

Syllabus for
MUS 087—English Handbell Choirs
1 Credit hour
Spring 2004

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

English handbell performing groups dedicated to excellence in the performance of standard handbell literature for 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-octave handbell sets based on the number of ringers in each choir. The number of students enrolled will determine the number of choirs. Each choir will be established primarily on the basis of ability and experience and each will have its own name. At the discretion of the director, some choirs may have membership established by audition.

Prerequisites: Basic Music Reading Skills.

Choir lab fee: \$55.00

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of these handbell choirs is to achieve the highest possible proficiency in handbell service playing and performance as an educational experience for choir members and as a benefit to the ORU campus and the community outside campus.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Contribute to the spiritual and artistic life of this campus and the world community through participation in worship services, concerts and programs.
- B. Display excellence in handbell service playing and performance.
- C. Provide a fulfilling musical and spiritual experience.
- D. Exhibit a knowledge and talent of student ringers, including handbell notation, history, literature, performance, and techniques.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

No textbook requirements

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures
 1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
 2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
 3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
 4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
 5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
 6. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to

check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

B. Department Policies and Procedures-See Music Department Student Handbook.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

- a. The semester grade will be determined as follows:
80% Attendance, Attitude, Cooperation
20% Bell Technique Playing in Rehearsals and Playing Test and /or Written Quiz
- b. Unexcused Absences
 - (1) One (1) unexcused absence from any rehearsal will result in a lower semester grade by one (1) letter grade, i.e., A=B.
 - (2) Three (3) unexcused absences from any rehearsal will result in a grade of "F" for the semester and an automatic suspension from the choir.
 - (3) One (1) unexcused absence from any performance will result in a grade of "F" for the semester and an automatic suspension from the choir.
- c. Tardiness
 - (1) Tardiness for performance will result in a lower semester grade by two (2) letter grades, i.e., A=C.
 - (2) Three (3) tardies to class equals one (1) unexcused absence.
 - (3) Being tardy for class/rehearsal or performance is disrespectful and disruptive to the choir members and the director and is to be avoided!
 - (4) Habitual tardiness to rehearsals will not be tolerated!

2. Other Information

- a. Regular scheduled class/rehearsals will be 60-90 min. each Tuesday/Thursday in TB-58 with the specific rehearsal time established at the beginning of each semester within the hours of 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- b. Additional class/rehearsals may be scheduled from time to time on a TBA "to be announced" basis, ranging from 60-90 minutes each.
- c. Individual rehearsal (practice room): a separate small practice room is provided for individual practice of bell techniques and current handbell music. A key can be obtained from the listening Lab. It is the students' responsibility to know their music.
- d. Dress rehearsals for worship services, concerts, and programs are "TBA."
- e. Additional rehearsals are scheduled sparingly but when and if needed to assist in the development of individual bell ringer, for technique and/or for preparation of music as the performance schedule may dictate from time to time.
- f. Dress–Appearance is very important!
 - (1) Rehearsals
 - (a) Dress for rehearsals will follow standard ORU class code.
 - (b) Care should be taken to remove jewelry and other items from shirt or blouse (pockets) prior to rehearsal.
 - (2) Performances
 - (a) Formal dress: black shoes; black socks for men, black hose for women; white tux shirt–long sleeve; black bow tie and black pants for men; black skirt/medium

- length for women (must be below knees).
- (b) Other styles of dress may be required. If there is need for any other changes, such will be determined at the time needed.
Uniform apparel (same style/color) may be required--you should be prepared for purchase of this uniform apparel when needed from time to time as indicated by the director.
- (c) Miscellaneous: jewelry should be kept to a minimum and should be very petite. Hairstyling and makeup should be moderate and very neat in appearance.
- (d) Gloves: two pairs will be needed (one for rehearsal, one for performance). Gloves should be white cotton performance style and may have plastic beads, if desired, for a more solid grip.
- g. Audit of the course is permitted; however, ALL rules and requirements are applicable.
- h. Out of respect for the bell choir, the director, and yourself it is extremely important that a high level of communication be maintained with the director regarding attendance! All matters of attendance are at the discretion of the director. Certain absences can be excused absences as follows:
 - (1) Prescheduled class exam: administrative excuse may be required in advance.
 - (2) Prescheduled ORU Music Ensemble dress rehearsal or performance of which students are members: administrative excuse may be required in advance.
 - (3) Serious illness: doctor's excuse required.
 - (4) Death: family member.
- i. The above is also applicable to any additionally scheduled or called rehearsal. Advance notice must be given as soon as possible and a minimum of 24 hours notice is required. The method of giving notice is to be in priority order as follows:
 - (1) Notify director at prior rehearsal.
 - (2) Phone director
 - (3) Contact music office and leave message (495-7500).
 - (4) Leave message in mailbox in TB.
- j. Absence can be approved only by the director. Therefore, it is necessary for students to talk with the director before the absence to obtain an approved excused absence.
- k. The exception is illness or death noted above in which case, if the director cannot be reached in advance as required, a message should be provided as soon as possible prior to rehearsal. The director will procure the substitute.
- l. Attendance at all performances is required! In the event of an emergency the director should be notified immediately.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

- A. Performances--the number of performances during each semester will be determined by the capability and availability of each bell choir to meet requests for performances.
- B. ORU Campus may include
 - 1. One major concert

- 2. Student Chapel and other worship services
- 3. Other concerts and programs such as TV (Richard Roberts Show), music seminar, graduate recitals, participation in concerts with other groups, etc.

C. World Community may include

- 1. Community--within 100-mile radius of Tulsa: for example public concerts, school programs, church worship services and programs, and institutional programs.
- 2. Missions--beyond 100-mile radius of Tulsa: state, national and/or international tours, usually of more than a one-day duration.

Jan Davis
STAFF

MUS 087
Course No.

English Handbell Choir
Title of Course

Music
Name of Department

MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word "Wholeness." ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of mind, spirit, and body.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. Spiritual Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication
4. Analysis
5. Problem Solving
6. Valuing in Decision-making
7. Social Interaction
8. Global Perspectives
9. Effective Citizenship
10. Aesthetic Responsiveness

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Within a Christian, charismatic environment, provide students an excellent undergraduate foundation in music.

Provide professional training for a career as a music teacher, performer, composer, and church musician.

Become intellectually aware of a wide variety of music by listening, analyzing, creating, and recreating.

Attain proficiency on a primary instrument and at least functional piano skills, also knowledge and skill in music theory and in music history.

Gain knowledge and skill to pass along these areas of knowledge to others.

COURSE GOALS

To provide students with experience in small ensemble work.

To perform music from various periods and become familiar with stylistic characteristics.

To develop aural skills necessary to function in a small ensemble for balance, intonation, and tone.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE GOALS

STIMULI

Concert preparation

Performances for special events and concerts.

CRITERIA:

Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively and musically in a small group.

Perform stylistically and develop aural ensemble abilities.