

Saint Mary's College High School Performing Arts

Course Outline

Course Name Magnificat Chamber Singers	Teacher Mr Chris Trinidad
Room Number Music Pavilion/Campus Ministry Office	Period 3
Semester Fall 2011 and Winter 2012 (inclusive)	Contact Information ctrinidad@stmchs.org

Course Description

The *Magnificat Chamber Singers* is a performance-based course designed to introduce and engage student-musicians in the choral arts. Through the study of the choral art, student-musicians sing as mindful and expressive music practitioners by applying music skills and knowledge, and ensemble choral techniques to diverse choral repertoire. Student-musicians are exposed to a variety of choral music from various time periods and geographical locations while cultivating a sense of cultural diversity. Through live performance, student-musicians come to understand the value of choral singing and choral study as *essential* to a life well lived.

Big Ideas

Music is not a universal language. However, music *is* a cultural universal.

Music making is a culturally contextualized social practice.

The intentional social study and artistic performance of choral music in community can help us to learn more about the world and ourselves.

Choral singing is a healthy human endeavor that promotes social interaction, human relationship and community building, and individual and communal artistic expression. It also requires *radical vulnerability*.

The achievement of excellence, especially in choral singing, is a result of dedication, discipline, and determination.

Essential Questions

Why is music not a universal language and why is music a cultural universal?

In what ways is music a necessary and healthy part of our lives?

How can we better understand the function of music in society through the singing of choral music within a high school community?

In what ways does the popular music of our times express the present state of affairs in the world? How does popular music positively or negatively shape social perceptions?

How has music, in general, and choral music, in particular, effected positive social change?

Core Tasks

Each student-musician will develop and apply technical skills related to the choral art including vocal health and technique, breath control; group balance and intonation; sight reading skills and ear training; melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic concepts; rehearsal skills, practice habits, and performance etiquette to selected repertoire.

Each student-musician will develop the capacity to reflect upon the role of music in society.

Each student-musician will develop competencies and creative skills in problem solving, communication, and management of time and resources that contribute to lifelong learning and career skills.

Required Materials

The teacher will provide all music sheets and charts.

The student-musician will bring all music sheets and charts to each class!

A bottle of water and a pencil.

Performances will require a special performance dress to be determined.

Behavioral Expectations

Be on time and handle your business appropriately. With great power comes great responsibility.

Mutual respect is the foundation of relationship and community building.

Your full cooperation and mindful attention is expected and appreciated.

Success in this course requires active engagement with all activities. 😊

Grading Categories

Technical Competence: each student can use the voice as a musical instrument and understands how to use and access appropriate vocal techniques in relation to the studied choral repertoire.
(25%)

Music Literacy: each student can understand notation and terminology in relation to the structural elements of the studied choral repertoire.
(25%)

Performance Application and Musicianship: each student can synthesize technical competence and music literacy and can demonstrate this synthesis in the context of proper presentation and performance.
(25%)

Social and Contextual Understanding of Music: each student understands the social implications of music making in the context of wider social phenomena.
(25%)

Grading Guidelines

A [Outstanding: 90 – 100]

B [Very Good: 80 - 89]

C [Satisfactory: 70 – 79]

D [Minimum Achievement: 60 - 69]

F [Failure due to Unsatisfactory Achievement: 0 - 59]

Acknowledgment

Please sign and date this course outline and have a parent or guardian do the same to acknowledge that this course outline has been read and understood.

[student-musician signature]

[date]

[parent or guardian signature]

[date]