

GREENVILLE COLLEGE

**MUEN 163.01, 363.01; Greenville College Chamber Singers, 1/2 Hour Credit
Fall, 2005**

Dr. Jeffrey S. Wilson

Office: Rm. 203, New Music Center

Office Hours: Posted on Office Door & Other times as arranged

Telephone: (0) 664-6561

E-Mail: jeff.wilson@greenville.edu

Rehearsal Times: Tuesdays from 4:45-5:45 p.m. and Fridays from 3:30-4:45 p.m.; If the GC Choir is not rehearsing at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, then the Chamber Singers will meet at 3:30 p.m. on that day instead of at 4:45 p.m.; Sectionals and other rehearsals as called by the director.

Location: New Music Building Recital Hall (or LaDue Auditorium)

Prerequisite: By audition only

Requisite: Concurrent participation in the Greenville College Choir

Greenville College and Music Department Mission Statements: Greenville College transforms students for lives of character and service through a Christ-centered education in the liberating arts and sciences. The music program purposes to help students reach their full potential as human beings and musicians. Our aim and focus is to cultivate well-prepared musicians who integrate their faith with their professional endeavors.

Greenville College Choral Music Program Purpose Statement:

The Greenville Choral Program exists to glorify God and sing His praises. In response to God's love we seek to proclaim and honor the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life through:

1. Developing exemplary student-musicians;
2. Striving for excellence in choral singing;
3. Building healthy community;
4. Expressing the beauty, truth and diversity of God's creation;
5. Serving and encouraging the college, the church and the world.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Course Objectives / Institutional Objectives, Teacher Education Program Outcomes (TEPO), Music Education Program Outcomes (MEPO), Dispositions: *the complete list of Institutional Objectives and the Teacher Education Program Outcomes may be found on the Greenville College website.*

Christian music-making is a response to a creative, redeeming, loving and just God. As faithful image bearers we are stewards of God's creation. We are called to seek truth, learn to think critically and creatively, understand and value of all creation, develop self and community understanding, value personal and corporate accomplishment, and respond to God's expression. In order to assist the student attain these goals, this course will accomplish the following objectives:

1. To develop musicianship in a small ensemble setting.
2. To master a variety of musical styles with an emphasis on excellent chamber choir literature.
3. To gain musical literacy by acquiring a high level of sight reading ability.
4. To learn to work as a "team player" in musical rehearsal, musical performance and musical touring settings.
5. To grow spiritually, socially and artistically as a member of a musical ensemble.
6. To worship God, serve the Church and evangelize the world in a variety of musical settings.
7. To become an effective, disciple-making part of the body of Christ.

Institutional Objectives addressed: Critical Thinking A 1-2, Awareness of Diversity in Our World B 3 & 5, Character Formation C 7-9

Assessments: Objectives 1 and 2 are assessed through regular small group singing examinations, rehearsal participation, and performances. Each student is required to learn the ensemble literature and perform it from memory. Objective 3 is assessed through regular sight-reading of choral literature. Objectives 4, 5, 6, and 7 are assessed through the observation of student's participation in the ensemble setting during rehearsals, informal gatherings, musical performances and musical touring settings.

Text: Normally the required choral music will be provided by the College. However, in unusual circumstances, the student may be called upon to purchase music. Tapes and other materials may be selected as needed; it is the responsibility of the student to acquire these within a reasonable amount of time.

Attendance and Evaluation Policy: Rehearsal preparation, attendance, attitude and participation will be the basis for weekly grades. Sectional evaluation and occasional small group and solo "spot-checks" will also be factored into the final grade. Writing assignments (e.g. biographical sketches of composers or performance critiques) may also be given.

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances by all choir members is essential. There simply is no way to "make-up" a missed rehearsal or performance in the same way one can get someone else's notes for a missed lecture. Since the purpose of a rehearsal is to coordinate and perfect the performance of the entire ensemble (and not for individuals to learn their parts) our success as an ensemble is dependent upon perfect attendance at every rehearsal.

With that goal in mind, there can be no such thing as an unexcused absence from this ensemble. It is assumed that any absence involves some significant, overriding circumstance which makes it unavoidable. I understand that even the most zealous and dedicated choir members will have to miss an occasional rehearsal. *Therefore, I will allow two (2) absences per semester without negative impact upon the student's grade and/or continuance in the ensemble.* Illness (documented by a physician's note), field trips required as a class activity for another course (accompanied by a note from the instructor), and family crises are occasionally unavoidable. These absences must be approved by the director and should be documented in writing to the Chamber Singers Secretary. *(If you know that you will be absent or have already been absent from any Chamber Singers activity, it would be most beneficial for you to talk with me [the director] as soon as possible.)*

After accruing 2 absences, each subsequent absence will automatically lower the student's grade by one letter (i.e. the third absence turns an A into a B). A total of six (6) absences constitutes grounds for dismissal from the ensemble and forfeiture of credit. Absence from a dress rehearsal or a concert is likewise grounds for immediate dismissal or a grade of F.

If you are ill (under a doctor's care and taking prescribed medication) you may miss rehearsal. Minor illness is, however, not automatically excused; if at all possible, I expect you to be at rehearsal (as I would be) to listen, take notes, etc., even if you cannot contribute to the rehearsal as a singer.

I realize that this is a strict policy. It is not designed to be punitive or to make participation in Greenville College Chamber Singers overly difficult or seemingly not worthwhile. The vast majority of members in this ensemble are extremely accountable and need fear nothing about successfully completing these requirements. It is precisely because I and so many of you take our commitment to this ensemble so seriously that we need to have such a strict policy, for that insures that everyone understands the level of commitment necessary to be successful.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, I may be reached by phone at my office (664-6561) the hour before rehearsal begins (as well as other times with less certainty) and evenings at home (664-3859). No absence is to be considered excused unless you have talked to me directly!

Greenville College Writing Standards: Greenville College is committed to helping students improve writing. It is reasonable to expect that any course may contain a writing component as part of the evaluation of student progress. We expect students to produce written work that is focused, well-developed, organized,

and relatively free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Papers that fall short of this standard will not be accepted; the work will be returned to the students for revision within a reasonable time.

Plagiarized work will be given a zero with no opportunity to redo the work. It will also be reported to the office of the VPAA and put on file there. Repeated offenses will result in disciplinary action. See the Student Handbook.

Study Time/Practice Time Expectations: *Each member is responsible for learning the music thoroughly and committing it to memory for performance purposes.* Beyond the regularly scheduled choral rehearsals, students will be responsible for taking the necessary amount of time for learning and polishing their individual vocal parts. The amount of time required for this will be unique to each individual and their abilities and needs. It is suggested that students practice outside of rehearsal both alone and in small groups.

Participation: Physical touch will periodically be used as a means of instruction in this course. While it is a recommended and commonly used method, some individuals may feel uncomfortable with the use of physical touch. Student participation in this practice is strictly voluntary. In the event that the student prefers not to be touched, he/she should inform the instructor and other individuals that might have direct physical contact with his/her person. Sexual harassment is unlawful and will not be tolerated at Greenville College. (Refer to the Greenville College policy on sexual harassment in the Student Handbook for more details.)

Portfolios at Greenville College: Academic departments within the College are required to assess the impact of their programs upon the lives of students who graduate in each major. One of the ways this is done is through a student-owned portfolio containing a collection of “best works” which the student considers to be evidence of personal growth toward what the GC mission describes as “transformed lives of character and service.” The portfolio contains the StrengthsFinder, papers, projects, videotapes of performances or presentations, audio tapes of radio/music class works, and a summary of a student’s co-curricular experiences in music, athletics, ministry, newspaper or yearbook articles/photos, and volunteer service to the community. Assignments that are evidence of student excellence are drawn from courses contributing to general education, the major, the minor, leadership experiences, and service.

Students are encouraged to talk with their professors and advisor regarding the collection of best works to be included in the portfolio. Assignments and projects from any course may be included in the portfolio. Students may select the way in which their portfolio is compiled: 1) as a collection of papers within a three-ring binder or other professional folio/folder; 2) as a collection of files on a floppy disc; 3) as a collection of works on a CD; or 4) as a periodically updated personal web page. Norm Hall, Dean of Student Development is coordinating a pilot project for students interested in developing web-based portfolios. If you are interested in this method, contact him at extension 7117.

Before the close of the semester, talk with your advisor and the professor teaching this course regarding those assignments, tests, or papers you consider to be “best works” and worthy of inclusion in your portfolio.

Electronic Communications: Class communications will be sent to your students.greenville.edu address. I will also be using Blackboard to post syllabi, homework assignments and changes in schedule. **Please check your College E-mail and Blackboard regularly.**

GREENVILLE COLLEGE CHOIR CALENDAR

Tentative Spring, 2006 (Revised 1/19/06)

IMPORTANT: Revisions of this calendar will appear from time to time as our concert schedule is completed.

Winter GC Choir Mini-Retreat

January 22 (Sunday): **5 - 10 p.m.** @ NMC Recital Hall (Bring \$3 for Pizza)

GC Choir Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: **3:30-4:45 p.m.** @ *NMC Recital Hall*

GC Choir Concerts, Special Rehearsals and Weekend Dates

January 26: **Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference – Peoria, IL**
Chamber Singers leave at 8:15 a.m., perform at 4:00 p.m. & return at 9 p.m.

February 26-27: **GC High School Choral Festival- Chamber Singers & Choir**
Sunday & Monday Eve. Performances – CALL - 6:00 p.m. / CONCERTS -7 & 6:30 p.m.

March 4-5: **GC Choir Weekend – Saturday Morning/Afternoon Rehearsal - TBA**
Sunday Concerts (A.M. in Vandalia, IL – P.M. in Granite City, IL)

March 10-19: **GC Choir Spring Tour – Midwestern U.S.A.** (Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri)

March 26: **Choir Home Concert - 4:00 p.m.**
CALL @ 2:30 p.m. in *New GFMC*

April 10: **Communion Chapel – Call @ 9:00 a.m.**

Spring Hymn Festival Rehearsals & Performance

John Ferguson (St. Olaf College), guest organist & director; Chorale, Chambers, Choir,
Brass Ensemble, GMFC Sanctuary Choir & Handbell Choir

April 17 **No Monday Rehearsal** (Easter Break)

April 18 **Tuesday Afternoon Rehearsal – 3:30-4:45 pm**

Tuesday Evening Rehearsal – 7-9 p.m. – NMC Recital Hall

April 19 **Wednesday Afternoon Rehearsal – 3:30-4:45 p.m.** – NMC Recital Hall

April 20 **Thursday Afternoon – No Rehearsal** (Common Day of Learning)

Thursday Evening Rehearsal – 7-9 p.m. – NMC Recital Hall

April 22 **Saturday Afternoon Dress Rehearsal – 2-5 p.m.** – NMC Recital Hall

April 23 **Sunday Afternoon Performance – 4 p.m. / CALL @ 2:30 p.m.** – Recital Hall

April 24 **Choir, Chorale & Chamber Singers sing in Chapel**

Mon., May 8 **Final Exam Rehearsal Time – 4:00-5:50 pm**

Thurs., May 11 **CHOIR PARTY! 3-7? p.m.** in *New Music Center*

Fri., May 12 **Piano Dedication Concert – 7 p.m.** in Recital Hall / Call @ 6:15 p.m.

May 13-14: COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

Sat., May 13: **GOAL Commencement: 3 pm** in *Rec. Ctr.* **CALL @ 2 pm** in *NMC Recital Hall*

GC Choir Concert: 6:00 pm in *Recital Hall* **CALL @ 5:00 pm** in *NMC Recital Hall*

Baccalaureate: 7:30 p.m. in *Rec. Ctr.*

Sun., May 14: **Trad. Student Commencement 3 pm** in *Rec. Ctr.* **CALL @ 2:15 pm** in *Recital Hall*