Fall 2015
MUS-M 510-33455 The Motet, 13th-18th Centuries (3 cr)
Prof. Giovanni Zanovello (giovzano@indiana.edu)

Time: Mo/We 01:00P-02:15P
Course description: The motet is one of the most important and long-lasting genres of Western music history. For centuries it was associated with the most sophisticated compositional and textual novelties, and attracted the attention of eminent composers for a long time afterwards. At one level, this survey will offer a fairly focused overview of the history of motet. In tandem to this, we will follow a path across twelve motet sources spanning roughly 500 years and the compositions they contain, asking questions about context, performance practice, and stylistic history. We will also focus on the historiographical problems linked to the definition of the motet – a genre that stubbornly resists a satisfactory general description – in an attempt to recapture the various horizons of expectation the label 'motet' (and the others that took its place) identified for listeners, performers, and theorists. Class attendance is mandatory.

Pre-Requisites: MUS-M541/M501 and T 508, or equivalents by examination

Goals: during this course you will
• develop a higher familiarity with a number of musical sources and motet compositions from the years 1200-1700;
• develop some knowledge of musical paleography;
• improve your awareness of the issues related to the performance of pre-classical music;
• investigate issues of authenticity and our relationship with the music of the past.