

The music department at Pittsburg State University offers a wide variety of vocal ensembles to all students, even those with limited choral experience. Students from all departments across the university participate in one or more vocal and choral activities: University Choir, Chorale, Opera Workshop, Jazz Choir and other ensembles.

There are also many opportunities for collaborative work throughout the semester, such as the Concerto and Aria competition and annual Oratorio.



For more information about music at Pittsburg State visit:
www.pittstate.edu/music

Vocal & Choral Opportunities



Pittsburg State
University

Vocal & Choral Opportunities

Opera Workshop

The PSU Opera Theatre program produces two productions annually, with at least one that is fully staged with orchestral accompaniment. Repertoire for the productions is chosen from the opera, operetta and musical theatre canons which range from traditional operas by Mozart to cabaret style evenings devoted to the works of American musical theatre composers.

A primary function of the Opera Theatre program is to provide students with an outlet to develop their talents and skills in all aspects of lyric theatre including: stage deportment, basic dance, use of vocal technique on stage, and role preparation.

PSU students who are enrolled in Opera Workshop fill the majority of roles in the Opera Theatre productions. However, students often get the opportunity to work alongside PSU faculty members as well as professional singers who are engaged to fill specific roles. Auditions are held annually and are open to all PSU students.

Choral Opportunities

Pittsburg State has a long and proud tradition of excellence in the area of vocal music. The PSU Choirs have been featured on a number

of occasions at the state conventions of the Kansas Music Educators Association, and they also maintain an active schedule of on-campus performances and annual touring throughout the region.

Biennial spring tours take the ensembles to various parts of the world. In North America, venues have included: the world headquarters of Habitat for Humanity International and a special performance at the home church of President Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter; the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; Memorial Church at Harvard University; the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York; and many other locations throughout New England, the Mid-Atlantic States, Southern California, the Southeastern and Southwestern States, and Quebec. In recent years, the choirs have turned their attention to international travel, the destinations including Germany, Austria, Ireland, Italy, and Scotland.

Collaborations with the Southeast Kansas Symphony introduce choir members to oratorios and other great masterworks for chorus, soloists, and orchestra.

The central ensemble for these activities is the 120-member University Choir, which is open to all PSU students. Smaller ensemble experiences

are also available via the PSU Chorale and Jazz Choir (by audition), and through activities such as Women's Choir, Men's Choir, Lab Choir, and other *ad hoc* ensembles.

Scholarship Assistance

Scholarship assistance is offered to PSU students at all levels of involvement, from music majors to music minors and non-major participants. Scholarships are awarded to applicants based upon an interview and audition, normally held during the year preceding entry to the university.

Vocal Faculty

Dr. Susan Marchant, *Director of Choral Activities*
smarchant@pittstate.edu

Mr. Patrick Howle, *Voice and Opera*
thowle@pittstate.edu

Mrs. Stella Hastings, *Voice*
shastings@pittstate.edu

Ms. Lisa Gerstenkorn, *Voice*
lgerstenkorn@pittstate.edu

Dr. Matthew Montague, *Choral Music Education*
mmontague@pittstate.edu

