

A&H CC Choir Course
Fall 2013 – Spring 2014



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Classroom no: XV / II / Theatre Room (Franklin)
Class times: **Choir:** Tuesday evening
Solfège: Wednesday 16:00 – 18:30 (all levels)
Instructors: Elisabeth van Duijn-Blom, BMus, Conductor ecvanduijn@yahoo.com
Margreeth Chr. de Jong, MMus, Solfège Instructor jong0003@ucr.nl

I. Track information:

Prerequisites for this course:

- Basic knowledge of the tonal system; ability to read notes; good voice
- Musical background preferable
- An audition is always necessary and to be arranged with the conductor

This course is mandatory for students in the Performing Arts track, who are expected to sing at least two semesters [= the equivalent of the Choir Course] in the choir. Exceptional cases (Performing students unable to meet the criteria) should be discussed with the chair of the Performing Arts program.

The course is not part of a UCR track, but it is a useful addition to any set of music courses. The Choir Course can be part of a minor in musicology.

The Choir Course cannot function as the required Arts & Humanities course as described in section 2.1.2 of the academic rules and procedures that students need to complete in order to meet graduation requirements

II. Course description

Every respectable Liberal Arts College has its own choir. This is why the *Roosevelt Academy Choir* – now: ROOSEVELT COLLEGE CHOIR – was founded right after the opening of Roosevelt Academy as new Honors College in the Netherlands 2004. It is the official choir of University College Roosevelt, and in that capacity it sings regularly at official occasions such as Convocation and Graduation ceremonies. Moreover, the choir regularly performs in public concerts and within church services. Its focus is very broad, and includes sacred English choir music. This is why the choir also performed in Evening Prayers, e.g. in the Maria Magdalenakerk in Goes. In 2009 the Choir performed in a concert together with *St. John's Choir College*, Cambridge, in the St. Jacobskerk, Vlissingen. Its repertoire ranges from the Renaissance to present day, and from William Byrd and Henry Purcell to Herbert Howells and Charles V. Stanford, but it also includes works by such composers as Van Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Duruflé, Rutter, Jersild, and Holst. The RA Choir course is a *two-semester* course.

III. Study load

Students can earn 4 credits (7.5 ECTS) for this course by being enrolled in the RA Choir for 2 semesters continuously. The class meets twice a week (choir rehearsal and solfège). The study load will not exceed 7 hours per week.

IV. Course materials:

- Sheet music of several compositions [to be mentioned by the conductor]
- Solfège materials handed out by the instructor and two books (see below)

V. Course organization and requirements:

General format of class meetings

(per week 3-4 hours divided over two meetings, in two semesters)

- Solfège (weekly, Classroom II, Wednesday)
- rehearsal (weekly, Classroom XV, Tuesday)
- study trip (between the semesters; a study trip may replace two regular rehearsals)
- additional rehearsals may be planned in preparation of concerts

General expectations

- Members of the choir may take vocal lessons with the conductor, unless exemption is granted.
- Good sight-reading (solfège) is essential, if not crucial. This will be trained weekly (Wednesday) but students are expected to practice at home as well.
- Choir members should attend all choir rehearsals and concerts. If one cannot attend a rehearsal or concert (for example due to illness), the conductor should be informed beforehand. It is not allowed to miss rehearsals, since this will jeopardize the quality of the performances. Of course it is also not allowed to miss performances.
- Choir members should be actively engaged at the rehearsal and have to come to a rehearsal well prepared. Active engagement includes writing of program notes, short research assignments, and fulfilling certain tasks on the field of organization, planning, PR, arranging concerts, choir-website, financial care, etc.

Rules for course registration

In the first semester of the choir course, students will not be registered for it. In other words, students need to do four regular RA courses in addition to the choir course in the first semester. When a student completes the first semester of the course with good results, he/she may officially register for the course during the second semester. So in that second semester, the student will only do three other RA courses.

VI. Assessment:

The following assessments contribute to the final grade:

- Solfège, Mid-term Test (semester I, mid-term: *indicative*)
- Solfège, Exam (Semester I, end-term, active engagement included) 25%
- Solfège, Mid-Term test (Semester II: *indicative*)
- Solfège, Exam (Semester II, end-term, active engagement included) 25%
- Active engagement and rehearsal preparation semester I 25%
- Active engagement and rehearsal preparation semester II 25%

Active engagement will be tested *weekly* by the conductor and by the solfège instructor.

VII. Schedule Choir

FALL:

- 5 October 2013: Voorrunde Nederlands Korenfestival/ Qualifying Round Dutch Choir Festival, Zeeuwse Concertzaal, Middelburg
- 3 November 2013 9.30 AM: Churchservice Jacobskerk, Renesse.

- 17 November 2013 9.30: Church Service st. Jacobskerk, Vlissingen
- 30 november 20.00: Concert Burgerzaal, Middelburg

SPRING:

- Saturday 29 March, 2014: Concert Hervormde Kerk, st Laurens
- 20 April 2014 10.00: Churchservice Oostkerk, Middelburg
- SOME FURTHER SPRING PERFORMANCES T.B.A.

VIII. Course learning objectives:

The Choir consists of a group of devoted, enthusiastic, and ambitious musicians. Auditions are open to everybody associated with any position directly linked to Roosevelt Academy. The main goal of the Choir is to unite people with a genuine interest in music, enabling them to express their musical gifts by building a high-qualified choir. The Choir wants to be able to compare itself to other university choirs internationally, both in level and in repertoire. Its goals from the perspectives of musical education are:

- Development of a responsible, professional attitude during preparation of concerts and performances
- Improvement of vocal sound and intonation of each individual
- Development of abilities to read and sing musical intervals, understand and maintain rhythm, and determine the pitch of individual notes
- Understanding of historical backgrounds and context of repertoire
- Learning how to write program notes for a larger audience and/or getting experience in choir management. The Choir administrator(s) will have a special responsibility, formally recognized by the BoS
- Improvement of the quality of each individual to a level allowing the Choir to represent UCR outside of its buildings

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES SOLFÈGE:

0-LEVEL

The student is able:

- To read notes in the G clef and F clef
- To know recognize notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes
- To sing a phrase as 'echoes' (two bars, within the range of a fifth)
- To identify a change in either pitch or rhythm during a phrase (2 bars)
- To identify and sing the intervals prime, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and octave, both ascending and descending
- To identify major and minor
- To note down a one-voice-dictation within the range of a fifth, played by the instructor
- To master Sight singing: *Modus Vetus*, pp. 8 – 19, 167, 168, 171
- To master rhythmic dictation: *Modus Vetus*, pp. 169-172 and *Maat en Ritme*, exercises 1 – 30
- To identify the key (circle of fifths)

100-LEVEL

The student is able:

- To sing a melody of 3 bars, within the range of an octave, played by the instructor
- To identify a change in either pitch or rhythm (4 bars)
- To identify and sing the intervals prime – octave, both ascending and descending, major and minor, diminished and augmented

- To master sight singing: *Guida teorico-pratica*, pp. 59 – 77
- To master rhythmic dictation: *Maat en Ritme*, exercises 1 – 65
- To note down a one-voice-dictation of 4 bars within the range of an octave, played by the instructor
- To identify triads: major, minor, diminished, augmented in root position
- To identify the key (circle of fifths)
- To sing a harmonic minor and melodic minor scale

200-LEVEL

The student is able:

- To sing a more complicated melody of 4 bars played by the instructor
- To identify a change in either pitch or rhythm (6 bars)
- To identify and to sing the intervals prime – octave, both ascending and descending, major and minor, diminished and augmented
- To identify triads: major, minor, diminished, augmented (root position, 1st and 2nd inversion)
- To master rhythmic dictation: *Maat en Ritme*, exercises 1 – 100
- To note down a more complicated one-voice-dictation of 8 bars, played by the instructor
- To master Sight singing: *Guida teorico-pratica*, pp. 59 – 90
- To identify the key (circle of fifths)

300-LEVEL

The student is able:

- To identify and sing dominant, major, minor major, minor, half diminished, and diminished 7th chords in root position, 1st, 2nd, 3rd inversion*
- To identify 'free chords'
- To note down a two-voice-dictation
- To master sight singing: *Guida teorico-pratica*, pp. 59 – 100
- To sing a complicated melody of 4-6 bars, played by the instructor
- To identify and sing the intervals prime –octave, both ascending and descending, major and minor, diminished and augmented*
- To identify and sing triads: major and minor, diminished and augmented, in root position, 1st and 2nd inversion*

ASSESSMENT

- Continuous (weekly) assessment during classes.
- Mid-term and final examination in all semesters.
- Active class participation.
- Students should be in class timely; staying away without prior notice or permission given by the instructor is not allowed and will negatively influence the grading of the applied music course.

Students taking the choir course should at least meet the 0-level requirements at the end of the first choir semester, and the 100-level requirements as well as the 300-level criteria marked with an * at the end of the second choir semester.

Course Materials Solfège:

Required to purchase:

E. Pozzoli, *Guida teorico-pratica* III / IV (Milan 1921, ²1949)

F. van der Horst, *Maat en Ritme* I (Amsterdam 1963)

Recommended:

Lars Edlund, *Modus Vetus* (Stockholm etc. s.a.);

websites: <http://www.teoria.com/exercises/>

<http://www.musicalintervalstutor.info/listenpg.html>

<http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/keysig>

<http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/ear-interval>

<http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/interval>

Measurable program outcomes in general:	
1. Acquire knowledge/perspectives in relevant domains	
2. Grasp relevant objectives, assumptions and values	
3. Understand state-of-the-art knowledge	
4. Critically review results, arguments, problem formulations	
5. Adopt and exercise relevant academic attitudes.	
6. Understand/apply domain knowledge in other contexts	
7. Grasp interdisciplinary issues within specialization	
8. Develop and apply new knowledge, methods, skills and expertise.	
9. Communicate at scholarly level	
10. Reflect on personal/academic growth and development	
11. Master with autonomy a range of specialist topics in preparation for further academic or professional training.	
12. Function effectively in team-based projects or exercises (or individual 'command' decision exercises).	

IX. Appendices

Specific course materials for each semester will be available through workspaces and taken care of by the conductor, the sight-reading instructor, and the choir administrator.