE PRE-CLASSICAL PERIODS AND ITS PERFORMANCE FOLLOWING A HISTORICALLY INFORMED APPROACH. THIS SEMESTER'S PROJECT IS ENTITLED "HENRY PURCELL: ANTHEMS AND VOLUNTARIES" AND FEATURES HIGHLIGHTS FROM PURCELL'S LESSER KNOWN SACRED MUSIC. TOGETHER WITH OPERA WORKSHOP'S PRODUCTION OF DIDO AND AENEAS, THIS PROJECT GIVES YOU A THOROUGH INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH BAROQUE REPERTOIRE AND PERFORMANCE STYLES.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

THE EMVE PROVIDES PRACTICE IN SMALL ENSEMBLE SINGING WITH ALL ITS OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. IT SEEKS TO INTRODUCE YOU TO REPERTOIRE OFF THE BEATEN TRACK THAT OTHERWISE YOU TYPICALLY ONLY GET TO *SEE* IN MUSIC HISTORY TEXTBOOKS. AS MEMBER OF THE EMVE YOU NOT ONLY *SEE*, BUT YOU *DO*. THE ENSEMBLE THEREFORE SERVES AS A "PRACTICAL MUSIC HISTORY" OF SORTS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU ALSO SEE ME *DO*. IN OTHER WORDS, THE EMVE ALSO INTRODUCES YOU TO METHODS FOR HOW YOU IN YOUR FUTURE CAREERS CAN DO SIMILAR PROJECTS BASED ON HISTORICALLY INFORMED PERFORMANCE—FROM WAYS TO DESIGN PROGRAMS TO SPECIALIZED PERFORMANCE QUESTIONS.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

IN MOST OF THE REPERTOIRE WE WILL BE PERFORMING, THERE ARE ONLY TWO SINGERS OR EVEN ONE SINGER PER PART. FOR THIS REASON IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT YOU ATTEND REHEARSALS. REMEMBER: IT'S REALLY NOT A LOT OF FUN TO REHEARSE AN EIGHT-PART MOTET WITH SIX PEOPLE ...

SCORE STUDY AND LISTENING

IN A SMALL ENSEMBLE, WE CAN NEVER COUNT ON JUST LEANING BACK AND BEING CARRIED BY THE OTHERS (LIKE WE MIGHT SOMETIMES DO IN A LARGE CHOIR). RATHER, WE HAVE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SOLOIST. HOWEVER, WE CAN'T TAKE THE LIBERTIES THAT WE MIGHT HAVE AS SOLOISTS. THEREFORE: A SMALL

ENSEMBLE IS PERHAPS THE MOST CHALLENGING BUT ALSO THE COOLEST PERFORMANCE SETTING TO PERFORM IN. ONLY THE BEST OF THE BEST CAN DO IT WELL. WE WILL ALWAYS AGREE ON A WEEK'S REHEARSAL REP ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE, WHICH GIVES YOU TIME TO STUDY PITCHES AND RHYTHMS. PRACTICE TO SAY THE TEXT OUT LOUD LIKE A THEATER ACTOR! LISTEN TO RECORDINGS AND GET A SENSE OF WHAT THE WORLD BEST ENSEMBLES IN THE SCENE DO WITH THE MUSIC!

SOLO PARTS

MUCH OF PURCELL'S SACRED MUSIC IS COMPOSED IN THE "CONCERTED STYLE". IN PRACTICE THIS MEANS THAT THERE ARE LOTS OF VIRTUOSIC SOLO PARTS THAT SHOULD BE SUNG BY MEMBERS OF THE ENSEMBLE. TO THIS END, I WOULD LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOUR VOICES INDIVIDUALLY IN THE SECOND CLASS MEETING. PLEASE PREPARE THE SHORT PIECE PASSED OUT IN OUR FIRST MEETING.

GRADING

THE GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED WITH WEIGHTS CALCULATED AS INDICATED:

ATTENDANCE	50%
PARTICIPATION	50%

SCHEDULE

1ST REHEARSAL W/ CONTINUO: TBD

DRESS REHEARSAL: SUNDAY, 29 APRIL, 5PM

CONCERTS: MONDAY, 30 APRIL, 7:30, RECITAL HALL

WEDNESDAY 2 MAY, 8:00, FIRST EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN, HOUSTON