

Iowa State University
Iowa State Singers
Policy Sheet 2023-24

Any university student is invited to audition to become a member of the Iowa State Singers. The ensemble is a select mixed choral ensemble dedicated to the study and performance of the masterworks of choral literature.

Course Objectives

1. To form a unified concert choir dedicated to the choral art.
2. To rehearse and learn music of high quality from various styles and historical periods.
3. To enhance the vocal development of each individual singer.
4. To reflect credit on the University, the Music Department, and the ensemble itself by demonstration of high standards of preparation, performance, appearance, and pride.

Detailed policy information for the Iowa State Singers is found in the Singers Handbook, which will be emailed to all members once classes begin.

Rehearsal Procedure, Concerts

Rehearsals are held daily, MWF 12:05-12:55 and TR 12:10-1:00 p.m. in the Music Hall.

The choir performs often during the academic year. In addition to regular concerts, a Renaissance performance occurs in January, and a tour is taken in the spring of each year. If accepted as a member of the Singers, you will be expected to participate in all the performances and activities. Please study the calendar of events that accompanies this policy sheet. These dates should be cleared on your calendar so that conflicts do not arise. Class schedules should be arranged so that you arrive at rehearsals on time.

Evaluation

Attendance regulations do not allow for any unexcused absences or tardiness. Any absence due to illness or other uncontrollable conflict is to be cleared IN ADVANCE with Dr. Rodde. Grades will be based on rehearsal participation, evidence of preparation outside of rehearsal time on special assignments, and each member's general conduct, attitude, and contribution to the enrichment of the group effort. Members of a great performing ensemble need to work together for a common goal, and so, your contribution to the aesthetic and psychological spirit of Iowa State Singers is required at all times. Except for student teachers, each member is expected to participate in the group for the full academic year. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. Use of cell phones at any time during a rehearsal or performance is considered inappropriate behavior and will result in the loss of attendance credit for that event.

Attendance Policy

Daily class attendance is expected from every member of the Iowa State Singers. All conflicts will be excused or unexcused at Dr. Rodde's discretion. Should you have to miss a rehearsal, it is expected that you contact Dr. Rodde IN ADVANCE. A key to a successful attendance record is to COMMUNICATE. Remember to sign in at each rehearsal.

Letter grades will be assigned through a point system, which will be explained in the Singers e-Handbook. The attendance policy has been designed to ensure fairness, both to the individual and the organization.

Should you miss the Holiday or Masterworks dress rehearsals, for any reason, you may still be permitted to sing the concert, but expect to lose your assigned spot in the standing chart. You will be asked to stand at the far left or right of the stage, off the risers, and asked to sing cautiously.

Officers

The elected officers help with the long-range planning, policy, and general wellbeing of the group. They meet regularly with the director and need the input of every choir member to do an effective job.

Section Leaders

Designated section leaders are responsible for organization and (with the conductor) preparation of each sectional.

Music and Folder

Each member of the choir will be assigned a number and will receive a folder and music marked with that number. If music is lost or misplaced, the assigned member will be responsible for its replacement cost and will be billed. All singers will be expected to obtain their own scores for the Holiday and spring Masterworks Concerts. Scores will be purchased using a portion of the class fee.

Fees

Fees to participate in the ensemble, roughly \$25-30, will be billed on the member's U-bill each semester. Iowa State Singers is also a registered student organization, and as such, members are requested to contribute \$5 per semester to support activities of the organization.

Concert Attire

MEN: The men will receive a tuxedo outfit (slacks, jacket, and tie) and garment bag from the University for use during the academic year. Men are responsible for providing black dress shoes appropriate for a tuxedo, a white collared shirt, and black socks.

WOMEN: The women will receive a black floor-length concert dress, garment bag, and pearl necklace from the University for use during the academic year. Women are responsible for obtaining black hose and black shoes with low/no heels. The hemming of the dresses will be the responsibility of the choir member. Strict guidelines for hemming must be adhered to! Professional seamstresses for hire will be available through the Choral Ensembles Office.

Each choir member will be required to sign for concert attire. This signature will hold each singer responsible for the care of his/her attire. Please *carefully* adhere to the guidelines for care of your attire to avoid unnecessary billing.

Concert and Rehearsal Department

All visible head jewelry must be removed for performance (warm-up and concert) unless otherwise announced. Hair is to be styled in such a way that bangs do not touch eyebrows and that there is no flipping of hair during performance or dress rehearsal. Caps and hats should not be worn in rehearsal unless there are extenuating circumstances, cleared by the conductor.

Accessibility Statement

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

Free Expression

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of [freedom of speech](#) and the principle of [academic freedom](#) in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Public Health

If you are not feeling well, you should stay home and focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work with your instructor to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, as consistent with the instructor's attendance policy. You may choose to wear a face mask and/or receive the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters, as well as other vaccines such as influenza, but those options are not required. For further assistance with any Covid-19 concerns, visit the Thielen Student Health Center. Other wellbeing resources for students are available at: <https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/wellbeing-resources/>

Public health information for the campus community continues to be available on Iowa State's [public health website](#). All public health questions should be directed to publichealthteam@iastate.edu.

Mental Health Resources

Contacts: Iowa State [Cyclone Support](#) and [Therapy Assistance Online](#)

Learning Outcomes

The student will demonstrate the ability to perform a variety of music with attention to several musical factors, including style, tone production, dynamics, balance, intonation, rhythm, and phrasing. The student will demonstrate the ability to successfully contribute in a cooperative learning environment.

Marketing

As a member of a Department of Music & Theatre musical ensemble, we assume that you waive the right for your image and related audio for use in advertising/marketing for Iowa State University. If this is not acceptable, you must notify your course instructor, and the department chair of Music & Theatre, in writing, by the 10th day of the semester.

Professor: Dr. James F. Rodde, Director of Choral Activities
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