



Music Department/School of Humanities, Arts, and Public Engagement

MUP 3038/3038Z: POINT LOMA SINGERS

1/0 unit

Spring 2026

MWF 12:25pm-1:20pm; TTh 1:30pm-2:25pm

Crill Hall-Cooper Music Building or 118

Final Exam: Friday, May 8, 10:30am-1:00pm (TBD)

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor title and name:	Dr. Keith Pedersen
Phone:	619.849.2202; 858.335.3615
Email:	keithpedersen@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Cooper 217: MW 10:30-11:30, TTh 10:00-11:00, by appointment

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

With membership by audition, Point Loma Singers is a chamber choir of sixteen (or more) mixed voices open to all students. It can include participation in Choral Union. Local performances and tours are scheduled. May be repeated each semester. Letter grade.

The Point Loma Singers is a highly select, usually 20-24 voice chamber choir focusing on sacred and secular concert literature of varying styles, from chant to part-songs, madrigals to masses, and anthems to contemporary, gospel and folk music. The PLS performs unaccompanied and with keyboard and instruments. It sings in churches, the local community, and on annual tours (regional and international) and presents an annual madrigal dinner. It seeks to perform, to the glory of God, choral music at the highest standards.

Consequently, the ideal singer in PLS will be

- 1. passionate about artistic, meaningful performance of great choral music of various styles**
- 2. excited by the challenge of independent musicianship within a choral ensemble**
- 3. committed to group success through a positive attitude, faithful attendance, group support, and self-improvement**

4. motivated by the desire to glorify God through the development of bestowed talents.

POSITION OF COURSE IN UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM

This course fulfills major ensemble requirements for music majors and is open to non-music majors as an elective experience.

Institutional and Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes

1. **Learning: Informed by our Faith in Christ**

Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits that foster life-long learning.

2. **Growing: In a Christ-Centered Faith Community**

Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments.

3. **Serving: In a Context of Christian Faith**

Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

Department and Course Learning Outcomes

DLO: Develop applied music skills in...ensemble settings. (A.1.b) You will:

1. Demonstrate professional levels of individual responsibility and commitment to the group success of PLS.
2. Learn repertoire assigned as demonstrated by performances and part.
3. Apply musicianship skills as demonstrated by musical performance of discussed concepts.
4. Utilize applied music skills as demonstrated by improving vocal technique (tone, range, intonation).
5. Understand differences between historical styles and apply them to appropriate performance repertoire.
6. Experience and contribute to an understanding of the role of music as a way to add meaning to life and a demonstration of God's grace and blessing in the lives of both performers and audiences.

IDEA COURSE EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

1. **Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g. factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)**
2. **Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc.)**
3. **Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team.**
4. **Developing creative capacities (inventing, designing, writing, performing in art, music, drama, etc.)**

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

Recognizing that achieving a high level of individual vocal and ensemble performance skill takes a great deal of time, PLS will meet up to 5 hours per week of class/rehearsal with additional time for special rehearsals and concerts for the one unit/0 unit of credit offered.

METHODS USED IN THIS COURSE:

Students enrolled in Point Loma Singers will achieve the objectives of the course through multiple methods:

- Class attendance and rehearsal.
- Vocalizing to develop the voice.

- Practice of reading skills to learn assigned music
- Practice of singing foreign texts
- Utilization of ensemble performance practices
- Listening to pieces as required.
- Out-of-class individual practice to memorize words and music.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Your grade will be based on the quality of your work in these areas:

Grading is based on attendance, attitude and participation. The grade may be lowered one level per absence after three. An unexcused absence from a concert is unacceptable. Your grade will be based on the quality of your work in these areas:

	<u>Percentage Points</u>
• Attendance	70%
• Contribution	10%
• Assignments/quizzes	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Your work will not be graded on a curve. A traditional US scale will be used.

- A** indicates exceptional commitment and/or contribution (most students achieve this)
- B** indicates good commitment and/or contribution (a few students may achieve this)
- C** indicates satisfactory/average commitment and/or contribution (students achieving this may not be asked to return to PLS)
- D** poor commitment and/or contribution (any student achieving this will not be asked to return to PLS)
- F** indicates unsatisfactory and/or contribution (any student achieving this will not be asked to return to PLS)

Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES & GUIDELINES:

Concert Dress (see following as well):

Women: black choir dress and pearls), black dress shoes and hose.

Men: black tuxedo, white wing-tip shirt, black bow tie and vest, black dress shoes and black socks. Suggestions for purchase are available.

All singers will also purchase T-shirts Any concerns about outfits and/or payment should be brought up with the director at once.

Calendar:

Point Loma Singers must have priority in your calendar for all rehearsals and performances. You are responsible for resolving conflicts well in advance of the event. *PLS* members are responsible for obtaining a *Point Loma Singers* calendar and living by it. Additional concerts may be added with one month's notice; choir approval will be sought if lead time is less than one month.

Membership:

PLS members will commit to the choir for the entire year. Their class and work schedules should be clear for both semesters. Schedule conflicts must be resolved with director prior to admittance. Special considerations are a privilege, and students admitted under special consideration must fulfill the requirements expected of all students.

Music:

Each member of PLS will be assigned their own folder with music. This music is provided at no charge, but it is the responsibility of each singer. All music and folders **MUST** be returned at the end of the year.

Grades may be affected if music is not returned. If you are missing your music or folder, please let the choir librarian know ASAP.

University Responsibility:

PLS members must commit to making acceptable progress in their other classes. They should assume perfect attendance in all classes even the day after concerts or tours. You are responsible for class work even during absence for concerts.

Department Participation:

PLS and CC members provide leadership for Choral Union as in 1 below. See following for schedule.

Classroom Decorum:

Please manage your electronic devices appropriately and with consideration for others. All electronic devices should be turned off for rehearsals and stored for performances. Please dress in appropriate academic attire out of consideration for others in our class. I do reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if I believe your attire to be offensive and/or an obstacle to a positive learning and teaching environment.

Email, Canvas and Facebook:

You are responsible for checking your PLNU email account and Canvas regularly for electronic messages from me (and sometimes from your classmates). You are fully accountable for all course material, announcements, communications that are distributed via email; and I will send messages only to your Point Loma email address. Please let me know if you encounter any technical problems with email. Some communications may come through the PLS Facebook Group/What's App as well.

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. This includes devotions and prayer times in PLS meetings as well as reflection on the texts we sing. If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

Language and Belonging:

PLNU faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard by all major academic style guides and is the norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex or sexual orientation. Inclusive language avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination:

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/title-ix. Please be aware that under Title IX, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY:

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment (3 classes in a 2-unit course). If the absences exceed 20 percent (six classes), the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Please email the professor when absent. Good communication protects relationships. All students will be given 100 points possible for attendance. One point will be deducted for each **unexcused** tardy and three points will be deducted for all unexcused absences. Students are to notify Dr. Pedersen before an absence or tardy occurs so that the absence/tardy can be excused. There will be no penalty for **excused** absences or tardies. It is important that you attend every required rehearsal for your performing (MUP) ensemble.

Attendance Policy for Point Loma Nazarene University Music Department

Students will be advised each term of the schedule of specific ensemble performance obligations they are expected to meet; missing a scheduled performance will result in 1-3 full grades lower (see Attendance/Participation Policy below). It is expected that the ensemble performances will take precedence over outside commitments. Students may only petition an absence penalty for circumstances that are beyond their control such as sickness and personal family matters.

Music majors, scholarship students, and all first-time members of PLS must participate in Choral Union. Rehearsing for CU Monday evenings 7-9:30 instead of T-Th is an option. Students who do not meet this requirement will have their final grade lowered two letter grades and/or scholarship affected.

1. Ensemble grades are based on attendance, attitude, and achievement. Students are required and expected to perform to the utmost of their ability, displaying a professional attitude in rehearsals and concerts.
2. Absences due to illness or of a personal nature should be cleared with the conductor of your assigned ensemble. Requests due to personal injury must be accompanied by medical documentation. Timely reporting will help students to avoid penalties due to absence from rehearsals or concerts.
3. At their discretion, conductors may excuse students from rehearsals or concerts for PLNU activities.
4. At their discretion, conductors will have a choice of lowering up to three full grades for missing a performance event. For example, a missed performance for service club may only

be docked by one grade while a spring concert would bring a grade down by three full letter grades.

5. Failure to meet the basic guidelines above may result in a student forfeiting their scholarship.

This policy above, instituted by the PLNU Music Department, states the minimum requirement for all courses. Individual professors do not have the option of establishing a more lenient policy; they may, however, establish a more rigorous policy, which is to be described in their course syllabus.

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day as announced by your professor. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Content Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In [class name], all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include [list topics]. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when, in reality, they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) is prohibited in this course for any aspect of your work, including idea generation, drafting, editing, or final submissions. This course is designed to assess your independent critical thinking, writing, and research skills without the assistance of AI technologies. Violations of this policy will be treated as breaches of academic integrity.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who

PLS SINGING CONCEPTS

WEEK One: Energy (I talk like this/but I sing like this)

Breathing: push air out

Pulsing

Cresc. to cut-offs

Project consonants on the beat

Word stress in music

Vowels (Neuen): round/vertical

WEEK Two: Energy

Breathing (in low and slow)

Vowels (Neuen): dark/bright; round/vertical

On/off the beat

Cresc. to cut offs

Pulsing

Placement

WEEK Three:

Energy

Breathing (longer)

Pulsing

Forward motion (2-6)

H.S

WEEK Four:

Dynamics

Articulations

Sol fege

WEEK Five:

Stagger breathing

Long phrases

Chords

SPRING 26 PLS Schedule

The *POINT LOMA SINGERS* maintains an active performing schedule. As it is a chamber ensemble, often with 1-2 on a part, each singer is important. Please clear the following schedule, remembering that one or two dates may be changed and others added.

Jan 14 W PLS pictures (concert and madrigal dinner during PLS rehearsal) TBC

Jan 30, 31 F-S Retreat: Location LJPC? (Friday, 4:00PM – Saturday, 6:00PM; OC)

Feb 15 Sn La Jolla Presbyterian Church (7:30AM-12:45PM)

Mar 1 Sn PLS Concert (~~?4:00 concert~~; 2:10-7:00 call; OC) confirm time

Mar 9-13 PLS tour: March 7-15 (OR) leave Saturday 3/7 am, return Sunday 3/15 pm?

Mar 20 F PLS Home concert (~~7:30PM concert~~; Friday, 6:00PM-9:00PM call)

Apr 8, 9 W, Th Madrigal Dinner Rehearsals (7:00PM-10:30 PM) ARC

Apr 10, 11 F, S Madrigal Dinner (~~7:00 concert~~; 6:00PM call) ARC

Apr 19 Sn PLS Concert (~~4:00 concert~~; 2:00 PM-7:00PM; OC)

Apr 20 M CU rehearsal: Crill Hall (7:00PM-9:00PM)

Apr 25 S Choral Union dress rehearsal: Crill (9:30AM-12:45PM)

Apr 26 Sn Choral Union Concert: Crill (3:00PM concert; 1:45PM-5:00PM call)

?May 7 W PLS Final Time: Recording (10:3AM-1:00PM)

OC=off campus

PLS OUTFITS

PLS women total **\$155**

Riviera Dress \$118

pearls - \$8.00

polo - \$30

PLS Men total price: **\$234**

tux pkg plus CA tax and est. shipping \$124

vest plus CA tax and est. shipping \$80

polo plus CA tax and est. shipping \$30

Pay Miranda Burrows with cash/check/credit card; she'll have a form you fill out.

Our shape can change over 4 years of cafeteria eating, so students may have to replace vests and dresses that "shrink." Seniors and juniors especially, check your outfits to make sure there are no split seams, etc.

How we look makes a huge first impression on audiences; we want to strive for excellence in this area as well.

Miranda Burrows (Cooper Office; x2445)

