



## The Arizona Choir

### Key Personnel

Conductor: Dr. Miguel Ángel **Felipe** <mfelipe@email.arizona.edu>, Rm 248  
Pianist: Ina **Selvelieva** <selvelieva@gmail.com>

### Class Details

Course Number: MUS 200L/400L/500L  
Meeting Time: M–F, 2:00–2:50p, Room 232  
Calendar: accessible online at [UACHoirs.org/sing/ensembles/calendars/](http://UACHoirs.org/sing/ensembles/calendars/)  
*Singers are strongly encouraged to link the class calendar to their personal devices*  
Office Hours: By appointment

### Course Objectives

The Arizona Choir assembles some of the most gifted and skilled graduate and, in special cases, undergraduate singers at the University of Arizona. Participation in the ensemble helps to prepare students for participation in a range of vocal ensembles, especially professional choirs. Vocal health, artistic independence, and mature musical style are encouraged and form the foundation of the ensemble. The Arizona Choir, along with the Symphonic Choir, represents a flagship of the UA Choral Department and performs often around the community.

### Attendance & Grading

Grades are earned through a point system. The following are ways to earn points:

Rehearsal Attendance	10 points
Part Check	0–10 points

The following are ways to lose points:

No music or pencil	2 points
Tardiness*	4 points
Miss pre-concert rehearsal	all points, automatic fail
Miss concert	all points, automatic fail

\***Tardiness** is defined as a singer's unpreparedness to rehearse/perform. To avoid tardiness deductions, be in your seat, with music and pencil, prepared to sing before rehearsal starts and stay through to the end of rehearsal. Missing more than 50% of a rehearsal counts as absent.

Each time an absence or tardy is recorded for a student, they will receive a notice from the ensemble manager. This email hopes to ensure accurate and complete attendance records. Students have one week from the receipt of the email to appeal an error in the records. After that point, changes will not be made.

Final grades are calculated from the percentage of (all points earned - all points lost)/total possible points. These percentages convert to letter grades according to a specific conversion

different from the standard; this is the result of the way absences are weighted. The quality of participation/contribution connected to each letter grade, however, represents fair equivalents.

<u>Final %</u>	<u>Grade</u>
92.0% and up	A
84.0–91.9%	B
76.0–83.9%	C
68.0–75.9%	D
67.9% and below	F

## Waivers

The Choral Department believes deeply in the importance of engaged, earnest participation during rehearsals and concerts. And, since when a singer is not present the ensemble is incomplete and rehearsal is limited, we require full participation by all singers. There are no excused or unexcused absences: *all absences are treated equally*.

In most cases of absence and tardiness, the point system automatically adjusts. Therefore, please stay in communication with the choir’s manager about your attendance—we like to know where you are if you’re not in rehearsal—but absences will not be excused. In certain circumstances, however, absences can be waived or tardiness penalties removed.

An **absence waiver** removes that day’s possible points when calculating your average. Therefore, your grade percentage would be calculated from a smaller total possible points. The following are typical reasons to request an absence waiver: graduate school auditions, UA-related travel, professional ‘gigs’ of exceptional stature, UA Dean’s Excuse, illness with documentation, religious holidays, weddings, and dress rehearsal or performance for another credited UA ensemble. The following are not reasons to request an absence waiver: general illness, unexpected class conflicts, work, parking or traffic congestion, extended travel, etc.

*To request an absence waiver*, notify the ensemble manager by email within the first five days of classes—most waivable events are pre-planned and can be anticipated. In the case of illness and other unpredictable waivers, contact the ensemble manager as quickly as is safely possible. The manager will ask the professor of record to approve/deny each waiver request and notify the student of the decision.

**Tardiness waivers** are possible only in rare occasions. The most common, waivable reason for a tardy arrival is a distant, on-campus class immediately before rehearsal. The following are not reasons to request a waiver: parking or traffic congestion, other classes/lessons ending late or starting early.

*To request a tardiness penalty waiver*, notify the ensemble manager by email within the first five days of classes of problems you anticipate, or as soon as possible after an unpredicted tardiness. The manager will ask the professor of record to approve/deny each waiver request and notify the student of the decision.

## **Vocal Rest**

There are times when your vocal health and other performance obligations will necessitate you not singing during a rehearsal. Your conductor wants to support your vocal health and offers the following for those resting their voice:

- Sit within the ensemble and stay fully engaged with the others, marking your part as needed. While we still miss your vocal contributions, this approach will ensure you don't miss anything reviewed in class.
- Be certain you're supporting your vocal health by proactively making good decisions:
  - get at least seven hours of sleep at night,
  - hydrate appropriately,
  - avoid excessive talking,
  - avoid all shouting, and
  - don't visit loud places.

Any student electing vocal rest must email the ensemble's conductor, their voice teacher (if applicable), and the ensemble manager. The email must be sent before rehearsal. In the event of a multi-day rest, you may send one email.

If instances of vocal rest continually exceed 20% of rehearsal time, singers will be asked to meet privately with their conductor and teacher to discuss the student's health and ensemble participation. In cases without a clear justification and, as applicable, medical course of action, students will be asked to withdraw.

## **Department & Performance Attire**

Please arrive at all rehearsals, performances, and other events without any distinguishing body odor. This is asked in deference to all singers, especially those with sensitivities.

Performance attire is all black, inclusive of shoes, hose, and/or socks. Singers are encouraged to dress modestly avoiding excessive ornamentation and scents.

## **Threatening Behavior Policy**

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

Integrity and ethical behavior are expected of every student in all academic work. This Academic Integrity principle stands for honesty in all class work, and ethical conduct in all labs and clinical assignments. This principle is furthered by the student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures established by ABOR Policies 5-308 through 5-404 (see chapter 5), all provisions of which apply to all University of Arizona students. This Code of Academic Integrity (hereinafter "this Code") is intended to fulfill the requirement imposed by ABOR Policy 5-403.A.4 and otherwise to supplement the Student Code of Conduct as permitted by ABOR Policy 5-308.C.I.

Students enrolled in academic credit bearing courses are subject to this Code. Conduct prohibited by this Code consists of all forms of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to:

Cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism as set out and defined in the Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308-E.II, and F.I

Submitting an item of academic work that has previously been submitted or simultaneously submitted without fair citation of the original work or authorization by the faculty member supervising the work.

1. Violating required disciplinary and professional ethics rules contained or referenced in the student handbooks (hardcopy or online) of undergraduate or graduate programs, or professional colleges.
2. Violating discipline specific health, safety or ethical requirements to gain any unfair advantage in lab(s) or clinical assignments.
3. Failing to observe rules of academic integrity established by a faculty member for a particular course.
4. Attempting to commit an act prohibited by this Code. Any attempt to commit an act prohibited by these rules shall be subject to sanctions to the same extent as completed acts.
5. Assisting or attempting to assist another to violate this Code.

For more information, visit <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity>.

## **Accessibility and Accommodations**

At the University of Arizona we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268, <https://drc.arizona.edu/>) to establish reasonable accommodations.

## **Disclaimer**

Course requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor with proper notice to the students.