

MARYLAND GOSPEL CHOIR MUSC329E
FALL 2017 SYLLABUS

Course Name/Section Number: Gospel Choir/MUSC329E

Credit Hour: One credit or may be taken for non-credit

Time: Thursdays **7:00pm – 9:30pm** or 10:00pm

Location: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, PAC 2201

Division/Dept: Nyumburu Cultural Center

Office Number: 1120-G Level 1

Office Phone: (301) 314-7759

Instructor Name: Ms. Anne R. Carswell, Associate Director, Nyumburu

Email: carswell@umd.edu

Phone: (301) 455-9565 cell

Director Name: Mr. Mitchell D. Fleming

Email: mdfleming91@gmail.com

Class Website

<https://umdgospelchoir.wixsite.com/umdgospelchoir>

Class Email

marylandgospelchoir@gmail.com

MGC OFFICERS

- 1. President – Ms. Tiffany Blossom**
- 2. Vice President – Ms. Sienna “Sié” Tabron**
- 3. Public Relations Chair – Ms. Ariana Moreno**
- 4. Secretary – Ms. Kristian Spriggs**
- 5. Treasurer -**

Overview

The purpose of this course is to develop, expose, and expand musical talents through a variety of gospel music (i.e. spirituals, anthems, contemporary and traditional gospel as well as all music from different cultures). Students will learn intervals, rhythms, ear training, and sight singing skills allowing them to be more vocally independent.

Grading Policy

The grading scale will be based upon the following:

1. Attendance - 40%

- a. Attendance is **mandatory**. Students absent from class are responsible for providing a written excuse to the instructor. Students will be counted absent if they are more than 15 minutes tardy or leave more than 15 minutes early without prior approval from the instructor.
- b. Medical Absences
 - i. Students absent from class are permitted to provide the instructor or director with a self-signed excuse for documentation **twice** per semester. After the second absence, students must provide official documentation from a physician or the University Health Center.
 - ii. Other Absences
 1. Acceptance or denial will be at the discretion of the instructor and/or director.

2. Class Participation – 20%

- a. Students are responsible for learning their parts and actively engaging during rehearsals.
- b. Food and drink are **not** allowed during rehearsal, with the exception of water.
- c. Phone usage is prohibited, with the exception of recording parts.
- d. Tardiness, including both late arrivals to and early departures from rehearsal and/or performances, will count against the participation grade. Two unexcused tardies count as one absence. Students should aim to be punctual out of respect for the instructor and fellow students.

3. Concerts and Performances – 40%

- a. Students are required to attend all mandatory concerts and performances. Failure to do so may result in a zero.
- b. Call time is 2 hours prior to event or as announced prior to event.
- c. Transportation will be provided for off campus events. Meeting times and location will be announced in class. Failure to appear on time will result in departure without you and you will be considered absent.

Attire

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he/she has all of the required attire for **events, performances, and concerts**. Excessive jewelry or clothing that is tight fitting, revealing, or ripped/filled with holes (e.g. ripped jeans) are not permitted and will result in grade deduction.

Please contact the instructor with any concerns.

1. Required Formal Attire

- a. **Men:** Black pants, black long-sleeved button down shirt, black or gray socks, solid black shoes (member must obtain on own), bow-tie and cummerbund (provided on loan from MGC).
- b. **Women:** Black long-sleeve button down shirt (member must obtain on own), long black skirt and red skirt (provided on loan from MGC).

2. Required Informal Attire

- a. **Men:** Black pants/jeans, Gospel Choir T-shirt (to be purchased from MGC)
- b. **Women:** Black pants/jeans, Gospel Choir T-Shirt (to be purchased from MGC)
 - i. Note: The choir is free to decide on alternate informal wear if approved by the director and feasible for all participants.

Course Materials

This course requires the following for both registered and non-registered students:

1. Students are required to purchase a Maryland Gospel Choir T-Shirt for **\$10** for informal performances.
2. Students are required to pay a **mandatory \$25.00 dues/materials** fee to cover choir robe rental.
3. Students are required to download the app BAND in order to stay up to date with their music, important announcements, and other information.

All monies are due by Thursday, September 21, 2017.

Class Procedures

1. Singers will be divided into one (or more, if applicable) voice classifications: Soprano 1 or 2, Alto 1 or 2, Tenor 1 or 2, Baritone/Bass.
2. Initial classification assignments will be made the first week of school during auditions.
If you feel you are incorrectly assigned, please speak with the director.
3. Class will open with Praise and Worship followed by prayer.
4. Warm-ups and various exercises to increase vocal and choral expertise may be used as time permits.
5. Rehearsals on the semester's music may be rehearsed in sectionals or together.
6. Information
7. MGC will be using BAND to keep all members updates on upcoming events, performances. Members will also receive updates by email.

Performances

For scheduled performances all students (registered or non-registered) are required to give the instructor a **two-week notice** if they are unable to attend.

1. Juke Joint (Homecoming) - (Stamp Grand Ballroom)
 - a. **Wednesday, October 25th 7 p.m.**
2. Chapel Service (3 selections) - (Garden Chapel)
 - a. **Sunday, October 29th 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
3. Chapel Service (3 selections) - (Garden Chapel)
 - a. **Sunday, November 19th 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
4. Dress Rehearsal (CSPAC - Dekelboum Stage)
 - a. **Wednesday, November 29th 7:00 p.m.**
5. Additional Juke Joints (As decided by the choir)
6. Gospel Happy Hours (Optional)
7. Church Invitations

Other Performances will be announced during rehearsals by Mr. Fleming

Fall Concert – SATURDAY, December 2nd, 2017 (5:00 p.m. Members Report)

Performance 7:30 p.m. Dekelboum