

Christian Academy of Louisville
High School Show Choir
2018-2019 Syllabus

Cassandra Ungaro, Director, Room 123
Class Time: 4th Block Red Monday-Friday
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Course No. 423 1 Credit Regular Grading Scale Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Christian Academy of Louisville High School Show Choir is an auditioned, performance-based group specializing in Broadway, pop, and musical theater repertoire. This ensemble meets every day with the purpose of emphasizing basic fundamental choral skills, which include music literacy, sight reading, vocal technique, and introductory music theory, as well as basic choreography and dance technique. Students will perform regularly throughout the duration of the class. 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. Students will apply skills in school and public performances.

Show choir is a choral ensemble first and foremost – choreography and dance will be designed to enhance the overall performance. 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 and Production

The student will demonstrate proper posture and breathing techniques to support vocal production.

1. Demonstrate a consistent application of proper breath control.
2. Demonstrate a consistent application of proper singing posture.

The student will sing with a free and clear tone, using accurate intonation.

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

1. Produce pure vowels—ah, eh, ee, oh, and oo—across the vocal range.
2. Identify and articulate consonants, with emphasis on beginning and final consonants.

The student will use dynamics, tempo, blend, and balance in a group performance.

1. Apply dynamic markings, including *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *crescendo*, *decrescendo*.
2. Respond to conducting prompts regarding blend and balance.

The student will sing music written in three or more parts.

1. Maintain voice part in small ensemble.
2. Sight-read four-measure phrases, using a symbol system.
3. Sing with and without instrumental accompaniment.

The student will respond to music through movement.

1. Create movement to illustrate diverse styles of music.

Judgment and Criticism

The student will use choral techniques and musicianship in the evaluation of music performances.

MATERIALS

Students are asked to have their iPad and character shows for every class period.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

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

- **Group 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 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. Unannounced Sight Singing evaluations may take place throughout the quarter as well. These will be worth a total of 25 points.
- **Classroom Assignments/Group Activities:** Students will also be asked to critically evaluate their performances. Points of emphasis include accuracy of pitches and rhythms, vocal technique, musicality, tone quality, personal and group participation and effort, and overall performance effectiveness. These forms are designed to allow students the opportunity to thoughtfully review performances as well as immediately identify areas of improvement individually and as an ensemble. Students will often be asked to work in groups, whether that is on their music or to choreograph sections of songs. They will be expected to fully participate in this process and put forth their best effort. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 20 points for these assignments.
- **Rehearsal Standards:** Students will be asked to be present and prepared for class every day. They will have the opportunity to earn between 10 and 20 points a week based on their ability to following instruction and adhere to rehearsal standards. These standards include: Having their character shoes on by the time warm ups start, having their phones out of sight for the entire class, having their iPad out and ready for use, singing and being attentive during rehearsal, using correct posture, and paying attention while choreography is being taught.
- **Performances/Dress Rehearsals:** Show Choir is a performing ensemble; therefore, concerts and after school dress rehearsals are a major portion of each student's grade. Attendance at all concerts and dress rehearsals are 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 stay after school the day of the concert, 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 concert attire for show choir differs from the traditional black dresses and tuxedos of our other choral ensembles. Ladies performance attire consists of a dance dress, character shoes, dance tights, and accessories. Uniform rental is \$35 annually (new dresses cost upwards of \$125). Ladies are responsible for purchasing body tights and character shoes (nude with a 1/2 inch heel) from Kinney Dancewear, located at 1850 South Hurstbourne Parkway or (502) 499-6262. They also need to purchase black spandex shorts for under their dresses. These can be purchased from Walmart and/or another athletic store, they just need to be solid. 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.