

Choir

Course Overview:

The major emphasis of this course is to develop student achievement through the practice and study of choral music. Students develop the ability to sing with skill, accuracy, and sensitivity. The course provides for improvement in vocal tone quality through breath support and ear training, for increased skill in sight singing, and for more highly developed aesthetic appreciation and critical judgment. The course also provides for increased skill in ensemble singing in small and large groups, and enlarges students' acquaintance with standard choral literature.

Course Description:

Choir is an ensemble, consisting of beginning and intermediate singers. This mixed ensemble will learn and perform works of great variety, focusing on pieces to improve musicianship. Students will review the basic music symbols and terms, rhythm notation and solfege (the Kodály approach which emphasizes the importance of learning how to sing on pitch) dictation. There will be a review of proper rehearsal procedures.

Course Materials:

The student must provide a 1 inch binder with side pockets for music. Dividers and notebook paper are also required.

Grading:

50% - daily attendance and participation

20% - classwork/ homework

5% - notebook

15% - quizzes and tests

10% - final performance

Attendance and participation: It is important that everyone is on time and ready to work in class. This means that students need to be in their seats before class begins with a pencil, music and three ring binder. Attendance and participation are a crucial part of preparing a choral performance. The class works together as a team to create a performance that will be greater than what any one individual could produce. Absences negatively affect rehearsals in a very large way. Students are encouraged to be present everyday, and asked to limit planned absences as much as possible. Students interested in any possible solos will have to commit to missing **no**

more than five days total from the entire program, and **none of those days can be in the week of the performance.** Any student with a solo that breaks this rule will have their part recast.

For every class period, students will be given points for attendance and participation. For full points, students need to be on time, have all of their materials, and willingly participate in class activities. Points will be given as follows:

3 pts. for attendance
2 pt. for being on time
2 pt. for having all required materials
+ 3 pt. for being actively engaged in classroom activities
10 pts. total

Classwork/homework: Any work not finished in class will need to be taken home and finished as homework due the following day.

Notebook: Students will bring a three-ring binder, dividers, notebook paper and a pencil to every class. These items will be used to put together a music theory notebook. All tests, quizzes, worksheets and notes must be kept in an orderly fashion in this notebook. At the end of the summer, notebooks will be collected and graded on organization and completeness. Notebooks should be divided into three sections: Notes, Worksheets, and Tests/Quizzes. The Notebook will be worth 100 points.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given frequently to test for understanding of the music theory covered that week.

Tests: Two larger tests will be given during the summer. The first will be given in the third week of instruction and the final in the last week of instruction. These will be on music theory and other concepts covered in class.

Final Performance: Student attendance at the final performance in the evening on **July 20th** (time to be announced) is imperative. Students are expected to provide all black clothing to wear at the concert.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism: “1. the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.”

("Plagiarism." Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1). Random House, Inc. 20 Feb. 2009.

<Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Plagiarism>>.)

Access to technology makes it easier to copy the work of others. Students will learn what constitutes plagiarism and how to steer clear of it. As a rule, if there are three words in a row that someone else can claim, cite it. Plagiarism is stealing and cheating and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is against the law.

The first time a student is caught plagiarizing, there will be a teacher/student conference, a phone call home, no credit given for the assignment, and notification given to the SAEP office. Copying from a fellow classmate is also unacceptable on homework assignments and individual assessments. The consequences are the same as above.

Teacherease.com:

Parents and students can access grades and attendance through a web-based grade program at teacherease.com. By the end of the first week, parents will be e-mailed the password to access the program. If you do not receive your password via e-mail, please contact the office staff at saep@csun.edu and request the password to be re-sent. It is beneficial for you to refer often to the website to check your child's progress and attendance in class. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me.

Classroom Behavior:

The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:

1. Actively participate in all classroom activities.
2. Be respectful of all students and of the teacher.
3. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property.
4. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
5. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.

SAEP Electronics Policy

Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.

- a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).
- b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office and **MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.**

Choir

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After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long educational experience for your student.

**Student/ Parent Agreement:**

Please bring this signed and dated **Choir** syllabus agreement to class tomorrow.

If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_