

**Count Me In - MUS321A Section J1**  
**Iowa State University**  
**MUS 321A - J1 - Count Me In**  
**Spring 2023 Syllabus**

**Professor: Dr. Jennifer Rodgers, Assistant Director of Choral Activities**

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Office Hours: By appointment (online or on campus)

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To form a creative community, dedicated to collective, musical expression.
2. To rehearse and present programs and projects of diverse, high-quality music that advances the genre and practice of a cappella treble-voice ensembles.
3. To further each singer's knowledge of and care for their vocal instrument.
4. To reflect credit on the university, the department of music and theatre, and the ensemble itself by demonstration of high standards of preparation, performance, commitment to each other, and pride.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The student will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to perform a variety of contemporary a cappella music with attention to musical factors, including style, articulation, dynamics, blend and balance, intonation, rhythm, and phrasing.
2. Demonstrate the ability to successfully contribute to a cooperative learning environment and, in this student-run chamber ensemble, invest in positive, collaborative leadership

### **EXPECTATIONS**

- The experience of singing in a choir will be unlike any other class you take at ISU. In each class, you must be fully active and engaged in the process of creating art. This can be a tremendously rewarding endeavor, one that you will remember for the rest of your life, but it takes energy, commitment, and courage.
- There may be occasional assignments that need work outside of class.
- Treat all members of the ensemble with respect and openness, for it is the strength of our community that will create the excellence in our artistic pursuits.
- Distractions: Texting and phone use in class, except when part of the ensemble's process, is not allowed. If you are discovered texting in class, you will lose your attendance credit for that class.

### **REHEARSAL TIMES AND LOCATIONS**

Count Me In rehearsal times are set by the group's leadership after the ensemble has formed and individuals have given availability. Class location will be in Music Hall, usually in Room 125, but can shift classrooms and outdoor spaces according to the work at hand, health advisories,

and room availability. Ensemble members must closely monitor the canvas page, email, and/or chat group for updated locations and weekly agendas.

### **2023-2024 PERFORMANCES AND SPECIAL DATES**

Performance runouts will be determined as the semester progresses. Ones to mark on your calendar now:

- Sunday, January 21 - CMI Retreat (Music Hall). 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 24 - Cantamus and Lyrica Spring Concert (MET Recital Hall). 5:00 p.m. call time. 7:30 p.m. concert.
- Showcase Concert - TBD

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

This small ensemble is dependent upon regular attendance and full participation and both are expected. When conflicts arise, each singer is expected to communicate with the student leaders with as much notice as possible. As the advisor of this group, I will check in with the student leaders about any concerns regarding participation and attendance. These concerns may lead to a lowered grade in the course.

### **VOCAL HEALTH**

Your vocal health is critical to your health and well-being and to the success of this ensemble. If you are experiencing voice fatigue, chronic stress, or discomfort, please talk with Dr. Rodgers immediately. If you are needing to rest your voice in part or in full, but able to attend rehearsals, please inform Dr. Rodgers at the beginning of class and be prepared to fully participate outside of actually vocalizing.

### **ILLNESS POLICY**

If you are contagious or suspect you may be contagious with any virus, *do not come to rehearsal* and send an email about your absence. It is your responsibility to work with your instructor and section leader to pick up what you missed.

If you are not contagious or are willing to mask and distance yourself from your classmates, coming to class to work silently is very effective practice.

In a choral ensemble, your commitment to contributing to a healthy environment is critical. Good communal health includes honest self-assessment and protocols, communication with colleagues and instructors, and attention to how your personal health could impact the ensemble as a whole.

### **CONCERT ATTIRE**

Coordinated attire will be determined for use at all concerts and will change to suit the formality and conditions of the concert. In general, singers should plan to professional true-black attire that includes a sleeved top, dress pants or skirt, black dress shoes and tights/hose/socks. A solid-color sleeved top will also be utilized frequently. Minimal jewelry is permitted. *Remember that we aim to present ourselves as a unified, high-level vocal ensemble. I expect your commitment to both looking professional and contributing to the image of the*

*ensemble. Attire that draws attention (in bling, tightness, shortness, or non-conformity) distracts from both of those aims.*

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

Music will be loaned to students by the University and must be returned at the end of semester or academic year, as appropriate. Each singer has a numbered box in Music Hall Rm. 130. Rehearsal recordings will be available for some pieces and will be posted on Canvas or through email by the student leaders. While they may be utilized at any time, there may be specific passages that students will be responsible for securing outside of regular rehearsals. Pencils are required at every rehearsal. Rehearsal marks are strongly encouraged and all marks made on music must be in pencil. It is courteous and professional practice to erase scores before turning in.

### **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.

### **GRADES AND GRADING POLICY**

Grades will be based on rehearsal participation, evidence of preparation and readiness, and each member's general conduct, attitude, and contribution to the enrichment of the group effort. A great performing ensemble centers around its desire to work together for a common goal, and so, your contribution to the aesthetic and psychological spirit of the ensemble is required at all times.

### **INCLUSION AND RESPECT**

Our community grows richer by welcoming each and all of our differences and creating a space where every person can share their identities and be assured of respect, safety, and the invitation to be vulnerable and open with each other. Courtesy and mutual respect are expected at all times, and it is my very great hope that each of you will go well beyond that minimum and seek to understand and accept each other's stories and experiences.

I am committed to fostering this inclusive space and addressing all barriers that would prevent students from fully investing in our work together. My door (virtual or physical) is open to all students should difficulty or discomfort arise. Among my commitments to you are those in regard to:

*Gender Identity/Expression:* Please know that class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me accordingly early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

*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.

*Disability and Accessibility:* In addition to the ISU policies for accommodations and intolerance of discrimination and harassment based on disability status (below and found at [www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu)), I wish to ensure that our performance and rehearsal spaces and structures are accessible and comfortable for all who wish to sing.

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](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu), by contacting SAS staff by email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto: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.

*Religious and Cultural Practice:* Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office at 515-294-1020 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 515-294-7612.

#### *Contact Information for Academic Issues*

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email [academicissues@iastate.edu](mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu).