

Christian Academy of Louisville
High School
Honors Chorale
2018-2019 Syllabus

Cassandra Ungaro, Director, Room 123
Class Time: 4th Block Blue Monday thru Friday
Phone: (502) 244-3225 ext. 1124
Email: cungaro@caschools.us

Course No. 426

1 Credit

Prerequisite: Audition and Director approval

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Chorale is the top auditioned vocal ensemble at Christian Academy of Louisville. This ensemble is designed for students desiring to continue developing their vocal, music literacy, and ensemble skills. Fundamental skills will be addressed and built upon to move students into a higher level of performance. Vocal production, tone, blend, aural skills, and sight singing will be examined. Literature will be chosen from different styles and genres and will reinforce skills learned in the rehearsal setting. Students will apply these skills in school and public performances as this ensemble will represent Christian Academy of Louisville in school and community performances throughout the year.

As a choral ensemble, students shall strive to pursue excellence ever and always – this includes the everyday, regular rehearsal as well as public performances. Students have a unique opportunity to praise God and represent Christ through performing music at a skillful level. Being on time for rehearsal, bringing necessary materials, and fully participating in rehearsals and performances contribute to this goal.

“Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other...and **sing**,
sing your hearts out to God!

Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master,
Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.”

Colossians 3:15-17 from The Message

OBJECTIVES

Performance:

The student will demonstrate proper vocal technique as applied to advanced literature.

1. Consistently apply proper vocal technique in control of dynamics and articulation.
2. Exhibit increased ability to use efficient and effective breathing techniques.

The student will consistently perform with accurate intonation in solo and ensemble singing.

1. Perform vocal exercises to achieve consistent and accurate intonation.
2. Apply aural skills to adjust individual intonation within the ensemble.

The student will sing with purity of vowels and clarity of consonants.

1. Demonstrate the difference between voiced and unvoiced consonants.
2. Demonstrate the use of vowel placement to adjust tone.
3. Demonstrate the difference between pure vowels and diphthongs.

The student will sing in a manner reflecting the expressive qualities of music in rehearsal and performance.

1. Interpret mood, tempo, dynamics, and tone color in performance.
2. Demonstrate blending vocal timbres and matching dynamic levels.
3. Sing with expressive phrasing.

The student will perform music written in four or more parts with and without accompaniment.

1. Sing in small ensembles with one student voice on a part.
2. Perform music with traditional and nontraditional harmonies.

The student will respond to various conducting patterns and interpretive gestures.

1. Respond to conducting patterns for changing and mixed meters.
2. Demonstrate conducting patterns in duple, triple, and compound meters.

The student will sing independently.

1. Demonstrate audition skills.
2. Demonstrate memorization skills.
3. Perform a song and/or a vocal part alone.

Context and Music Theory:

The student will read and write notation.

1. Use a symbol system to sight-read melodic lines in major keys.
2. Sight-read an individual voice part in a vocal score.
3. Use available technology and related software.

The student will study and sing selections representing various historical periods, styles, and cultures, including selections in a variety of foreign languages.

Judgment and Criticism:

The student will evaluate music performances.

1. Evaluate and offer constructive suggestions for improvement of personal and group performance through the use of music terminology.

MATERIALS

All music will be provided by the school. Students will receive all their music via email/canvas and will need their iPad to access on a daily basis. Please make sure your iPad is charged and ready to use by class.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Grading will consist of daily grades, sight singing, quizzes/evaluations, and performances.

- **Sight Singing:** The ability to read music is vital for members of this ensemble. Sight singing skills will be taught and evaluated individually as sight singing enables students to learn music independently. Students will have the opportunity to sight sing as an ensemble at every rehearsal, although some assessments will be given individually. Students will be notified in advance of a sight singing assessment and can earn up to 50 points per assessment. Expect at least one of these per quarter through Canvas. Unannounced Sight Singing evaluations may take place throughout the quarter as well. These will be worth up to 25 points. These assessments are due during class, therefore, absent students will be excused from the assignment and points will not be accumulated if the absence is excused.
- **Solfege Assignments:** Students will also be asked to write in solfege for all of their music. Since classes will be meeting every other day, these assignments will be due and submitted through Canvas at the beginning of class each day.
- **Performances:** Choir is a performing ensemble; therefore, concerts are a major portion of each student's grade. Attendance at all concerts is MANDATORY, so please mark your calendars ASAP. The CAL sports schedule is deliberately planned around the Fine Arts schedule, and attending practice is not an excuse. Grading for performances consist of the student's attendance and ability to apply skills learned in rehearsal to the performance setting.

Students are expected to be dressed and on stage 60 minutes prior to start time as well as stay for the entirety of the concert. Each performance is worth 100 points.

An unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for that concert. Excused absences include illness (doctor's note required), family emergency, or other circumstances at the discretion of the director. Excused absences will be given a make-up assignment.

(Please see "Concert Requirements" on next page for more details concerning performances.)

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance: "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late."

Please make an effort to be early and prepared for class. This is just one way to pursue excellence in every area of our lives. One hour of Saturday detention will be assigned for every three times a student is tardy. Points will also be deducted from the student's grade for being tardy or absent. If a student is absent from rehearsal but is in school for the rest of the day, it is considered an unexcused absence.

Code of Conduct:

Luke 6:31 states "Treat others just as you want to be treated." (CEV) Respect for teachers and peers will be expected. The Music students are most certainly considered to be some of the best students at CAL, and are to be held to the highest level of performance as well as discipline. Should discipline be required the following steps of action will be taken. Due to the severity of the issue however steps may be skipped at the director's discretion.

1. Give the students their first verbal warning.
2. Ensemble Director will have a conference with the student individually.
3. The Ensemble Director will offer a second verbal warning, assign a detention and contact the parents of the student.
4. The Ensemble Director, Student, Director of the School of the Arts and possibly the parent will meet with student.
5. Call a conference between the Ensemble Director, the Director of the School of the Arts, the Parent and the Principal or Assistant Principal to discuss removal from the music program.

Dress Code Requirements for all Performances

Our primary ensemble concert dress is very simple; the guys are expected to wear all black that will need to be purchased through the music boosters for \$65. Students will be fitted for these uniforms during class at the beginning of the year. It is vital that all students wear the same manufacturer to make certain that we do not get 50 shades of black on the stage. Guys must also wear black shoes that have no visible logo or color other than black. The girls are expected to wear our concert dresses that they will need to purchase through the music boosters, and black shoes that do not show their toes. No dangling jewelry will be accepted. Failure to comply with the dress code without prior discussion with Mr. Wooten or your ensemble director the student may not be allowed to perform with the ensemble and they will not receive their full concert grade.

Some secondary ensembles have their own dress code requirements but all fall within the Christian Academy of Louisville School System Handbook for dress code requirements.

Solo and Small Ensemble attire will fall within the Christian Academy of Louisville School System Handbook dress code requirements. Failure to comply with the dress code without prior discussion with Mr. Wooten or your ensemble director will result in an hour of detention and in some cases the student may not be allowed to perform and they will not receive their full concert grade.

Concert Requirements

Part of being an excellent musician is knowing how to also be a good audience member and to know what behavior is acceptable and unacceptable at any public concert.

1. All music students are expected to be in attendance for all concerts where they are performing. If there is a conflict with another school event then it is the students and/or parents responsibility to inform the director at least 2 weeks prior to the concert event. At that time the director will handle conflicts on a case by case basis on whether or not the student is excused. In case of a family emergency or personal tragedy the director will excuse the student from the concert. For tournament games, senior nights and last games of the season, the director will do all they can to accommodate the student's request. However, sometimes it is impossible to work this out and the student is required to choose, if they choose the other event their grade will be dropped in accordance with the grading policy for all concerts. Athletic practices and regular season games are not excused. If a student misses a concert for an unexcused reason their concert grade will be at best 60% of the full concert grade.
2. Students are expected to attend the concert in its entirety unless prior approval has been given (requests need to be made in writing). If not approved students will not receive full credit for the concert if they are not there for the entire duration of the evening. To assist families in this area, all concerts will end in a timely manner.
3. Students will sit with their ensemble for the duration of the performance. Students observed in the hallways or classrooms during a performance will receive a lower grade and possible disciplinary action.
4. If you do have an emergency and need to leave (or enter), out of respect for the performers and the other audience members, please only exit (or enter) after a piece is finished.
5. The use of any and all electronic devices is not permitted during a concert. Any electronic device seen during a concert will be confiscated.
6. There should be no talking while a group is performing or while anyone is addressing the audience.

Music Boosters

Christian Academy is blessed to have a Music Booster organization. This organization is made up of parents who see the need, and share the vision of the music program here at our school. ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Without parental support we could not accomplish nearly as much as we have. The Music Boosters take care of fundraising, set-up and break-down for performances, and are actively involved in planning and chaperoning our trips, as well as many other things. I would HIGHLY encourage all parents to join our Music Boosters organization and become actively involved in the musical experience here at CAL.

Christian Academy Arts Programs

All CAL Fine Arts students should adhere to the following rehearsal standards:

1. No gum or food is allowed in rehearsal.
2. Be on time to every rehearsal – this includes rehearsals during, before, and after school.
3. Have your own music, pencil, and other supplies at every rehearsal. Students who go back to their locker to retrieve missing items will be counted tardy.
4. Prepare your music and your mind well. This means you have looked over your part before rehearsal and are ready to be a contributing member of the ensemble.
5. Be attentive during rehearsal – give the director and others who speak your utmost respect.

Concert Expectations

Part of being an excellent musician is knowing how to also be a good audience members--to know what behavior is acceptable and unacceptable at any public concert.

1. All music students are expected to be in attendance for all concerts.
2. Students are expected to attend the concert in its entirety. Arriving late and/or leaving early is unacceptable in most circumstances; therefore students will not receive full credit for the concert if they leave early (or arrive late). If you have a scheduling conflict, please work with your director to avoid loss of concert points.
3. Before and after performing, students will sit with their classmates in the auditorium. Students observed in the hallways (or lingering in the rehearsal room) during a performance will receive disciplinary action.
4. Students should remain seated in the auditorium for the duration of the concert. There should be no coming and going out of the auditorium during the concert.
5. If you do have an emergency and need to step out during the concert, exit (and re-enter) *between* pieces. Entering while the ensemble is performing is distracting, not only to the performers, but to the audience members as well.
6. The use of any electronic devices (iPhone, iPad, laptop) during a concert is strictly prohibited. Any electronic device seen during a concert will be confiscated.
7. There should be no talking while a group is performing or while anyone is addressing the audience.

This certifies that I have read and understood ALL of the information and policies set forth in this syllabus

Please sign and return this page by Friday, August 24th, 2018

Student: _____ Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

CHORAL ACTIVITIES

KMEA Festivals:

KMEA Solo and Ensemble is held in Louisville during late winter, typically in February. This event is optional, but I highly encourage all students to participate. At the festival, students perform as soloists and ensembles for a judge who listens to and critiques the student(s) performance. The judge then awards each soloist or ensemble a rating, with the top rating earning a medal, which will be awarded during our May Concert. Sign-ups for Solo and Ensemble are in October. More information will be available as the time approaches.

Large Ensemble Festival occurs in mid-March and will most likely be during the school day. This is considered a field trip from school, and all students will be participating. At KMEA Festival, school ensembles from around Louisville will perform their prepared concert music for a panel of judges to be critiqued and scored. This is our biggest event of the school year – our performance will demonstrate all the skills we have worked on throughout the school year!

KMEA All-State Choirs:

CAL Choir students have the opportunity to audition for and participate in the Kentucky Music Educator's Association All-State Choirs. This consists of rehearsals during the school day at the Kentucky International Convention Center and overnight accommodations at the Galt House hotel. Students are responsible for the cost and fees for the audition, registration, music, and hotel.

The Kentucky Junior High Chorus (KJHC) is comprised of the Kentucky Junior High Mixed Chorus (KJHMC) and the Kentucky Junior High Treble Chorus (KJHTC). Each chorus has approximately 200 seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students who are selected by taped audition from the state of Kentucky. Both choirs perform in concert as part of the Kentucky Music Educator's Association In-Service/Professional Development Conference in Louisville, in February, in Whitney Hall at the Kentucky Center for the Arts. This is an optional event and is available to 9th grade students ONLY. Students interested in auditioning should see Miss Ungaro as soon as possible. Deadline for audition forms, fees, and tapes is in November.

The Kentucky High School All-State Chorus is comprised of the Kentucky High School SATB Choir, SSAA Choir, and TTBB Choir. Auditions are open to students in 10th-12th grade and consists of a live quartet performance audition and an individual sight-singing audition. Students will be notified of acceptance by mid-November. The concert will take place at the Kentucky Center in Louisville in February as part of the Kentucky Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference. Students will spend two full days in rehearsal and will spend two nights downtown at the Galt House as the CAL music department teachers will be attending the conference, workshops, and clinics those same days. Auditions will be held in October. The rest of the information is TBD.

University of Louisville Honor Choir:

This is an opportunity for some of the finest high school musicians in the region to come to the University of Louisville School of Music and perform with members of the Collegiate Chorale, which will be in January of this year. Students are nominated by their director and up to 8 students are accepted from each school. Singers are expected to prepare their music before arriving at the Festival. Seniors who are considering attending the University of Louisville will have the opportunity to audition for a School of Music scholarship while attending the Honor Choir Festival. Registration and music fee is \$15 per student and is due in December of this year.