Welcome to the Choral & Vocal Studies program at Drew University! The following information is provided to help orient you to our program, which offers opportunities for ensemble membership as well as private study in vocal performance. If you have any questions about the information provided here, please contact Dr. Jason Bishop, Director of Choral & Vocal Studies, at jbishop@drew.edu or 973-408-3791, or visit our website at drew.edu/music/choralvocal.

General Information

Placement Appointments (Auditions)
The Choral & Vocal Studies program at Drew University consists of two ensembles and several private voice studios. Whether you are looking to join an ensemble, begin private voice study, or both, all singers who are new to the program must complete a placement appointment with Dr. Bishop. Placement appointments are scheduled at the beginning of each semester. To sign-up for an appointment, go to drew.edu/music/choralvocal and select “Schedule an Audition.” You do not need to prepare anything specific for your appointment. Dr. Bishop will do some simple vocal exercises with you to get a sense of your vocal range, singing experience, and musical ability. At the conclusion of the placement appointment period, you will be notified of your ensemble assignment(s) and/or private studio assignment, and rosters will be posted on the Choral & Vocal Studies bulletin board.

Course Registration
Ensembles and private lessons are courses, which means that all undergraduate students must register in order to participate. Variable credit options are offered, including zero credit, to provide students with the flexibility to fit ensembles or lessons into their schedules without causing credit overloads. All students will be held to the same expectations of attendance and participation, regardless of the number of credits for which they are registered.

Concert Attire
Students in Chorale and Choral Union are required to wear specific formal concert attire for performances.

Attire for men: black tuxedo (jacket and pants), white tuxedo shirt, black bowtie, black cummerbund, black dress shoes and socks. If you do not currently own a tuxedo, you may choose to rent a tuxedo for each performance, or purchase one. Special discounted rates are available for Drew students at Prima Tuxedo in Madison (973-377-9256). Please note: two rentals are roughly equivalent in price to a full purchase at Prima’s discounted rate, so purchasing a tuxedo is ultimately the more economical choice.

Attire for women: All women wear a standard concert dress which must be purchased prior to the first performance. The cost of the dress is approximately $54. Dr. Bishop’s student assistant or your section leader will assist you with measurements to ensure the appropriate size is ordered.

Choral Union: MUS 110
The Drew University Choral Union is Drew’s community chorus, open not only to students, but also to faculty, staff, and community members. With an average of 80 members per year, Choral Union is the university’s largest choral ensemble. All students taking private voice lessons are strongly encouraged to sing in the Choral Union as part of the overall choral/vocal experience. The Choral Union typically performs 3-4 concerts or other events per year, focusing primarily on choral-orchestral masterworks. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 7:00-9:30p.m. in the Concert Hall. All participants will be provided with a calendar at the beginning of the semester outlining the schedule of commitments for the ensemble. Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and special events.

Chorale: MUS 215
The Drew University Chorale is a select chamber choir that performs a wide variety of choral repertoire. With careful attention to artistic balance, the members of Chorale, primarily students, are selected from among the Choral Union membership and expected to tackle a wide variety of styles, languages, and techniques. Chorale membership is reserved for students who demonstrate experience singing in choral ensembles and the likelihood of thriving in a small, chamber choir environment. In addition to performances throughout the academic year, students in Chorale remain on campus after the conclusion of each spring semester (housing provided if needed) to perform in the University’s Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies and participate in end-of-year touring activities. Chorale members are expected to provide leadership in Choral Union as well. Chorale rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00-7:30p.m. in the Concert Hall; Choral Union rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 7:00-9:30p.m. in the Concert Hall. All participants will be
provided with a calendar at the beginning of the semester outlining the schedule of commitments for the ensemble. Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and special events.

**Private Voice Lessons: MUS 109 or 325**
The Drew University Music Department offers private instruction in vocal performance. Students interested in pursuing private voice lessons for the first time must complete a placement appointment with Dr. Bishop. Following the appointment, Dr. Bishop will assign the student to a private instructor, and the student will then register for either MUS 109 (30-minute weekly lessons) or MUS 325 (45-minute weekly lessons). Most beginning students register for MUS 109, and advanced students register for MUS 325. The level and length of lesson should be determined in consultation with Dr. Bishop and the private instructor. To complete the registration process for these courses, students must submit the form available at this link:

[http://www.drew.edu/registrar/student/musical-instruction-registration](http://www.drew.edu/registrar/student/musical-instruction-registration)

After submitting the form, Dr. Bishop will approve the student’s registration, and the appropriate course will be added to the student’s schedule.

Private lessons are given on a weekly basis and cost $35 per 30-minute lesson ($420 per semester for twelve 30-minute lessons), and $52.50 per 45-minute lesson ($630 per semester for twelve 45-minute lessons). These fees are assessed to student accounts when the course is added to the student’s schedule. The fee applies regardless of the number of credits for which a student is registered. Students who drop lessons by the final drop/add date will receive a refund minus the cost of any lessons already received. Students who drop lessons after the final drop/add date will not receive a refund and will receive a grade of W for the course. The final drop/add date for Fall 2015 is Friday, September 11.

As a component of private study and an indicator of progress, students taking voice lessons will have the option to perform in Music at Noon concerts on Fridays throughout the semester, at the discretion of the private instructor. Hosted by the Music Department, Music at Noon concerts allow students enrolled in private study to share their progress with peers and faculty in a positive, supportive environment. Music at Noon concerts for the Fall 2015 semester are scheduled for **October 23, November 6, November 20, & December 4**, all starting at 12:00p.m.

Finally, students taking private voice lessons are strongly encouraged to participate in the Choral Union, at the discretion of Dr. Bishop and the private instructor.

**Audition Period and First Rehearsals**
The Fall 2015 audition period will run from August 24-30, 2015. The first rehearsal for Chorale is Tuesday, September 1, and the first rehearsal for Choral Union is Wednesday, September 2.

**Music Department Open House**
Please join us for a Music Department Open House on Monday, August 31, 4:30-6:00p.m. in the Concert Hall.

**Stay Connected**
To stay connected with the Choral & Vocal Studies program, like our Facebook page, “Choirs at Drew,” and follow us on Twitter @ChoirsatDrew. We encourage you also to connect with the “Drew University Music Department” and “The Concert Hall at Drew” pages on Facebook, and with the Music Department on Twitter @MusicatDrew.