

University of Southern California
THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Department of Choral and Sacred Music

A Handbook for Bachelor of Music – Choral Music Students

2020–2021



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CONTENTS

Faculty and Staff.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Resources for Research and Study	4
Entrance and Admissions Process	7
Course Work.....	8
Suggested Sequence of Courses – Even Years.....	9
Suggested Sequence of Courses – Odd Years.....	10
General Information for Undergraduate Students in Choral Music.....	11
Financial Considerations	12
Ensemble Singing	12
USC ACDA Student Chapter.....	13
BA Choral Lab	14
Department Projects & Festivals.....	14

CHORAL AND SACRED MUSIC DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, Professor of Choral Music

Office: MUS 203 • 213.740.3226 • jscheibe@usc.edu

Courses: Chamber Singers, Choral Development, Choral Conducting II, Individual Conducting Lessons, Recital and Dissertation Supervision

Dr. Nick Strimple, Professor of Choral and Sacred Music

Office: MUS 418 • 213.740.3227 • strimple@usc.edu

Courses: Choral Literature I, II, Music and the Holocaust, Holocaust and the Creative Impulse, Introduction to Jewish Music, Music of the Great Liturgies, Recital Supervision, Individual Composition Lessons

Dr. Cristian Grases, Associate Professor of Choral Music - Department Chair

Office: MUS 417 • 213.740.3225 • grases@usc.edu

Courses: Concert Choir, Choral Literature III, Introduction to Choral Music, Recital and Dissertation Supervision

Dr. Tram Sparks, Associate Professor of Choral and Sacred Music

310.614.1580 • tram.sparks@usc.edu

Courses: Choral Conducting II, III & IV; Cantata and Oratorio, Hymnology, Dissertation Supervision, Sacred Music Administration

Dr. Ladd Thomas, Chair and Professor of Organ Studies

213.740.7703 • laddthom@usc.edu

Courses: The Organist in Worship and Congregational Life, Private Organ Instruction

Prof. Mary Mattei, Adjunct Professor

562.852.8526 • Nidmir1@gmail.com

Courses: Private Choral Voice Lessons

Prof. Lisa Sylvester, Associate Professor of Practice – Vocal Arts Chair

Office: RHM 206 • 213.740.7704 • sylveste@usc.edu

Courses: IPA for Singers

Prof. Lynn Holding, Professor of Practice – Vocal Arts

Office: RHM 302 • 213.740.7704 • holding@usc.edu

Courses: Vocology, Vocal Pedagogy Teaching Practicum

Woody Gatewood, Department Coordinator

Office: MUS 416 • 213-821-5756 • woody.gatewood@usc.edu

Introduction

The Choral and Sacred Music program in the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California is committed to excellence in Choral and Sacred music and to the importance of the Arts as an essential component of life. The curricula are designed to build a skilled and well-rounded musician and to develop the inherent musical, scholarly, and personal strengths of both the undergraduate and the graduate student. The program is committed to providing quality musical performance opportunities to both music and non-music majors, as well as to members of the University, Los Angeles, and the global community. The choral program accepts students who will pursue a variety of professional directions, including performance, education, research, and sacred music. Graduate courses are organized into the fields of literature and score study, the choral/vocal instrument, and conducting and teaching. The Sacred Music program also emphasizes administration and, when applicable, instrumental performance.

Graduate students in choral and sacred music interact with undergraduates in this program, helping to build the musical and personal strengths of each. Choral ensembles are open to both music and non-music majors. Podium time is provided through opportunities with the USC Thornton Choral Ensembles and the Repertory Singers. Many of our students also hold conducting positions in local community choruses, colleges, and in churches and synagogues.

Thornton's location near downtown Los Angeles, in the city's arts and educational corridor, affords its students immediate proximity to the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County and an array of museums, research centers, libraries, the film and music industries, and thriving early and new music concert series.

The USC Thornton Department of Choral and Sacred Music is actively involved with the work of the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, National Collegiate Choral Organization, Cantors Assembly, and the International Federation for Choral Music. We believe the human spirit is elevated to a broader understanding of itself through study and performance of Art, and that music ennoble the human spirit.

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND STUDY

Libraries

Music Library

The USC Thornton Music Library, housed on the ground floor of Doheny Memorial Library, serves the needs of scholars, performers, and music-lovers. The collections include approximately 20,000 books, 60,000 scores (both reference and circulating), and some 25,000 recordings (CD, LP, cassette, video, and laserdisc). The Library owns or subscribes to most major critical editions and scholarly journals on music and collects many more popular resources as well. A major emphasis in recent years (in line with an ongoing University Library initiative) has been electronic resources, which include numerous databases (e.g., FirstSearch, LexisNexis), reference works (e.g., Oxford Music Online), and electronic journals including those available through JSTOR. There are listening and viewing stations, computer terminals, and reading and work areas for the convenience of students and other patrons.

Special archives within the Music Library include the Bickford Collection of guitar music, and the papers of composer Ingolf Dahl.

- libraries.usc.edu/locations/music-library
- 213.740.0183
- Andrew Justice, Music Librarian
- ajustice@usc.edu, 213.740.2926

Doheny Memorial Library (DML)

One of the most architecturally impressive buildings on the USC campus, Doheny Memorial Library, which opened to the public in 1932, contains molded and polychromed ceilings, stained glass windows, and other decorative details that were carefully restored to their original brilliance. DML houses the University's main collections of books and journals (with the exception of certain branch libraries); its other divisions include the Reference Center, Integrated Document Delivery (which combines the older current periodicals, interlibrary loan, and microform departments), Archival Research Center (ARC), Cinema/TV Library (with significant music holdings, including the Alfred Newman Collection), and Special Collections Library. In addition, there is a display room for special exhibits.

- libraries.usc.edu/locations/doheny-memorial-library
- tel. 213.740.6050 (information), 213.740.2924 (circulation), 213.740.4039 (Reference), 213.740.3994 (Cinema), 213.740.3571 (IDD)

Special Collections/Lion Feuchtwanger Memorial Library

The holdings of USC's Special Collections Library, combining donations and materials actively collected by the University, include some 130,000 books, 1.4 million manuscripts, and 1.3 million photographs. An important component of this division is the Lion Feuchtwanger Memorial Library, acquired from the estate of this émigré German writer (1884 – 1958); this collection is particularly rich in materials from the German expressionist movement, but it also includes many significant items from the 18th and 19th centuries. Among other émigré materials is the Max Reinhardt Collection, in which theater and opera are well represented.

Special Collections include a number of historic musical items dating as far back as the 15th century, as well as manuscripts of important film composers such as Dimitri Tiomkin, and the autograph manuscript of Igor Stravinsky's opera *The Rake's Progress*.

- libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
- tel.: 213.740.4035 (Special Collections), 213.740.5946 (Special Collections Librarian John Ahouse), 213.740.7119 (Feuchtwanger Librarian Marje Schuetze-Coburn)

Leavey Library

The core of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Library, which opened in 1994, is the former College Library, to which numerous electronic and technological resources have been added. Leavey Library's many networked computer stations, study rooms, and its long open hours make it a favorite place for students to study, individually and in groups.

The Center for Scholarly Technology (CST) in Leavey Library assists faculty and other members of the USC community with teaching and research-related projects, and it offers a year-round schedule of classes and other programs on information technology. The Shoah Foundation is also located in the Leavey Library.

- libraries.usc.edu/locations/leavey-library
- tel.: 213.740.4350 (Leavey circulation), 213.740.8819 (CST)

Hoose Library of Philosophy

The Hoose Library collections include numerous important early texts on musical aesthetics, theory, and history. Mudd Hall, in which the library is housed, is one of the finest architectural landmarks on campus, featuring a Romanesque exterior, and brilliantly executed tile, stained glass, and painted beamed ceilings.

- libraries.usc.edu/locations/hoose-library-philosophy
- tel.: 213.740.7434 (Dr. Ross Scimeca, Hoose)

Polish Music Center (PMC)

Founded in 1985 and largely supported by the generosity of Dr. Stefan and Mrs. Wanda Wilk, the Polish Music Center (formerly Polish Music Reference Center), located in Stonier Hall, is a repository of editions, compositional manuscripts (including autograph scores of such composers as Witold Lutoslawski), monographs, journals and recordings relating to Polish music, whether historical or modern. The PMC maintains an award-winning website (pmc.usc.edu) and electronic journal, *Polish Music Journal* (pmc.usc.edu/PMJ/index.html), and organizes scholarly conferences, concerts, and other events on Polish music.

- pmc.usc.edu/
- tel.: 213.740.9369.

Other significant libraries in the Los Angeles area:

Huntington Library

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, founded by railroad baron Henry E. Huntington, together form one of the most significant cultural institutions in the Western United States. The Library's holdings in British and American literature (both manuscript and printed) are especially rich, and include some important musical items. General visitors can view both permanent and temporary exhibits, and qualified scholars may use the collections by appointment.

- www.huntington.org
- tel.: 626.405.2100 (information) 626.405.2191 (Reader Services).

Getty Research Institute (GRI)

The GRI is the main scholarly division of the J. Paul Getty Trust. Its stunningly situated campus overlooks the Pacific and the entire Los Angeles basin. Its extensive collections of monographs, journals, and archival materials concentrate on the history of art and culture, including ritual, spectacle, and performance. Among recent archival acquisitions are the papers of the avant-garde pianist David Tudor and a vast collection of Italian theatrical materials spanning five centuries. The GRI hosts a large number of visiting scholars, in both year-long and shorter-term programs, and sponsors frequent exhibitions and lectures. Local scholars may obtain reading-room privileges, and (upon demonstration of need) access to archives and special collections.

- www.getty.edu/research/institute
- tel.: 310.440.7335 (information), 310.440.7390 (reference)

William Andrews Clark Memorial Library of the University of California, Los Angeles

One of the special collections libraries of UCLA, the Clark Library, occupies a partly neo-Renaissance (outside), partly Augustan-era (inside) villa in the historic West Adams district, only a few miles from USC. The Clark's collections (reflecting the interests of its founder) focus principally on British literature of the Restoration and 18th Century, California history, and Oscar Wilde. Musical materials include numerous 18th-Century opera scores and engraved concert tickets. Each year the Clark Library hosts numerous scholarly conferences sponsored by the Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies, as well as chamber music concerts.

- <http://clarklibrary.ucla.edu/>
- tel.: 323.731.8529 (Clark), 310.206.8552 (Center)

BACHELOR OF ARTS – CHORAL MUSIC

Guidelines for Bachelor of Music Degree Students in Choral Music (BMCM)

Entrance Requirements and Admissions Process

To successfully apply to USC Thornton, you must submit the USC Application for Undergraduate Admission via the Common Application *and* complete the USC Thornton School of Music Portfolio via SlideRoom. Included below are the links for the candidate's reference. Please note that the **application deadline for Fall admission is December 1 the year prior**. This is not a postmark deadline—all application materials must be received by this date, including sufficient test scores.

- USC Undergraduate Application: <https://music.usc.edu/admission/stepsforapplying/>
- Specific requirements for Choral Music applicants: <http://music.usc.edu/departments/choral/ba-choral-music/>

Pre-screening, Audition, and Interview

Applicants to programs in Choral Music must submit a pre-screen recording (video format preferred for undergraduate applicants) to be pre-screened by the faculty. The results of this pre-screen will determine whether an applicant will be invited to perform a live audition on the USC campus in Los Angeles. At the live audition, each applicant will:

- Perform two solo vocal selections, for which an accompanist will be provided
- Demonstrate basic sight singing and pitch retention ability and will also take a test covering basic aural and written theory skills

A successful on-campus audition must be completed prior to acceptance into the degree program.

Application Timeline

- December 1** Application Deadline for all applicants (Common Application *and* SlideRoom)
- January 1** Prescreen Decision Notifications (via email)
- April 1** First-year Decision Notifications
- May 1** First-year Commitment Deadline
- April 15-June 1** Transfer Decision Notifications (on-going)*

**Release of final transfer admission decisions is dependent on all required applications materials being received in a timely manner from applicants.*

Important Information for Transfer Applicants

- Transfer applicants must satisfy additional requirements to be admissible to USC and the Thornton School. It is extremely important that you read the following information:
 - Transferring to Thornton FAQ: <http://music.usc.edu/admissions/transfer>
- If you have any questions about transferring to USC and the Thornton School, please contact Undergraduate Admission at uscmusic@usc.edu, 213.740.8986, or 800.872.2213.

COURSE WORK

IMPORTANT NOTE: All information in this section is subject to the appropriate year of the USC Catalogue, which for every purpose is the document of authority on matters of course requirements and progress to the degree.

The BA in Choral Music is a four-year, 128-unit program divided in four core programs:

- **General Education (64 units):** comprised of classes in writing, social studies, foreign language (3 semesters of one of the following languages: Italian, French, German, Spanish, or Japanese), 20 credits of general education classes, and 20 credits of general education elective classes.
- **Lower Division Music (28 units):** students will develop their abilities in basic musicianship with aural skills, music theory, music history, and keyboard skills classes.
- **Upper Division Music (20 units):** students will develop skills in key areas such as vocal instruction, choral ensemble, advanced music history, studies in musical culture, and elementary orchestration.
- **Choral Music (16 units):** finally, students will receive in-depth instruction in important areas of the choral profession, such as choral conducting, choral ensemble, introduction to choral music, choral development, choral arranging, and diction. When available, BMCM students will be invited to conduct the Concert Choir in an end-of-the-year student recital coached by the Choral Music Department faculty.

(It is the responsibility of the student, in consultation with his/her advisor, to select and complete classes in a timely and appropriate order. Before registering each semester, the student should select classes with the advice, written approval, and signature of the Thornton Advising and Student Affairs Office.)

Bachelor of Music in Choral Music

Catalogue Year (even)

Total Number of Units Required for the Degree: 132*

<u>Freshman Year -- Fall</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	132a	Aural Skills I	2
MUCO	133a	Theory I	3
MPKS	250a	Keyboard Instruction I	2
Mxxx	xxx	Contemporary Division Course	2
GESM	1XX	Freshman Seminar	4
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			15

<u>Freshman Year -- Spring</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	132b	Aural Skills I	2
MUCO	133b	Theory I	3
MPKS	250b	Keyboard Instruction I	2
MPVA	260	Italian Language and Diction	4
WRIT	150	Writing and Critical Reasoning	4
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

<u>Sophomore Year -- Fall</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	232a	Aural Skills II	2
MUCO	233a	Theory II	3
MUHL	250g	Music and Ideas (GE-B)	4
MPVA	261	French Language and Diction	4
MUCD	340	Choral Conducting I	2
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

<u>Sophomore Year -- Spring</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	232b	Aural Skills II	2
MUCO	233b	Theory II	3
MUSC	496	Careers in Music	2
MPVA	262	German Language and Diction	4
MUCM	320	Intro to Choral Music	2
Electives		General Elective Courses	2
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

<u>Junior Year -- Fall</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUHL	350g	Western Art Music I (GE-A)	4
MUCD	441	Choral Conducting II	2
GE		General Education	4
Electives		General Elective Courses	4
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			16

<u>Junior Year -- Spring</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUHL	351	Western Art Music II	4
Mxxx	xxx	Contemporary Division Course	2
MUSC	480	Young Artist Project I	2
WRIT	340	Advanced Writing	4
Electives		General Elective Courses	2
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			16

<u>Senior Year -- Fall</u>			<u>Units</u>
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUSC	481	Young Artist Project II	2
MUCM	440	Choral Development	2
		Instrumental Conducting and	
MUCD	348	Orchestration	2
GE		General Education	4
GE		General Education	4
Electives		General Elective Courses	2
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

<u>Senior Year -- Spring</u>			<u>Units</u>
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	441	Choral Arranging	2
GE		General Education	4
GE		General Education	4
Electives		General Elective Courses	6
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

*G.E. Requirements: MUHL 350 will satisfy GE-A. MUHL 250 will satisfy one GE-B course. One GE course must be a GE Seminar (GESM) taken in your freshman year. The Global Perspectives requirement (GE-G and GE-H) can be satisfied through Core Literacy classes. Therefore, with correct planning, only 6 GE courses will be needed outside of your major requirements. If you do not satisfy your Freshman Seminar and/or Global Perspective within the Core Literacies, you will need to use elective units to complete the GE requirements

Bachelor of Music in Choral Music

Catalogue Year (odd)

Total Number of Units Required for the Degree: 132*

<u>Freshman Year -- Fall</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	132a	Aural Skills I	2
MUCO	133a	Theory I	3
MPKS	250a	Keyboard Instruction I	2
Mxxx	xxx	Contemporary Division Course	2
GESM	1XX	Freshman Seminar	4
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			15

<u>Freshman Year -- Spring</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	132b	Aural Skills I	2
MUCO	133b	Theory I	3
MPKS	250b	Keyboard Instruction I	2
MPVA	260	Italian Language and Diction	4
WRIT	150	Writing and Critical Reasoning	4
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

<u>Sophomore Year -- Fall</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	232a	Aural Skills II	2
MUCO	233a	Theory II	3
MUHL	250g	Music and Ideas (GE-B)	4
MPVA	261	French Language and Diction	4
MUCD	340	Choral Conducting I	2
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

<u>Sophomore Year -- Spring</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	232b	Aural Skills II	2
MUCO	233b	Theory II	3
MUSC	496	Careers in Music	2
MPVA	262	German Language and Diction	4
GE		General Education	4
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

<u>Junior Year -- Fall</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUHL	350g	Western Art Music I (GE-A)	4
MUCD	441	Choral Conducting II	2
GE		General Education	4
Electives		General Elective Courses	4
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			16

<u>Junior Year -- Spring</u>			<u>Units</u>
MPVA	301	Individual Instruction (Choral)	1
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUHL	351	Western Art Music II	4
Mxxx	xxx	Contemporary Division Course	2
MUSC	480	Young Artist Project I	2
MUCM	320	Intro to Choral Music	2
WRIT	340	Advanced Writing	4
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			16

<u>Senior Year -- Fall</u>			<u>Units</u>
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUSC	481	Young Artist Project II	2
MUCM	440	Choral Development	2
MUCD	348	Instrumental Conducting and Orchestration	2
GE		General Education	4
Electives		General Elective Courses	6
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

<u>Senior Year -- Spring</u>			<u>Units</u>
MUEN	3XX	Choral Ensemble	1
MUCO	441	Choral Arranging	2
GE		General Education	4
GE		General Education	4
Electives		General Elective Courses	6
		Choral Lab/Choral Forum	
Total:			17

*G.E. Requirements: MUHL 350 will satisfy GE-A. MUHL 250 will satisfy one GE-B course. One GE course must be a GE Seminar (GESM) taken in your freshman year. The Global Perspectives requirement (GE-G and GE-H) can be satisfied through Core Literacy classes. Therefore, with correct planning, only 6 GE courses will be needed outside of your major requirements. If you do not satisfy your Freshman Seminar and/or Global Perspective within the Core Literacies, you will need to use elective units to complete the GE requirements.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN CHORAL MUSIC

Calendar and Schedule

The Departmental Master Calendar contains information on the following:

- Dress rehearsals and concerts for: Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Oriana Choir, Apollo Chorus, and University Chorus
- Rehearsals and concerts for Repertory Singers
- Choral Collective
- Choral Festivals
- Choral Retreats
- Tours
- Special Guests
- Other Events

Maps

Maps of the campus can be found here: music.usc.edu/map/, as well as in Booth [BMH] 101.

Facilities

Buildings used frequently by department undergraduate students are listed below. Abbreviations are in [].

- **Booth [BMH]:** some ensemble rehearsal rooms
- **Bovard [ADM]:** used by the orchestra, for choral/orchestral works, and Winter Gala
- **Doheny [DML]:** Doheny Memorial Library (Music Library on Ground Floor)
- **Newman [AHF]:** chamber recital hall, used for solo, small ensemble, and choral concerts
- **Ramo [RHM]:** lessons, primarily voice and strings
- **University Gateway [UGW]:** practice rooms and some small ensemble rooms
- **Music Faculty Building [MUS]:** faculty offices, classrooms, Hirt Choral Laboratory (MUS 106) where most choral rehearsals are held
- **United University Church [UUC]:** performance venue for some solo and choral concerts, classroom and offices in the basement.
- **The Music Complex [TMC]**
- **Alice & Eleonore Schoenfeld Symphonic Hall [AES]**
- **Carson Center [CTV]**
- **St. John's Episcopal Cathedral** (514 W Adams Blvd.)
- **Caruso Catholic Center** (844 West 32nd St.)

Parking

- Information is available online at <http://transnet.usc.edu/>
- Parking Options
 - Purchase a monthly sticker for one of the USC garages.
 - Purchase a sticker for the Shrine lot, some restrictions may apply.
 - Pay a daily fee to a USC garage.
 - Use metered parking on the street.
- The most dependable option may be to park at the Grand Ave. Structure, (3401 Grand Ave). There are trams that run periodically between campus and the parking center.

Church/Synagogue/College/University Positions

Information regarding church/synagogue job openings can be found on the 4th floor of MUS, on the bulletin board across from MUS 416.

Practice Rooms

Thornton has a limited number of practice rooms. In order to use Thornton practice facilities, follow these instructions:

1. Go to the Music Operations Office in BMH 101 to register with Music Operations.
2. You will need to bring your USCard (student ID card) and provide proof that you are a major/minor or proof that you are currently registered in a music course.
3. You will receive a sticker on your USCard, which demonstrates that you have registered with the Music Operations office.

Thornton practice rooms are located in the University Gateway Building (UGW), on the corner of Jefferson and Figueroa. UGW houses 44 practice rooms. All music majors will be programmed for 24/7 card-reader access to UGW with valid USCard and Music Registration sticker.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Regardless of a family's financial circumstances, all domestic applicants are encouraged to apply for university need-based aid. Specific information on USC's financial aid program and complete financial aid application instructions can be found at <http://www.usc.edu/financialaid>. The USC Financial Aid Office strives to meet each undergraduate student's full determined need, and the process for doing so requires considerable documentation, including the FAFSA and CSS Profile, and in some cases, a copy of your family's federal tax returns. Please follow all deadlines closely and plan ample time to complete the process.

Undergraduate students pursuing degrees in Choral Music are not eligible for Thornton scholarship awards. For detailed information about USC academic scholarships and additional tips and resources, please visit the USC Financial Aid website links below.

- Academic Scholarships: <http://admission.usc.edu/firstyear/prospective/scholarships.html>
- Tips & Resources <http://financialaid.usc.edu/general/tips-resources-general.html>

ENSEMBLE SINGING

General information

There are six choral ensembles in the Thornton School of Music

Ensemble	Conductor(s)	Rehearsal Days	Times	Size
Chamber Singers	Scheibe	Mon, Wed, Fri*	2:00–3:50	c. 32 voices
Concert Choir	Grases	Tues, Thurs, Fri*	2:00–3:50	c. 52 voices
Apollo Chorus	Hirner, Nieh, Meethongkum	Mon & Wed	4:00–5:50	c. 40 TB voices
Oriana Choir	Tan, Sung, Stroud	Tues & Thurs	4:00–5:50	c. 50 SA voices
University Chorus	Beall, Belohlavek, Parese, Di Noto	Wed	7:00–8:50	c. 75 voices
Repertory Singers	Graduate Students	see below		

*Friday rehearsals occur very infrequently, consult the course syllabus.

Repertory Singers

- Conducted by graduate students presenting recitals: Tues 7:00–8:50; Fri 2:00–3:50 in MUS 106
- Recitals usually take place Tuesday evenings in MUS 106; dress rehearsals sometimes are held the Monday prior from 6:30–8:20pm. Check the Departmental Master Calendar for actual dates/times.

Choral Artists

Choral Artists is the name given to combinations of USC choirs, usually Chamber Singers and Concert Choir, used primarily when singing with an orchestra.

Requirements

- All BMCM students are required to participate in one of the four major Choral Music Department ensembles: Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Apollo Chorus, or Oriana Choir. Participation in additional ensembles including Repertory Singers is optional and must be approved by the department chair and the student's voice teacher. Given the amount of activities and course work during the year, students are strongly encouraged to limit their participation in other ensembles outside the Choral Music Department.
- BMCM students may not substitute any other USC Thornton ensembles for their choral ensemble requirement.
- BMCM students must complete a voice placement, either in March or August, for ensemble assignment.
- Many ensembles hold retreats and go on tour. BMCM students must arrange to cover their other obligations so they are available to participate fully in these activities.

Concert Attire & Appearance

Ensemble conductors and teaching assistants are responsible for enforcing the following. Students who do not comply with these requirements will not be allowed to participate in the concert and this will be reflected in their grade. Concert attire is ordered in the fall through the ensembles:

Stock black dresses (approximately \$100) and black, close-toed shoes, ensemble jewelry.

- Hair must be worn away from the face and up off the neck—no large clips or other hair jewelry
- Small watches and rings are acceptable
- Only ensemble jewelry
- Black, sheer hose and black shoes must be worn

Suit or Tuxedo, as determined by the Department for the ensemble

- Long hair must be pulled back away from the face—no hair jewelry
- Facial hair must be neatly trimmed
- Small stud earrings, watches and rings are acceptable
- No necklaces or other distracting jewelry
- Black socks and black tux shoes must be worn

USC ACDA STUDENT CHAPTER

The Student Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) is an integral part of the national American Choral Directors Association. The membership of this organization is comprised of students at the University of Southern California who, because of their serious interest in the improvement of choral music and the profession of the choral director, have chosen to become members of the USC Thornton Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. This organization is overseen by Dr. Cristian Grases as the Faculty Advisor.

The purposes of this organization are set forth in the National Constitution of the American Choral Directors Association, and are stated as follows:

1. To foster and promote choral singing, which will provide artistic, cultural, and spiritual experiences for the participants.
2. To foster and promote the finest types of choral music to make these experiences possible.
3. To foster and encourage rehearsal procedures conducive to attaining the highest possible level of musicianship and artistic performance.
4. To foster and promote the organization and development of choral groups of all types in schools and colleges.
5. To foster and promote the development of choral music in the church and synagogue.
6. To foster and promote the organization and development of choral societies in cities and communities.
7. To foster and promote understanding of choral music as an important medium of contemporary artistic expression.
8. To foster and promote significant research in the field of choral music.
9. To foster and encourage choral composition of superior quality.
10. To cooperate with all organizations dedicated to the development of musical culture in America
11. To foster and promote international exchange programs involving performing groups, conductors, and composers.
12. To disseminate professional news and information about choral music.

Members of the USC ACDA Student Chapter may have the opportunity to raise funds to finance their participation in academic development activities. Funds could be raised for travel expenses and registration fees related to attendance at national and regional conventions, sponsorship of lectures, guest speakers, and concerts, and other activities.

All BMCM Students are expected to become active members of the USC ACDA Student Chapter.

Projects under the umbrella of the USC ACDA Student Chapter

- Choral Collective
- Lecture Series and Forums
- ACDA National and Regional conferences
- Departmental Projects and Festivals
- Undergraduate Leaders Concert with Concert Choir

CHORAL COLLECTIVE

The Choral Collective is a unique and valuable conducting experience, managed and organized entirely by USC BMCM students. It provides additional opportunities for BMCM students to conduct and rehearse choral selections with a choir consisting of BMCM students and other undergraduate and graduate student volunteers. Generally, Choral Collective produces one concert each semester. **Though Choral Collective is not an official Thornton ensemble, all BMCM students are expected to participate every semester.** Details will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

DEPARTMENTAL PROJECTS & FESTIVALS

Make note of all departmental concerts, festivals, and events. BMCM students are required to attend all of these events and to assist with logistics.