

Introduction

Music Education for Everyone

Music education is the very core of the singing school's curriculum. We offer four sessions of classes for beginners and advanced students alike, in theory, appreciation and application classes.

The basics of music theory and sight reading classes are a full survey of church music using shaped notes to accelerate the learning curve. We cover everything you need to know to read and understand what you see in the music found in our hymnals. Sight reading makes up two hours of class time each day. Later, introduction and advanced harmony classes offer studies in chord structure and their application in church music.

Song leaders receive training in the basics and advanced techniques of leading congregational singing. They are coached in classes designed to develop their skills. Video is used to allow the student to see for themselves where further work is needed and where progress has been made. Worship planning and the use of projected hymns are covered in the advanced classes. The art of providing music leadership in the local church to sing new songs, to help the congregation improve its singing skills, and to provide a complete music program for the local church are covered.

Four music appreciation classes offer studies in the history and trends of church music, the history of public worship, and the scientific principles of music and acoustics.

Individuals wishing to learn the basics of song writing receive instruction in not only music theory, but also the principles of good lyric writing and music composition.

Those wishing to increase their skills as singers and to master the performance skills required in a cappella congregational singing, attend the singer's choral workshop. Directed by a thirty year veteran director, new songs are introduced, practiced, and performed each evening.

There is something at the singing school for everyone who wishes to increase their effectiveness in their home congregation.

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Class Offerings

Primary Course Material

SP – classes also in Spanish

Music Theory

MT101 (SP) – Basics of Music Theory

MT201 – Basics of Music Part Writing (Harmony 1)

MT301 – Intermediate Part Writing (Harmony 2)

MT401 – Advanced Part Writing (Harmony 3)

Sight Reading

SR101 – Beginning Sight Reading

SR201 – Advanced Sight Reading

Song Leading

SL101 (SP) – Beginning Song Leading

SL201 – Advanced 1 Song Leading

SL301 – Advanced 2 Song Leading

SL401 – Worship Leader Dynamics

Song Writing

SW101 – Beginning Song Writing

SW201 – Advanced Song Writing

FS101 – Finale Music Publishing Software

Singer's Choral Workshop

SC101 – Singer's Workshop

Music Appreciation & History

MA101 – History of Church Music

MA201 – Trends in Church Music

MA301 – History of Public Worship

MA401 – Science of Music

Class Offerings – cont.

Certification Programs

Men's Certification Program in Public Worship

MC301 – Worship Leader Part One / Development

MC401 – Worship Leader Part Two / Leadership

Women's Certification Program in Church Music

WC301 – Amazing Power of a Woman

WC302 – Women and Children

WC303 – Song Leading

WC401 – Women's Senior Seminar

Post Certification

PC501 – Post Certification

MT101 - Music Theory

MT101SP – Music Theory taught in Spanish

Title:

Basics of music theory

Recommended for:

Any interested in the basics of music and/or learning how to teach music to a congregation

Required for:

All first year students

A student may test out of this class

Description:

The basics necessary to read music are covered

Goal:

To equip the student with the basics of music as it pertains to church music

Topics:

Elements of sound, music, and songs

Absolute pitch notation

Pitch modification

Development of scales

Relative pitch notation

Chromatic scale

Note length notation

Rhythm

Repeats and endings

Volume and tempo notation

MT201 - Music Theory 201

Title:

Harmony 1, An Introduction to Harmony

Recommended for:

Any interested in the basics of music harmony theory

Required for:

All second year students or students that test out of Music Theory 101
A student may test out of this class

Description:

Introduction to the theory and use of chords in church music

Goal:

To equip the student with knowledge and use of the primary major chords

Topics:

Review of Music Theory 101 material

Major diatonic scale

Intervals

Chords of the major keys

Use of the Tonic, Dominant, and Sub-dominant chords

Dominant seventh chord

Inversions

Passing and neighboring tones

MT301 - Music Theory 301

Title:

Harmony 2

Recommended for:

Any interested in the basics of music harmony theory

Required for:

All third year students not in certification tracks or students that test out of Music Theory 201

Description:

A continuation of harmony theory through altered chords

Goal:

To equip the student with knowledge and use of the primary and secondary Chords

Topics:

Review of Music Theory 201 material

Figured bass notation

Secondary chords

Other seventh and ninth chords of the major keys

Cadences

Altered chords

MT401 - Music Theory 401

Title:

Harmony 3

Recommended for:

Any interested in advanced church music theory

Required for:

All fourth year students not in certification tracks

Description:

A continuation of harmony theory

Goal:

To further equip the student with knowledge and use of advanced techniques with chords and progressions

Topics:

Shaped notes and solfege in the chromatic scale

Intervals based on size and quality

Major and Harmonic Minor scales

Construction, recognition, and use of triads and 4-tone chords

Non-harmonic tones

Structure of musical phrases

Chord progression using both major and minor triads

Concepts of regression and neutral tonic chord

Using dominant-function chords for modulation

Various types of augmented 6th chords

SR101 - Sight Reading 101

Title:

Beginning Sight Reading

Recommended for:

Any interested in the learning how to read music

Required for:

All first and second year students

Description:

Learn to read shaped notes, note length, observe repeats and observe dynamic markings

Goal:

To equip the student read new music and voice parts

Topics:

The major diatonic scale
Determining the keytone
The minor scale
Note length
Rhythm patterns
Voice parts
Repeats and endings
Dynamic markings

SR201 - Sight Reading 201

Title:

Advanced Sight Reading

Recommended for:

Any interested in expanding their sight reading ability

Required for:

Those completing any of the certification programs

Description:

A continuation of building skills learning in Sight Reading 101

Goal:

To equip the student with skills to read more difficult music and conventional notation

Topics:

Tune intervals

Sing and understand major and minor intervals

Sing three forms of minor scales

Sing chromatic notes using solfege

Sight read completely unknown material

Lead or rehearse group rehearsals and sectionals for unknown material

Sing solfege of a memorized melody without written assistance

Identify a song by the written melody alone

SL101T - Song Leading for teens
SL101A - Song Leading for adults
SL101SP - Song Leading taught in Spanish

Title:

Beginning Song Leading

Recommended for:

Any interested in learning to lead singing

Required for:

All first year song leading students

Students may test out of this class.

Description:

The basics of leading singing are introduced and practiced as a group and individually

Goal:

To equip the student with basic skills to lead singing in a congregational environment

Topics:

Announcing a song
Determining pitch
Starting a song
Correct hand motions in different meters
Voice projection
Ending a song
Handling basic issues during song leading
Basic worship service planning
Emotional Intelligence

SL201T - Song Leading for teens
SL201A - Song Leading for adults

Title:

Advanced Song Leading 1

Recommended for:

Any interested in expanding their song leading skills

Required for:

All second year song leading students

Description:

More advanced song leading skills are presented and practiced along with using projected song presentations

Goal:

To equip the student with more advanced skills used in leading singing in a congregational environment

Topics:

Review of Beginning Song Leading material
Mechanics
Resources
Teamwork
Spirituality
Technology
Issues in song leading

SL301 – Advanced Song Leading

Title:

Advanced Song Leading 2

Recommended for:

Any interested in expanding their song leading skills

Required for:

All third year song leading students

Description:

More advanced song leading skills are presented and practiced

Goal:

To equip the student with more advanced skills to lead singing in a congregational environment

Topics:

From paper to paperless
Praise teams and beyond
From song leader to worship leader
Individualism to collectivism
Future shock
Training for public assembly leading

SL401 – Advanced Song Leading

Title:

Worship Leader Dynamics

Recommended for:

Song leaders who lead or wish to lead singing on a weekly bases

Required for:

All fourth year song leader students or those in men's certification programs

Description:

Focuses on all aspects and variations of leading singing during worship including the importance of practice at home

Goal:

To expand every student's skills in song leading by pushing them out of their comfort zones and asking them to grow as a song/worship leader

Topics:

The spirituality of a song/worship leader
The message of salvation through song
Artistic means of song interpretation
Worship leadership at home
Creating a taste of Heaven each week

SW101 - Song Writing

Title:

Beginning Song Writing

Recommended for:

Any interested in writing lyrics and music

Required for:

All song writing students

Description:

Basics in lyric composition and music authorship to more advanced assignments in arranging

Goal:

To write a singable song while in this class

Topics:

Lyric composition

Music authorship

Styles of songs

Arranging

SW201 - Song Writing

Title:

Advanced Song Writing

Recommended for:

Students who have completed SW101 (Beginning Song Writing) and MT301 (Harmony 2) or by instructor permission

Required for:

Serious Song Writing students

Description:

Students will compose and arrange songs in modern styles through the application of advanced theory and analysis of modern songs. Students will be encouraged to complete a piece by the end of The Singing School.

Goals:

Learn how to apply advanced music theory in composition.
Solidify knowledge of basic and advanced music theory through practice.
Encourage deeper musical creativity in composition.
Provide information about publication, copyright, and distribution.

Topics:

Constructing a melody in all forms of minor.
Utilizing dynamics and articulation in composition.
Utilize non-traditional forms in composition.
Composing for solos, duets, trios, and larger ensembles (i.e. octet, chorus)
Compose for gender-specific groups.
Utilizing multiple textures in composition.
Utilizing uncommon rhythms and meters.
Offering works for publication.

FS101 – Finale® Software

Title:

Introduction to Finale Music Publication Software

Recommended for:

Any student interested in writing and/or publishing music

Required for:

Any song-writing student

Requirements:

The student must bring their own laptop for use in class

Description:

Basics of Finale and its use in publishing music

Goal:

To gain a basic knowledge of the use of Finale to publish music

Topics:

Loading Finale on your computer

Setting up Finale for use

Entering music

Entering text

Formatting the page

Formatting endings

Dynamic markings

Using shaped notation

Printing music from Finale

Saving Finale files in pdf format

Making slides for PowerPoint®

SC101 - Singer's Choral Workshop

Title:

Singer's Workshop

Recommended for:

Any interested in singing church music
Any instructor not busy during this period
Open to spouses of paying students

Required for:

All students not in song leading, song writing, or certification tracks

Description:

A chorus is formed from all attending students

Goal:

To help the student become a better singer, follow direction, and perform before others

Topics:

Breath control
Vocal warm-ups
Vocal techniques
Sight reading
Part singing
Blending
Taking care of the voice
Choral performance

MA101 - Music Appreciation

Title:

History of church music

Recommended for:

Any interested in the history of our church music

Required for:

All first year students

Open to spouses of paying students

Description:

Biblical music history and stories behind specific songs, authors and composers

Goal:

For the student gain an appreciation for our music heritage

Topics:

Music in the Bible

Post New Testament church music

Reformation music

British hymns and authors

American hymns and authors

Composers and authors from the churches of Christ

MA201 - Music Appreciation

Title:

Trends in church music

Recommended for:

Any interested in visualizing how our music has and is changing

Required for:

All second year students

Description:

A survey of church music and changing times

Goal:

To equip the student with a basic knowledge of the various styles of church music and how they relate to culture

Topics:

Physical history found in the ACU Library Archives

Music during the Restoration Movement

Sacred Harp singing and Shape Notation

Hymnals during the Restoration Movement

Liturgical materials, A/V resources in worship

Contemporary Music

What does the future hold

MA301 - Music Appreciation

Title:

History of public worship

Recommended for:

Any interested in the history of public worship

Required for:

All third year students

Description:

Review of the history of public worship from historical and Biblical perspectives

Goal:

For the student to gain an appreciation of customs and heritage in our worship

Topics:

Pre-Mosaic worship

Worship under the Mosaic Law

Jewish synagogue worship

New Testament worship

Home churches

The Roman Church

Worship during the reformation movement

Worship in the Americas

Worship during the restoration movement

MA401 - Music Appreciation

Title:

Science of Music

Recommended for:

All fourth year students

Description:

This class focuses on a practical understanding of sound as it relates to singing. Material presentation is through numerous visual aids and demonstrations.

Some fundamental math concepts are used, but are thoroughly covered as part of the course.

Goal:

To give the student a basic conversational understanding of the principles of sound

Topics:

The four characteristics of sound

Hearing

Singing

Musical scale

Interference

Standing waves

Resonance

Architectural acoustics

MC301 - Men's Certification Program

Title:

Public Worship Development

Recommended for:

Those wishing to be a full-time or part-time worship minister

Required for:

Public Worship Certification

Description:

Material cover prepares a song leader to be a worship leader

Goal:

To provide training and materials to develop abilities contributing to better worship

Topics:

The Public Assembly in the Bible

Hospitality

Prayer

The Lord's Supper

The Scriptures

Zeal for the Lord

Analyze all aspects of the worship service

Examine differences between the truth, traditions and tastes that occur within our worship services

Develop ideas to enhance our worship

Develop ideas to encourage members

MC401 – Men’s Certification Program

Title:

Public Worship Leadership

Recommended for:

Those wishing to be a full-time or part-time worship minister

Required for:

Those seeking Public Worship Certification

Description:

Material cover prepares a song leader to be a worship leader

Goal:

To provide additional training and materials to develop abilities
Contributing to better worship

Topics:

Ministry of Assembly: An Overview
The 90 Minute Assembly
Emotional Intelligence & Encouragement
Lord’s Supper: Then and Now
Church Growth
Training for the Future

WC301 - Women's Certification Program

Title:

The Amazing Power of a Woman

Recommended for:

Any third or fourth year student interested in the topic

No tuition charged for women attending with an enrolled spouse

Required for:

Women's Certification Program

Description:

Building on the foundation of Genesis 1-3, this class explores the ways God powerfully uses women in the Kingdom

Goal:

Prepare women to accept their place of power in the kingdom with great joy

Topics:

Male / Female

The Garden and the Fall

Status and roles

What men need

What society needs

New Testament texts

Headship

Submission

Where we are today

WC302 – Women’s Certification Program

Title:

Music and Children

Recommended for:

Any third or fourth year student interested in children’s ministries

Required for:

All Certification tracks

Description:

Music is a vital tool in teaching core truths to children. This class explores ways to use music in classes to amplify the learning and enjoyment of Bible truths.

Goal:

To give teachers and education ministers a foundation for teaching and using music in children’s Bible classes

Topics:

How music increases learning

How to teach basic music principles to children

Using movement in learning

How to write songs for use in children’s classes and chapel

WC303 – Women’s Certification Program

Title:

Women’s Song Leading

Recommended for:

Any second or third year student interested in women’s song leading

Required for:

Two years for Women’s Certification

Description:

Basics in leading singing for women’s activities and special music

Goal:

To equip women with the skill to direct singing for women’s activities

Topics:

Basics of music

Directing in different time signatures

Music interpretation

WC401 – Women’s Certification Program

Title:

Women’s Senior Seminar

Recommended for:

Any fourth year student interested in “special music”

Required for:

Women’s Certification

Description:

Introduction and applications for “special music”

Goal:

Equip women to meet special music opportunities in their congregation

Topics:

Finding sources of music

Starting and maintaining a special group

Fulfilling music needs for special occasions

PC501 – Post Certification

Title:

Post Graduate class

Recommended for:

Any returning student that has finished all regular track material

Required for:

None

Description:

Material changes from year to year

Goal:

To give the student additional resources in their quest to be the best song/worship leader possible

Topics:

As requested in advance by returning students

Other Activities

Individual voice sessions

Recommended for:

Any paying student not scheduled in another class

Special scheduling

Student teaching

Recommended Study Tracks

Song Leading

<i>Year One</i>	<i>Year Two</i>	<i>Year Three</i>	<i>Year Four</i>
MT101	MT201	MT301	MT401
SL101	SL201	SL301	SL401
SR101	SR101	SR201	SR201
MA101	MA201	MA301	MA401

Song Writing

<i>Year One</i>	<i>Year Two</i>	<i>Year Three</i>	<i>Year Four</i>
MT101	MT201	MT301	MT401
SW101	SW101	SW101 or SW201	SW201
SR101	SR101	SR201	SR201
MA101	MA201	MA301	MA401
		FS101	FS101

Singer's Choral Workshop

<i>Year One</i>	<i>Year Two</i>	<i>Year Three</i>	<i>Year Four</i>
MT101	MT201	MT301	MT401
SC101	SC101	SC101	SC101
SR101	SR101	SR201	SR201
MA101	MA201	MA301	MA401

Men's Certification

<i>Year One</i>	<i>Year Two</i>	<i>Year Three</i>	<i>Year Four</i>
MT101	MT201	MC301	MC401
SL101	SL201	SL301	SL301
SR101	SR101	SR201	SR201
MA101	MA201	MA301	WC302
			MA401

Women's Certification

<i>Year One</i>	<i>Year Two</i>	<i>Year Three</i>	<i>Year Four</i>
MT101	MT201	WC301	WC401
SC101 or SW101	SC101 or SW101	WC302	SC101 or SW201
SR101	SR101	WC303	SR201
MA101	MA201	SR201	MA401
		MA301	

General Information Summary

Check the web site for details

www.singingschool.com

Date: usually the second or third full week of July

Arrival registration: from noon until 5 pm on the Sunday of the school

Times: classes start on Sunday at 6 pm and go through 9 pm; Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am through 9:30 pm; and Friday from 7:30 am through the closing ceremony at noon

Cost: may vary from \$450—\$500, which includes instruction, room, meals and all necessary class material

What to bring: sheets, towels, a pillow; a pitch pipe for song leaders if you own one; a laptop computer for those taking the Finale® class

Minors: must bring your signed medical release form

Boarding: at the University Park Apartments

Classes location: in the ACU Bible Building

Meals location: in the ACU Campus Center

Registration: by mail or phone

Levi Sisemore

3601 Ave. Z, Snyder, TX 79549

(806) 777-8417

Internet: www.SingingSchool.org

Transportation: provided from Abilene airport if you let us know your arrival time

At this time, The Singing School at ACU (Texas Normal Singing School) does not have a 503C status. If you want your tuition to be tax deductible, have your congregation make the check to the singing school.