

**Christian Academy of Louisville**  
High School Women's Choir  
2018-2019 Syllabus

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Class Time: 2<sup>nd</sup> Block Blue Monday-Friday  
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Course No. 422                      1 Credit                      Regular Grading Scale                      Prerequisite: None

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Christian Academy of Louisville High School Women's Choir is a non-audition group for students with minimal or intermediate-level choral singing experience. 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. Students will perform regularly throughout the duration of the class and may combine with other school choirs for performances. 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 appropriate for the female voice and will reinforce skills learned in the rehearsal setting. Students will apply these skills in school and public performances.

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 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.

1. Use vocal technique and exercises to develop desired tone and 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 two 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 conducting patterns and interpretive gestures.

1. Demonstrate and respond to basic conducting patterns of one, two, three, and four beats.
2. Demonstrate and respond to expressive conducting gestures as they relate to style and interpretation.

The student will improvise within limited parameters.

1. Improvise short rhythmic and melodic phrases.
2. Create vocal harmony to a given melody.
3. Use available multimedia applications and technology in creating original music.

### *Context and Music Theory*

The student will read and write music notation.

1. Identify dotted notes and rests, sixteenth notes and rests, basic symbols, and terms.
2. Read rhythmic patterns in simple and compound meters and various tempos.
3. Use available technology and related software.

The student will study and perform selections representing diverse historical periods, styles, and cultures.

### *Judgment and Criticism*

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

## **MATERIALS**

All music will be provided by the school. Students will be assigned a folder for their music at the beginning of the year – the folder is the student's textbook. The folder and music must be returned at the end of the school year in the same condition in which it was originally assigned. Lost or damaged music and/or folders will be the responsibility of the student to replace or purchase. A replacement fee of \$10 will be assessed at the end of the school year for any unreturned or damaged music and/or folders.

Students are asked to have sharpened pencils as well as their iPad. These items will be used regularly and therefore must be brought to class on a daily basis.

## **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 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.
- **Performance Quiz:** Once a quarter the student will sing into a recorder during rehearsal, where the following singing elements will be graded: correct pitches, correct rhythms, good vowels and consonants (clear diction), good tone quality (singing out with support). The students will be able to earn up to 40 points for these quizzes. These days will be announced. Unannounced Performance Quizzes may take place throughout the quarter as well. These will be worth a total of 20 points.
- **Quizzes/Evaluations:** Quick voice will be an iPad app that will be used on a regular basis in this class. At any point in time the teacher can have the students record their voices and email

it as a grade. Students can earn up to 20 points per voice quiz. 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.

- **Daily Choir Standards:** Students will be evaluated both formally and informally on the following rehearsal/performance standards: 1. I can demonstrate appropriate behaviors for the style of music being performed. 2. I can stand (or sit, when appropriate) with the correct posture while singing. 3. I can sing with proper breath support, diction, and projection. They can receive a maximum of 10 points each day. Unless otherwise noted, one point will be deducted for each of the following as they inhibit mastery of the above standards.
- **Classroom Assignments:** Students will also be asked to critically evaluate performances using a performance evaluation form. 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. Performance evaluations are to be completed the day/class immediately following a school or community performance. Students can earn up to 30 points per evaluation.
- **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 45-60 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.