

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: KUANFEN LIU

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: PERFORMING ARTSM - MUSIC

ACTIVITY TITLE: University Chorus Winter Concerts and Workshops – The Poet Sings

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: December 4th and 10th, 2017

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at david.daniels@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity.

Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

The CI University Chorus presented two successful concerts – The Poet Sings, on Monday, December 4th (Malibu Hall 140) and Sunday, December 10th (St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Camarillo). Despite the Thomas Fire, the performances were able to attract approximately 400 people in the audience. The performances interspersed students' readings of poetry and prose with pieces performed by the chorus. Both the readings and the music ranged from the Renaissance to the 20th century with musical numbers including "In the Bleak Midwinter" (19th), "There is No Rose" (15th); and "Three Shakespeare Song" (20th). Students were invited to choose and write their own poems inspired by the musical selections and performed in the concert.

The activity has achieved the original purpose of bringing together music and poetry to explore the complexity of human expression and offered students an interdisciplinary perspective that will deepen their understandings and abilities in ways that go beyond what each program offers on its own. The feedbacks from both the participants and the audience were overwhelmingly positive. One student commented "Both of them (presenters) were extremely knowledgeable on the subjects they each presented. Very helpful to students when questions were asked and answered. The activities that were designed to go along with the presentations made the workshop even more efficient and lively.

One attendee of the performance wrote "I cannot thank you enough for what you provide to the community in the form of music, poetry and song. I loved your last concert at St. Columba's. It brought me out of a funk after our recent fires in Ventura, and took me to a place of beauty and imagination. How inspiring! Thank you!" – Dianna Burdick from Ventura.

RELATIONSHIP TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

The weekly rehearsals with the instructor and the accompanist provide knowledge, comprehension, and application of beginning, intermediate, and advanced skills in choral singing. In addition, through rehearsals and performances, students learn choral repertoire, and develop musicianship and performance skills.

Moreover, through this interdisciplinary collaboration students have experienced and deepened their understanding of the relationship between literature and music that go beyond classroom doors. By bringing these fields together, students were able to explore the complexity of human expression. In addition, this experience gave the students the desired CI GE Outcomes of:

- 6.1 Analyze creative human products and ideas (in this case musical and literary).
- 6.2 Articulate personal thoughts and emotions when encountering human creations and ideas.
- 6.3 Create original and imaginative works in ... literature, language, and the arts.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

One of the many strengths of this activity is to be able to enrich students' learning experiences by providing them an outstanding accompanist during weekly rehearsals and the opportunity to work with two excellent workshop presenters on vocal techniques and Shakespeare. The two performances in December are the practical "hands-on" learning experience we want our students to have. We want our students to not only gain knowledge in classroom settings but also apply them in the real world.

Another example is to disseminate classic literature and music to a broader audience and connect with art and music patrons in the community. Through such activity, our students also gained opportunity of networking with professionals and patrons in the community.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

The positive feedbacks from the students after the guest speakers' presentations were so positive; some students asked if we could add one additional session with one of the speakers; regretfully, I was not able to accommodate the request due to budget constraints.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

I think we have done our best to maximize the extraordinary experience we could bring to our students in our classes. My goal would be keep improving on promoting such events to a broader audience in our campus community.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

I realized how little exposure our students had prior to arriving CI and how important it was to open doors for them, guide them and inspire them to be seekers and look beyond their individual windows. I have also realized our community is hungry for high quality musical performances; especially an intergraded one such as The Poet Sings. Moreover, not only did they enjoy our

...support the next generations of college students. These two
testimonies have made me more determined to continue bringing such opportunities to my
students.

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR
ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL
PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

Please see the Qualtrics report that is attached to the end of this report.

Since the University Chorus is made up of both students, faculty and staff members as well as
singers from the community, the Qualtrics survey reflects the feedbacks from all the above
demographics.

8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY (DO NOT INCLUDE ACCOUNTING STRINGS)

\$3,075.00 was paid to Ms. Linda Fern Fay for her service of weekly rehearsals (August 28 to
December 10, 2017), dress rehearsals and two performances.

\$600 was paid to two guest speakers, Dr. Michael Shasberger on Healthy Vocal Techniques and
Ms. Marty New on Shakespeare and His Play and Poetry.

B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of
attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee
reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the
title of your IRA activity on the document.

Please see the attached Qualtrics Survey on pages 8 to 30

Please embed 3-5 images in this document (or attach in .JPEG format) that demonstrate student participation with captions/title

Image 1: CSU Channel Islands University Chorus rehearsing R. V. Williams *Three Shakespeare Songs* (November 21st, 2017)



Image 2: The Poet Sings Performance Poster



The poster features a central graphic of a hand holding a musical staff with notes, set against a background of a landscape with mountains and water. The text is arranged around this central image.

The Poet Sings

Songs and Poetry of the British Isles

Featuring
 The CSU Channel Islands Choir
 Dr. KuanFen Liu, Conductor

Poetry by
 William Shakespeare,
 Percy Bysshe Shelley,
 Mary Elizabeth Coleridge,
 and others

Music by
 Edward Elgar,
 R. Vaughan Williams,
 C.V. Stanford,
 and others

Monday
 December 4th, 7:00 PM
 Malibu Hall, Room 140
 CSUCI Campus, Camarillo

Sunday
 December 10th, 3:00 PM
 St. Columba's Episcopal Church
 1251 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Sponsored by

 Channel Islands
 Choral Association

CSU Channel Islands
 Institutionally Related Funds

 INSTRUCTIONALLY
 RELATED
 ACTIVITIES
 CHANNEL
 ISLANDS

Image 3: CI University Chorus performed in Malibu Hall 140 on Monday, December 4th, 2017.



Image 4: CI University Chorus performed at St. Columba's Episcopal Church (Camarillo), Sunday, December 10th, 2017.



Q2 - If you were an audience member, please comment on your experience of attending "the Poet Sings" performance.

If you were an audience member, please comment on your experience of attending "the Poet Sings" performance.

I was in the audience, because I was not able to sing the concert. It was wonderful and I'm proud to be a member of the choir!

in chorus, not an audience member

I was part of th choir.

The accompanist is crucial to the practices. She provides with our opening notes, plays the accompaniment part, and often teaches the female singers on their parts so that Dr. Liu can teach the men. Ms. Fay often provides helpful singing tips that she has gleaned from her choral experience. Ms. New provided connections to the Shakespearean texts of our songs so that we had a better understanding of their meaning, and be better able to provide a meaningful musical rendering. Dr. Shasberger offered instruction that we put to use immediately, instruction that I am still reminding myself of today. He improved the vocal production of the entire choir immensely, with his well-communicated tips and techniques.

This was my first experience. Such a wonderful experience. I enjoyed all parts, and learned so much. I ☐ also tried to attend as many others concerts outside of our choir as possible. Really enjoyed being connected to such a great organization. (especially with such amazing people)

N.A.

As one of the singers, the performances were a coalescing of all the weeks of



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**INSTRUCTIONALLY
RELATED
ACTIVITIES**

C H A N N E L
I S L A N D S

s were just about professional in their level of singing and musicianship.

I am a community member of the choir. It was a nice experience pairing with the college students and instrumentalists

They were generally well put together. Everything sounded amazing aside from a few off points. All in all, a solid performance.

Q3 - If you are student at CI, what is your major?

If you are student at CI, what is your major?

Community member

n/a

Not applicable

(Community member singer in CSUCI Choir)

Undecided

I am not a student at CI, I am a Community member.

Performing Arts and Communcations

Community member

N.A.

I am not.

Computer Science

Music

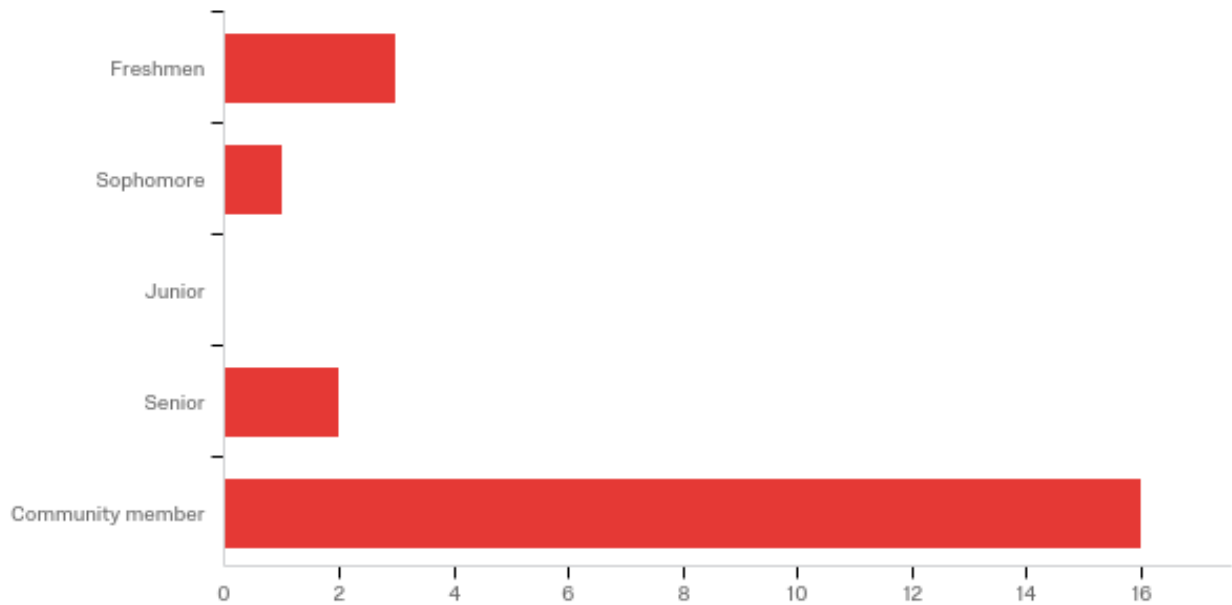
Performing Arts: Music

Computer Science

English

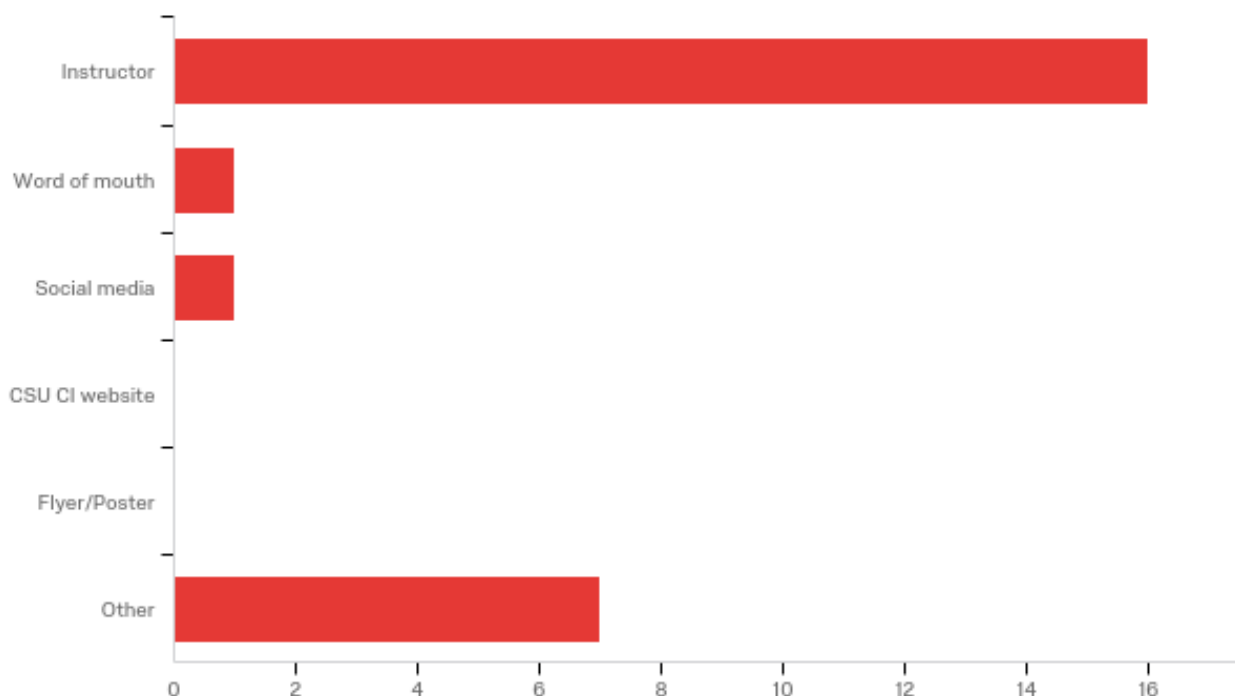
Performing Arts

Q4 - Students, what year are you at CI?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Freshmen	13.64%	3
2	Sophomore	4.55%	1
3	Junior	0.00%	0
4	Senior	9.09%	2
5	Community member	72.73%	16
	Total	100%	22

Q5 - How did you hear about these performances?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Instructor	64.00%	16
2	Word of mouth	4.00%	1
3	Social media	4.00%	1
4	CSU CI website	0.00%	0
5	Flyer/Poster	0.00%	0
6	Other	28.00%	7
	Total	100%	25

Q6 - Which course(s) are you currently (Fall 2017) taking that relate to these performances?

Which course(s) are you currently (Fall 2017) taking that relate to these performances?

none

CI Choir

n/a

Not applicable

University Chorus / CSUCI Choir

None

CI Choir

PAMU 307, PMU 361, PAMU 109 and PAMU 309

I am not a student at CI, I am a community member.

Csuci choir

PAMU 307 and PAMU 109

Community member

none

None

N.A.

I do not take courses.

none

N/A

CICA Channel Islands Choral Association Choir.

Ch. Is. Choral Assoc.

none

Private Lessons 109, Private Lessons 309, Music in History, PAMU 310,

Chorus

Music Appreciation and English

University Chorus

Q7 - How did this instructionally related activity relate to the content and/or learning outcomes of the courses that you are taking?

How did this instructionally related activity relate to the content and/or learning outcomes of the courses that you are taking?

The accompanying by Ms, Fay was essential to the rehearsals. It would have been almost impossible to rehearse without her contribution. The workshop presentations contributed to our understanding of the texts and therefore contributed to our performance in an expressive manner.

The presenters spoke about expressing ourselves musically and through our understanding of Shakespearian/English language and concepts.

n/a

Not applicable.

The admixture of english poetry with choral music made both come alive. We

Am a community member

Helped with vocal issues, strengthened unity and blend in the choir

It enriches the learning experience on live performance, musicianship and music history.

The music retreat greatly enhanced our knowledge and practice for our fall program.

It was directly related to the content of the class. I found healthy vocal techniques very useful in a practical way.

It has allowed me to continue active music education as well as maintain vocal

exercise.

Added a depth of understanding- both as pertains to musical technique and sensitivity to the lyrics.

The accompanist and the presenters enhanced our knowledge and improved our skill level.

So helpful..... this is my first time in the choir. All extra instructions and piano accompaniment were so valuable to me personally. Since i'm A beginner, I can't thank them enough.

N.A.

If I were, the knowledge I received would deliver broad based enhancement.

it was very related

N/a

I think both of the outside instructors brought enhanced experience to the workshop which resulted in a more complete concert experience for our audiences.

Exceptional experience in vocal performance and technique.

They provided other useful information to broaden the experience.

The integration of counter-point and ear training completely has improved me overall performance

It helped us to better understand and evaluate our vocal techniques, our pronunciation of unfamiliar words, and aided our overall comprehension of the poetry songs.

In Music Appreciation, we discuss and learn about the different types of



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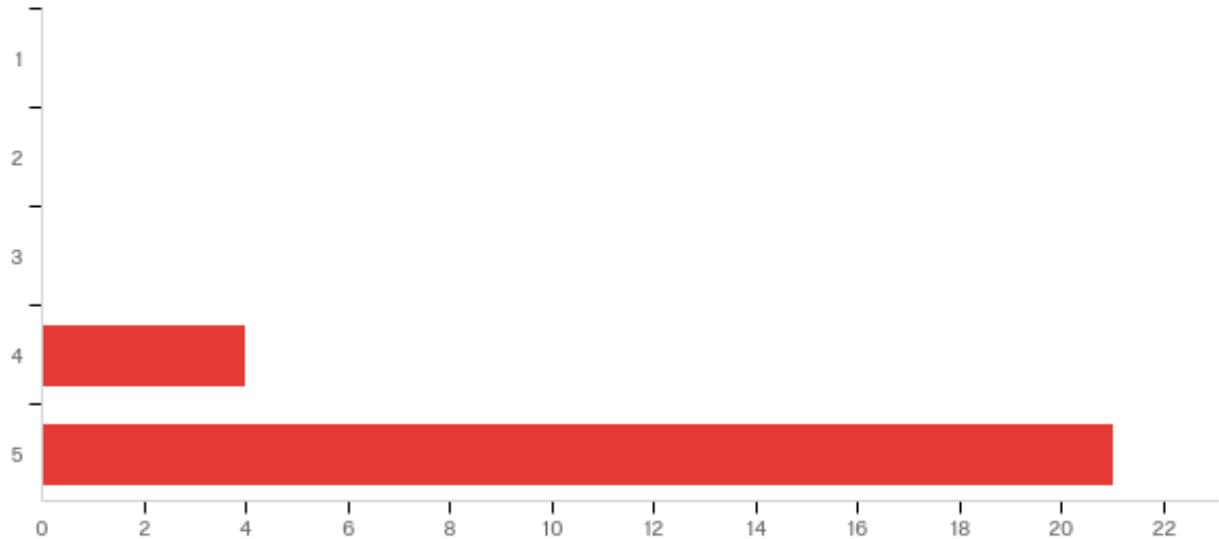
C H A N N E L
I S L A N D S

"Classical Music" and it helped to learn more given that I have a personal relation to the subject because of the choir. In English, we discuss literature and how to structure our words. The presenters gave me a new perspective to learn from when it comes to literature.

It helped us have a better understanding of the Shakespeare words we were singing, helped us keep our voices healthy, and helped us learn the music.



Q8 - Rate your overall satisfaction with the weekly rehearsals and final performances: 1 being the lowest, and 5 being the highest score.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	1	0.00%	0
2	2	0.00%	0
3	3	0.00%	0
4	4	16.00%	4
5	5	84.00%	21
	Total	100%	25

Q9 - What do you consider the positives/strengths of the contribution by the accompanist?

What do you consider the positives/strengths of the contribution by the accompanist?

The accompanist is essentially the right arm of the choir director. They work as a team to communicate the technical points of the music to the choir singers.

Fern works hard to provide support for the different parts while we learn the music.

The accompanist is not only highly valuable, she is indispensable. She helps not just by accompanying during rehearsal and performances, but will lead rehearsal sectionals and often will provide insight and thoughts that improve our performances.

Great contribution to the choir. The choir would of be able to properly function without Fern's expertise as an accompanist.

She supports learning by playing one, two, three or four choral parts at a time. She is sensitive to what the conductor/artistic director is trying to teach. And she is such an expert musician, that she can run "sectionals" (sections of the rehearsal during which a subset of the choir works intensely on learning) during regular choir rehearsals.

Her vast knowledge of music and her expertise and accomplishments on piano playing and rehearsing parts for the choir, leading sectionals

Friendly, encouraging and always kind and ready to help the rehearsal process and at the performances.

Ms. Fay is an accomplished musician and singer. She is able to play all of the parts and give us suggestions as to how best perform our individual parts. She has an excellent disposition as well and is never too busy to answer our questions and go over more difficult sections of music as many times as we need to.

Fern is a fantastic accompanist! I wonder if she is a mind reader sometimes, given the way she is right where the director needs her to be in the music. She is also skillful enough to lead sectional rehearsals very well. She even provided recordings to use for learning one of the tricky pieces this semester. We are lucky to have her. Very lucky.

They allowed the conductors to focus on the choir and music and supported the learning and rehearsal of the pieces throughout the semester.

Such experience! She contributed a depth of musical sensitivity beyond just the task of accompanying singers. Her ears and tonal awareness provided another dimension of guidance.

Accuracy, artistic expression, and experience in the genre.

Don't think I could continue without the help of the accompanist. To me made the difference in my over experience.

SHE IS NOT ONLY GREAT AT ACCOMPANIMENT FOR REHEARSAL, SHE OFTEN HEARS THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHORUS WHICH COULD BE DONE BETTER. AND SHE GIVE THE CHORUS GENERAL POINTERS ABOUT HOW TO COUNT DIFFICULT AREAS IN RATHER DIFFICULT MATERIAL.

Fern is amazing! A superb pianist and an accomplished accompanist. Just the best. A privilege to have her.

good at sight reading

She was very helpful in providing recordings and suggestions for singers.

Fern Faye is one of the best accompanist that I have ever seen she is always prepared, she is always ready to help and what a keyboard/piano/organ player.

She has the ability to play all parts together or accompaniment as instantly requested. Also she is an excellent teacher of piano pedagogy.

She presents a different perspective and is a wonderful and supportive accompanist.

Improvements on pitch, ear training, performance, and insight.,

The accompanist is essential in our learning. She helps us with tuning and staying on pitch as well as timing and helping us hear how our individual sections should interact with each other musically.

The way she knows the cues of the conductors and even the choir itself so well. She gives us pointers sometimes that help improve our rehearsals.

Very, very helpful to have an accompanist as it helped us learn our music.

Q10 - Were there any weaknesses?

Were there any weaknesses?

No weaknesses

Nothing as far as i'm Concerned.

No. I mean that sincerely.

None

N/A

No.

No

No

None that I could tell

Not that I could spot.

Not from the program.

NO

No.

no

No

None that I have ever seen.

None!

I believe it would be more effective to meet two times a week instead of once a week to improve consistency.

No

She doesn't have any weaknesses. The only mistakes she makes is that of reading the wrong system or something; natural human errors.

N/A

Q11 - What do you consider the positives/strengths of the contribution by the workshop presenters?

What do you consider the positives/strengths of the contribution by the workshop presenters?

Presentations were well presented and interesting, and they contributed materially to our understanding of the text of the music we sang,.

They were very knowledgeable and passionate about their fields.

The workshop presenters really added a wonderful depth to the material we were singing - they added insight into the poetry which was set to music, helping us understand why the music was written the way it was, and the intent of the verses, as well as helping us understand how to be better singers, how to physically position ourselves to produce better sound.

Great knowledge of how to become a better singer.

The first gave us a handle on understanding the language of Shakespeare, which let us better understand the songs in which Shakespeare was set to music. The second presenter worked on healthy vocal technique, which is essential for anyone who sings choral music regularly. A singer can never stop working on technique.

Quite strong. Their breath and depth of their subject matter was outstanding

Vocal tips, meaning behind the lyrics

Both of them were extremely knowledgeable on the subjects they each presented. Very helpful to students when questions were asked and answered.

The activities that were designed to go along with the presentations made the workshop even more efficient and lively.

Ms. New and Dr. Shasberger were very knowledgeable. Dr. Shasberger taught us several vocal techniques that we could use to help us practice our music. He critiqued our music performance and helped us perfect it. He was an excellent teacher. Ms. New was an expert on Shakespeare. I learned a great deal from her in a relatively short time. It was very helpful to have this background to assist us in practicing music based on Shakespeare's plays.

Dr Shasberger was very knowledgeable and very kind to the individual singers he worked with. The material he presented was very useful. Invite him back with my hearty endorsement.

The workshops allowed us to understand the music more intimately and in that respect become better musicians and I found that they also inspired me to seek more about the pieces.

Helped us get deeper into the music and use technique more effectively.

Dr. Shasberger is a well-seasoned professional, skilled at getting better results from singers with a few easy-to-follow instructions and suggestions. Ms. New has a well-rounded and deep understanding of the reading of Shakespearean literature and the acting of Shakespearean plays.

i learned some valuable pearls, to improve my singing.

I WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE WORKSHOP

Both speakers enhanced my understanding of the material and of the technical aspects to bring to the performance. Each was new to me and unique in what they presented. A perfect complement to the material at hand. I especially appreciated the better understanding of the English language in its historical context.

very good at leading the choir

Wasn't present

Both were very upbeat and they both had contributions to make. Ms. Marty New had an extensive background in poetry and she could relate well to the choir. Dr. Michael Shasberger brought additional ideas to the choir for presentation of the material so that the audience would become the most immersed.

The presenters were both excellent and expert I their fields, choral techniques and Shakespeare.

Really enjoyed the vocal reminders from Dr. Shasberger

They were engaging and enthusiastic about their crafts. I learned more information about the pieces we were working on.

They all knew what they were talking about and came well prepared for their sessions.

Very interesting to learn more about the words we were singing and gave us a fresh perspective on Shakespeare and vocal health.

Q12 - Were there any weaknesses?

Were there any weaknesses?

No

Time management of the Shakespeare presenter

None

No.

None

N/A

No. I only wish the sessions were longer. They were excellent.

Ms New had trouble staying focused on the train of her presentation, so I feel we missed valuable insights to other parts of the texts. She was quite interesting.

No

No

Dr. Shasberger had no weaknesses that I could detect. Ms. New's presentation was a bit disjointed.

None

N.A.

No.

no

None that I can think of.

Not enough time.

One presentation went on too long and didn't have time to finish their presentation because they had a lot to say.

N/A

Q13 - Suggestions or comments for future activities?

Suggestions or comments for future activities?

I really liked having two workshop presentations addressing two major areas that affect how we perform: cognitive understanding of the material, and addressing the physical aspects of singing. One can never have too much instruction like this, and having it tailored to our specific pieces was quite valuable.

More lessons on vocalizing.

I would welcome follow-on workshops by either presenter, but especially by Ms. Marty new. She was inspiring! Her perspective is so rich, and so fresh -- the best of what University teaching can offer. Loved it.

Would like to see presenters of equal caliber to what we had this semester. Good job!!! To our conductor

Suggest that one or more musical works in future concerts be performed by a select group (10-12) from the choir, chosen by Dr. Liu. This could give students incentive to try out for these...

It would be very valuable if we could invite at least one of the workshop presenters to come back and critique at our dress rehearsal before the final performances.

None

Would be interesting to combine an approach to jazz with history

More vocal production presenters, such as Dr. Shasberger. Allow more than two students to be personally critiqued.

NO

More. Especially with faculty members who have in-depth knowledge of the subject matter.

keep it how it is it is perfect

Dr. KuanFen Liu has the ability to chose people that really know their subjects and they seem to always connect well with the choir.

More choral music history related to music being studied.

More things like the presenters and such could be really fun and informative for the future!!