THE PEABODY INSTITUTE AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

VOCAL ENSEMBLES
Fall 2020
PY.910.511 | PY.910.811 | 2.0 credits

INSTRUCTOR / CONDUCTOR
Dr. Beth Willer
bwiller1@jhu.edu
office hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An intensive course designed to develop ensemble skills, examine vocal ensemble repertoire, and explore the possibilities of collaboration in a virtual space. Through conversation, listening, independent study, and virtual performance projects, students will develop an appreciation and understanding of the vocal ensemble art. Open to voice majors of all levels of study (undergraduate and graduate), this course offers an introduction to the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed as an independent *and* collaborative vocal artist, while also laying the groundwork for a new and progressive vocal ensemble culture at Peabody.

COURSE GOALS
1) Educate and empower creative minds to collaborate and seek application across disciplines
2) Cultivate a healthy and unified community of bold and courageous musicians, equally committed to each other and the vocal ensemble art.
3) Make connections with the broader vocal ensemble community beyond Peabody
4) Build ensemble skills and a robust ensemble culture rooted in independent musicianship
5) Cultivate an appreciation and curiosity for vocal ensemble repertoire
6) Engage in conversations that will further the vocal ensemble art form in terms of diversity, equity, and inclusion

SCHEDULE
M, T, W, Th – 1:30-5:30 pm (students are expected to hold all times)
Total active time: 5 hrs (3.5 synchronous, 1.5+ asynchronous)

1) **Guest Artist Series**
   Tue (and sometimes Thu) 3:30-5:00p
   (1.5 hr synchronous + 1.5 hr asynchronous prep as assigned)

2) **Virtual Chamber Ensembles*** (2 hrs synchronous + asynchronous prep as assigned)
   2 one-hour rehearsals <u>per ensemble</u>, on M+W <u>or</u> T+Th, scheduled within the following windows:
   - M, W 1:30-2:30, 2:30-3:30, 3:30-4:30, 4:30-5:30
   - T, Th 1:30-2:30, 2:30-3:30 *(Th 3:30-5:30 if needed)*

   *please note that you will have three rotations over the course of the semester, at which point your small ensemble assignment and schedule may change (see Course Outline).

GRADING

- **60% Attendance, Participation, and Preparation. (synchronous*)**
  - Attendance at and meaningful participation in weekly guest artist series and all weekly chamber ensemble rehearsals/coaching
  - Independent preparation of all ensemble repertoire in advance of first rehearsal, and between subsequent rehearsals as needed
- **20% Listening, Reading, and Written Assignments. (asynchronous)**
  - Completion of all assignments, and on-time submission of written responses
  - All assignments submitted/logged weekly on Blackboard, by Monday, 11:59pm
- **20% Virtual Performance Projects. (synchronous*)**
  - Artistically superior contribution to, and on-time completion of, all virtual performance projects
  - Soundtrap projects will be checked "in studio" periodically throughout each rotation to assess individual/group progress
  - Final recordings must be posted to Blackboard by due dates indicated in Course Outline
  - All group recording projects will be graded on a basis of 50% individual contribution, 50% group contribution.

  *Students requiring asynchronous alternatives for synchronous activities should reach out the Ensemble Office to request an accommodation (see "Class Engagement")

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

Please refer to the Peabody Student Technology Requirements and Recommendations for a complete list of recommended technology at a discounted rate through B&H.

1) **Computer** (laptop or desktop) with:
   - Display – 13-inch or greater
   - Processor – Dual-core Intel Core i5 or greater
   - Memory – 16 GB or greater
   - Storage – 512 GB or greater
2) **Ethernet cable** to connect your computer directly to your modem
   - + **adaptor** to connect the cable to the USB or USB-C input on your computer
3) **Soundtrap** recording platform (subscription provided by Peabody – do not purchase in advance)
   - Explore now with a FREE 30-day trial here
4) **External microphone** (USB, or XLR with audio interface)
   - Recommended USB mic: Rode NT-USB Mini USB Microphone
5) **Microphone stand**
   - Recommended: K&M 210/9 Tripod Microphone Stand with Telescoping Boom
6) **Headphones** (over-ear, open-back)
   - Recommended: AKG K 240 Studio Professional Semi-Open Stereo Headphones
7) **A-440 tuning fork** or piano

CLASS ENGAGEMENT

All students are expected to engage synchronously as specified. To request permission to be excused from synchronous engagement for those residing outside of US or for absences due to an illness, students are required to submit a Synchronous Engagement Conflict Notice on the Ensemble Office website. A form must also be submitted in cases of tardiness and early departure. These notices are reviewed by the Ensemble Office who will respond as promptly as possible.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS
During the fall semester all music and scores will be provided in a digital format. Files will be hosted on Blackboard and possibly other online music hosting services. If music is hosted on an alternative platform, instructions will be provided for its use. You will be able to download and print music or utilize a digital viewing method such as a tablet. For music that is under copyright, any printed parts must be destroyed after the course module has ended.

INTEGRITY OF COURSE MATERIALS
Recording and/or distributing the materials and proceedings of lessons, classes, performances, or any other educational activity at Peabody is strictly prohibited as item 20 of Prohibited Student Conduct in the Johns Hopkins Student Conduct Process and Procedures. Recording and posting work from a class may compromise the identity and right to privacy of your student-colleagues as well as violate a professor's intellectual property rights.

DIVERSITY & DISABILITY STATEMENT
The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to a climate of mutual respect and civility among members of our community. Peabody recognizes that disability is an aspect of diversity. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment or achievement related to your disability, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are welcome to email peabodydisability@jh.edu for further information about academic adjustments or accommodations.

COURSE OUTLINE

Guest artist schedule and associated assignments <u>subject to change</u>.
Details for each week will be confirmed in the outline distributed on the previous Thursday

	ASSIGNMENT	GUEST ARTIST SERIES	CHAMBER ENSEMBLES
	DUE weekly on Monday by 11:59p	*Tue/Thu 3:30-5:00*	*Mon/Wed or Tue/Thu, times variable by ens.*
INTRODUCTION August 31-Sept 13	**8/31-9/3** 1. Watch "A Guide to Making Better Recordings" video series (7 hrs, asynchronous) 2. Technology set-up consultations (one-on-one 30-min appts.) 3. Independent ensemble repertoire preparation (asynchronous) **Tue 9/1, 3:30-5:00** All-Ensemble Meeting **DUE Sun 9/6, 11:59pm:** Independent multi-track recording, rep as assigned (2+ parts)		
ENSEMBLE ROTATION 1 Sept 7-Oct 4	**Mon 9/7** **Read:** Artist bios **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 9/8** Pro Vocal Ensemble Artist Panel with Michele Kennedy, Margot Rood, Enrico Lagasca	**Ensembles:** *Early repertoire, as assigned*
	Mon 9/14 **Read:** Kelly bio, *Capturing Music* Ch 1-3 **Listen:** Ch 1-3 recordings	**Tue 9/15, Thu 9/17** Thomas Forrest Kelly, musicologist (Harvard University)	
	Mon 9/21 **Read:** Lorelei/Artist bios, explore Lorelei website **Listen:** Lorelei Ensemble, various **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 9/22** Members of Lorelei Ensemble Sarah Brailey, Emily Marvosh, and Sophie Michaux	
	Mon 9/28 **Read:** Metcalfe bio, explore Blue Heron website **Listen:** Monteverdi *Vespers of 1610*	**Tue 9/29, Thu 10/1** Scott Metcalfe, artistic director (Blue Heron Renaissance Ensemble)	**DUE 10/4, 11:59pm:** collaborative multi-track recording(s) of 2 tracks, or 5 min, .wav file posted to Blackboard
ROTATION 2 Oct 5-Nov 1	**Mon 10/5**	**Tue 10/6, Thu 10/8** Craig Hella Johnson, conductor and artistic	**Ensembles:** *Contemporary repertoire, as assigned*

Read: Johnson bio, explore [Conspirare website](#) **Listen:** J.S. Bach *St. Matthew Passion* **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s) **Wed 10/7** **Listen:** Johnson *Considering Matthew Shepherd* **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	director (Conspirare, Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble)	
Mon 10/12 **Read:** Lang bio, explore [Bang on a Can website](#) **Listen:** Lang, various **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 10/13** David Lang, composer	
Mon 10/19 **Read:** Roustom bio **Listen:** Roustom, various **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 10/20** Kareem Roustom, composer	
Mon 10/26 **Read:** Artist bios, explore [The Crossing website](#) **Listen:** The Crossing, various, Gordon *The Anonymous Man* **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 10/27** Donald Nally, Michael Gordon, and members of The Crossing Rebecca Myers Hoke and Steven Bradshaw	**DUE 11/1, 11:59pm:** collaborative multi-track recording(s) of 3 tracks, or 10 min, .wav file posted to Blackboard

ROTATION 3 Nov 2-Dec 14	**Mon 11/2** **Read:** G. L. Frank bio **Listen:** Frank, various **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 11/3** Gabriela Lena Frank, composer	**Ensembles:** Final projects (composer collaboration)
	Mon 11/9 **Read:** Artist bios, explore Kaleidoscope website **Listen:** Kaleidoscope, various **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 11/10** Arianne Abela, with members of Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble Cecilia Duarte, Jonathan Woody, & Reginald Mobley	
	Mon 11/16 **Listen:** Roomful of Teeth, various **Read:** Artist bios, explore ROT website **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 11/17** Brad Wells, with members of Roomful of Teeth (TBD)	
	(Nov 23-29 Thanksgiving break)		
	Mon 11/30 **Listen:** Wolfe, various **Read:** Wolfe bio **Submit:** 3 questions for guest artist(s)	**Tue 12/1** Julia Wolfe, composer	**DUE 11/30** Final project Soundtrap files due to audio engineer; editing
	Mon 12/7 TBD	**Tue 12/8** TBD	**DUE 12/14, 11:59pm:** Final recording project .wav file posted to Blackboard

Fall 2020, Dr. Beth Willer