# Brandeis Chamber Singers

**MUS 81b** *(2 credits)*  
**MUS 81b 2xc** *(no credit option)*

**Spring 2017, Tuesday/Thursdays, 3:30-4:50pm., Slosberg Concert Hall**

Prof. Robert Duff, conductor (Slosberg 210, P: 781.736.3324; email: [RDuff@brandeis.edu](mailto:RDuff@brandeis.edu))

*All students are encouraged to enroll for credit. If you choose to enroll for the XC section, you are expected to fulfill *all* obligations required of the Mus 81a section.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>Tuesday and Thursdays, 11:00 am - 12:00pm or by appointment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Description</td>
<td>Performance of vocal chamber music and choral masterworks from the Sixth century to the present. Open to all students by audition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>By audition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Objectives**

1. To demonstrate an understanding of ensemble skills and music interpretations and instill a sense of musical flexibility in diverse musical situations.
2. To display an understanding of fine details regarding various styles, historical performance practices, voicing and languages.
3. To demonstrate an ability to operate at an accelerated pace in rehearsals and concert preparation.
4. To practice professional standards and technique that promotes individual responsibility for vocal health.

**Instructional Methodology**

1. Group Vocal Production.
2. Individual responsibility for self-evaluation.
3. Limited use of modeling.

**Required Materials**

1. Music scores of assigned repertoire.
2. A sharpened pencil.
3. Full concert attire (as described later in the syllabus) including the “Black Folder.”
Spring 2017 Chamber Singers Calendar

Rehearsals: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:50 Slosberg Concert Hall

Events:
- Tuesday, January 17 First Day of Classes
- Friday, February 3, 8pm Joint performance with Gondwana Chorale
- Wednesday, February 15, 12pm Tour preview performance at Mandel Center
- February 16-24 Chamber Singers Tour to Italy
- April 10-18 Passover Break
- Saturday, April 22, 11-2 Chamber Singers Dress Rehearsal
- **Sunday, April 23, 3pm** Chamber Singers Concert
- Sunday, May 21, 10am Commencement

Students will be given ample notification if additional concert opportunities arise.

Grading and Participation Policy

In keeping with the professional objectives of the program, the Chamber Singers has a strict policy on participation and punctuality. Faculty and the choir manager keep daily records. A significant portion of the student’s grade will depend upon rehearsal and performance participation. The ensemble does not function at its peak without the presence of all of its members. While your grade is Pass/Fail, the grade will be based on the following:

**Participation** (65% of final grade)
**Demeanor** (20% of final grade)
**Performance** (15%).

**Please note that attendance is expected at every rehearsal.** Attendance at rehearsals the week before a concert is required for participation in performance.

*Since punctuality is important to musical professionalism, a strict punctuality policy is in place and will affect the participation portion of the grade.
*A letter grade of C- or higher constitutes Credit for those taking ensemble as Credit/Non-Credit.

* Conflicts with the attached Chamber Singers Calendar must be presented in writing to the director of the ensemble during the first week of classes. All performances are listed on the attached schedule.

* Do not schedule voice lessons, meetings with faculty members or other organizations, make-up classes or exams, registration, doctor/dental appointments, job interviews, or any personal obligations during rehearsal times.

* Unavoidable emergencies will be handled on an individual basis. If an emergency occurs, (including acute, but brief, illness) the student must contact the director in a timely manner, followed with written notification within three days.

*Absences for the following reasons are considered EXCUSED:
  * Institutional excuses given five days in advance.
  * Extended illness with doctor’s verification.
  * Death in the immediate family.
  * Religious holidays.

General Guidelines

**Work ethic while in class (positive attitude and contribution):**
* Do you follow instructions by marking your score?
* Is your participation conducive or disruptive to the rehearsal process?
* Do you respond favorably to constructive criticism?
* Do you bring your scores and a pencil to every rehearsal?
* If you are unable to phonate, do you follow along in your music, mark your score, and submit written comments to the conductor at the end of the rehearsal?

**Food and Drink:**
No food or drinks are allowed in the Concert Hall or performance facilities. Only closed capped water bottles will be permitted.

**Electronic Devices:**
No electronic devices are allowed on the stage of the Concert Hall during rehearsal or performance.

**Preparation outside of class:**
* If assignments are given, are you prepared?

**Part-testing:**
* Can you accurately sing your part during quartet or octet testing?

**Professionalism:**
* Do you show respect for the conductor and your fellow students?
  * Do you adhere to the above participation policy of the ensemble?

**Concert Attire:**
* Do you participate in choral performances in a clean and professional manner with the proper concert attire?
Concert Attire

**UNIFORM DRESSES/TUXEDOS**
You are responsible for your own concert attire. Attire for concerts must be complete.

Required Concert attire for women:
Brandeis University Choral Ensemble dress with costume pearl necklace
Black Closed toed shoes

Required Concert attire for men:
Black Tuxedo and Pants
White Tux Shirt
Black Bowtie and Cumberbund
Black Shoes

Payments for concert dress (dresses/pearls or tuxes) are to be given to the Student Manager. Checks in the amount of $115 are to be made out to “Brandeis University Music Department”, and due by October 1, 2015. You are also responsible for purchasing the black choral folder, which maybe purchased from your Teaching Assistant. This is part of your concert attire.

**UNIFORM FEE** $90
**BLACK FOLDER** $25

*Please see the Conductor if you have a hardship that requires financial assistance for uniform and folder.

Membership

**MEMBERS NEED TO REMEMBER:**
* Membership in this ensemble is for the entire academic year.
It is understood that, rarely, unavoidable conflicts may arise in a students schedule for the second semester. In this event the student must notify the instructor as soon as possible so that a solution may be worked out.
* Each member is responsible for learning his/her music outside of class.
* Music for many of the concerts must be memorized. There will be periodic "music checks."

Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week)

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).
Academic credit is based on time spent in the classroom, as well as time spent studying for class. According to NEASC guidelines, students who are spending three hours per week in a class should be spending nine hours per week in preparation for class. Four-credit classes which meet for more (or less) than three hours per week should state classroom and preparation hours which total to 12 hours. When NEASC reviews Brandeis for reaccreditation, it will be examining sample syllabi from multiple departments and will be independently evaluating if out-of class requirements meet academic credit standards. Therefore, your help with this initiative is very important.