

School District of Springfield Township

Springfield Township High School Course Overview

Course Name: Concert Choir

Grade level(s): 9 - 12

Course Description

Concert Choir offers the serious vocalist the opportunity to learn, practice, and perform the musical elements (melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, dynamics) and forms of classical, Broadway, and contemporary music. The choir performs at the Winter Concert, Festival of the Arts, Chamber Concert, Senior Awards Ceremony and Commencement. Attendance at these performances is mandatory.

Course Prerequisites : Student audition and/or teacher recommendation

Unit Titles

Unit One: Introduction to the Mechanics of Singing, Sight Singing Skills, Concert Repertoire

Unit Two: Concert Repertoire (cont'd), Advanced Sight Singing Skills, Solo Performance Rehearsal

Unit Three: Formal rehearsals and Performances of Concert Choir Repertoire

Essential Questions

- What is needed to produce a good vocal sound?
- How do we achieve a well-blended, uniform sound?
- How do we reflect the meaning of the text through the music?
- How do we make our section rehearsal time productive?
- How do we learn to listen to and correctly evaluate our performance as well as professionals/amateur performances?

Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings

Unit One: Introduction to the Mechanics of Singing, Sight Singing Skills, Concert Repertoire

- Understand the mechanics that are needed to become a proficient vocalist.
- Reading music is an important form of communication.

Unit Two: Concert Repertoire (cont'd), Advanced Sight Singing Skills, Solo Performance Rehearsal

- Solo singing training is important for the development of the voice
- Ensemble singing is an essential skill to acquire in the concert choir class.

Unit Three: Formal rehearsals and Performances of Concert Choir Repertoire, and Evaluations

- The final performance(s) is the main goal of the class.
- A formal written evaluation of the concert and/or performances serves as a method of assessment for the performers

Key Competencies/Skills/Procedures

Unit One: Introduction to the Mechanics of Singing, Sight Singing Skills, Concert Repertoire

- Demonstrate and explain the proper breathing techniques needed to produce a good vocal tone
- Distinguish between a proper vocal tone and an improper vocal tone
- Develop good sight singing skills through the use of various solfegge vocal and rhythmic exercises
- Rehearse a solo song for a voice assessment as well as the concert choir repertoire for the semester
- Evaluate the performances of other choirs and/or students in the concert choir class
- Describe how the vocal music and the accompaniment and/or the text portray the feeling of the music
- Rehearse a variety of musical selections using solfegge syllables and rhythmic syllables
- Rehearse a solo song for a formal evaluation and/or performance

Unit Two: Concert Repertoire (cont'd), Advanced Sight Singing Skills, Solo Performance Rehearsal, Formal rehearsals and Performances of Concert Choir Repertoire

- Create an improvised melody from a simple, familiar song. (e.g., “Amazing Grace”)
- Rehearse and refine vocal skills learned in Unit One
- Rehearse concert choir repertoire alone, in voice parts and in large ensemble
- Memorize concert choir repertoire in preparation for the concert
- Evaluate a videotaped concert choir rehearsal
- Perform a solo song for a formal evaluation and/or a live audience
- Perform the concert choir repertoire at a public concert(s)
- Complete a evaluation form of at least one concert choir performance

Core Vocabulary

Unit One: Introduction to the Mechanics of Singing, Sight Singing Skills, Concert Repertoire
inhalation/exhalation, diaphragm, abdominal muscles, larynx, vocal cords, true cords vs. false cords, passagio, soft/hard palate, vocal inflection, resonance, tessitura

Unit Two: Concert Repertoire (cont'd), Advanced Sight Singing Skills, Solo Performance Rehearsal, Formal rehearsals and Performances of Concert Choir Repertoire
articulation, diphthongs, glottal stop, intervals, minor chord, major chord, seventh chord, cadence, Italian vocal terms Musicality, discipline, vocal and body expression, critique

Core Resources

A variety of musical selections which are chosen by the teacher

State Standards and/or Anchor Standards Guiding Course
PA State Arts and Humanities Standards:

9.1. Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts

9.1.12A Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.

9.1.12B Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts.

9.1.12C Integrate and apply advanced vocabulary to the arts forms

9.1.12G Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions

9.3. Critical Response

9.3.8. A. Know and use the critical process of the examination of works in the arts and humanities.

9.3.8. B. Analyze and interpret specific characteristics of works in the arts within each art form

9.3.8. D. Evaluate works in the arts and humanities using a complex vocabulary of critical response.

Prepared-MF

Approved –chr 5.13.13