

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Music Department Course Syllabus

Course: Concert Choir Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description

The Concert Choir is a large vocal ensemble course required for all advanced vocal music majors. The Concert Choir performs music from the great choral literature of the last five centuries and contemporary literature as selected by the instructors. The Choir may be separated into smaller choirs at the discretion of the directors.

Content Standards

Four DCPS Music Content Standards are basic to the core skills, concepts and knowledge needed for Concert Choir:

- Students sing alone and with others a varied repertoire of music representing diverse genres, styles and cultures
- Students read, notate and interpret notational symbols for rhythmic and melodic patterns
- Students critique their own performance and the performances of others
- Students explore a variety of heritages from music of many cultures

Course Outline

The Concert Choir rehearses regularly, learning complex music. The Concert Choir performs when appropriate, at least twice a year, and will participate in festivals and competitions at the discretion of the instructors. Student leaders can be elected from the Choir, and student section leaders will be assigned by the instructors.

Grading and Evaluation Procedures

Grading is based on attendance and performance as outlined in the Concert Choir Rubric that is presented to the students at the beginning of the school year. Each Concert Choir member is expected to meet the standards of performance and behavior outline below:

To receive a grade of "A" students will

- Attend and perform at all concerts
- Attend all rehearsals on time and stay to the end
- Know the music and be able to perform it individually in quartets
- Remain quiet, respectful and attentive in rehearsals
- Assist others in maintenance of music, which may include
 - Black folder with name on front
 - Selections being rehearsed
 - Sharpened pencil
- Have music available at every rehearsal
- Return music after each rehearsal
- Maintain performance outfit in good condition
- Show leadership regarding the participation of others in rehearsals and performances
- Develop music reading skills and help others to develop reading skills
- Being a section leader or a responsive member of a section
- Respond positively to whoever is in charge during rehearsal or performance

To receive a grade of "B" students will

- Attend and perform at all concerts
- Attend rehearsals on time
- Know the music and be able to perform it individually in quartets
- Remain quiet, respectful and attentive in rehearsals
- Maintain music in good condition
- Maintain performance outfit in good condition
- Develop music reading skills and help others to develop reading skills
- Being a section leader or a responsive member of a section
- Respond positively to whoever is in charge during rehearsal or performance

To receive a grade of "C" students will

- Attend and perform at all concerts
- Attend rehearsals on time
- Know the music and be able to perform it individually in quartets
- Remain quiet, respectful and attentive in rehearsals
- Maintain music in good condition

The grade of "D" or "F" will be given to those not meeting the responsibilities outlined in "C" above. Concerts and other performances are the "tests" for this class, and will be graded accordingly. Those students on academic or artistic probation are not allowed to perform off campus.

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Music Department Course Syllabus

Course: Show Choir I - IV

Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description

The Show Choir is a repertoire performing group, with a diverse choral and vocal repertoire, including selections from various musical styles and genres: Classical (16th-20th centuries), Spiritual, Gospel, Folk, Opera, Operetta, Blues, Jazz, Motown. Today, singers are not only expected to sing beautifully, but also to dance and act. Developing all of these performance skills enhances the singers' ability to communicate, giving the singer a greater advantage for success. This offers multi-talented students the opportunity to develop all of their performing abilities. The course is designed to help young performing artists learn to effectively combine beautiful singing, good acting and expressive dancing.

Content Standards

Four DCPS Music Content Standards are basic to the core skills, concepts and knowledge needed for Show Choir:

- Students sing alone and with others a varied repertoire of music representing diverse genres, styles and cultures
- Students read, notate and interpret notational symbols for rhythmic and melodic patterns
- Students critique their own performance and the performances of others
- Students explore a variety of heritages from music of many cultures

Pre-Requisites:

Students must possess an outstanding voice with good tone quality, excellent tonal memory and the desire to learn and study dance and acting.

The course is open to all students at Ellington, regardless of student's major or department, but each student must pass an extensive audition that includes singing, dancing and acting.

Course Outline

The Show Choir rehearses five days a week, with extra dance and drama classes three days per week. There are also workshops on make-up, staging, choreography, etc. The philosophy guiding the group is that students learn best by practicing what they learn through performance.

Annual Performance Opportunities:

1. Holiday Choral Concert
2. Holiday Sing-Along with the Washington Chamber Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
3. Black History Concert Show
4. Music Festivals and Tours (at least one per year)
5. Many other performances throughout the year

Grading and Evaluation Procedures

Grading is based on attendance and participation at rehearsals, performances, workshops, and other activities. Complete costume attire is required to participate in performances. Any student improperly or incompletely attired in the designated costume will not be allowed to perform at that event. An active parent support group assists the Show Choir with logistical and financial matters and helps to mentor and encourage students in their commitment to the Show Choir.