

Advanced Choir Syllabus

Overview: This group is also known as “Musica Celestiale” Advanced level vocal ensemble composed of no more than 18 members performing more difficult repertoire including mostly acapella and foreign language pieces. focusing on advanced music theory, sight-singing and vocal technique. Students are required to do theory assignments and hand in practice records. Advanced Choir performs at MSVMA Solo & Ensemble Festival, and received a Superior rating at District Festival.

Student Expectations: our student needs to bring their choir folder, theory notebook, and a pencil to class every week. Music folders are the student’s responsibility. They are to only write in their music in pencil, and no doodling on the music – only notations of a musical nature. Any lost music will be charged to your account. Music will be collected at the end of every concert. Choir students are expected to practice 30 minutes/day, 4 days/week, with the fifth day being in class.

Grading: Grades/HS credit is available for this class, and will be based on the following criteria: Practice records & assignments turned in (20 %), vocal assessments – done in class & at the concert (20%), participation in class/class behavior/attendance (30%), festival and concerts (30%).

Grades are based on the work and improvement that the student has shown, not on their musical ability since each student has varying amounts of experience. If a student participates in the MSVMA Solo & Ensemble Festival, State Choral Festival, or any other Honors Choir, they will receive extra credit towards their grade because that involves a significant time investment outside of class.

Repertoire: Students will be required to work on a variety of different pieces for performance with the ensemble. The pieces will also cover a variety of styles from major choral works, classical pieces, madrigals, spirituals, folk songs, movie music, and jazz. The pieces will contain a variety of key signatures, time signatures, and contain anywhere from 4 - 10 vocal parts.

Method Book: Kjos Theory books levels 1 - 3 are used for music theory.

Major, Minor & Chromatic Scale - will be learned through sight-singing exercises and warm-up exercises. Intermediate - Advanced level of sight-singing is taught according to the Michigan School Vocal Music Association guidelines.

Rhythms and Time Signatures - the class will cover quarter notes, 8th notes, 16th, 32nd notes and all equivalent rests and syncopations consistent with our repertoire and covered in the method book. Students will also learn these in 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 5/4 and compound time signatures such as 3/8, 6/8, 9/8, and 12/8.

Concerts: The Students will perform in 5 concerts each year, 2 in the first semester and 3 in the second semester. Participation is required and students are graded on their attendance. The ensemble also receives a rating and a critique from a choral director/music educator for MSVMA Solo & Ensemble Festival and the Youth Arts Coalition Festival performance.

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