

Cantate Choir (Music)

Elective – Year – 9/10

Prerequisites: Audition

Course Description

The Luther High School Cantate Choir offers students the opportunity to worship their risen Savior as part of an organization dedicated to praising Him in both sacred and secular settings. Members of the Cantate Choir are exposed to vocal literature from our Lutheran heritage as well as the various styles of Western music. Students will learn to use their voices in praise to God to the best of their abilities for a lifetime of praise and worship.

Course Goals

The Cantate Choir director will:

1. Provide an opportunity through music for a closer relationship between the student and his/her Savior.
2. Lead the student to value music as a God-given gift and a way to praise Him.
3. Develop in the student lifetime skills, abilities and attitudes necessary for a rewarding worship life.
4. Develop and improve the vocal abilities of students in the areas of sight-reading, tone production, breathing, and expressive singing.
5. Select appropriate literature for the Reformation Service, Heidelberg, Christmas and Easter Concerts, congregational visits and Spring Spotlight.
6. Expect Cantate Choir members to audition for Concert Choir.

Course Objectives

The Students enrolled in Cantate Choir will:

1. Grow in relationship with his/her Lord and Savior while gaining insight and understanding of the gift of music and its appropriate use both in sacred and secular contexts.
2. Serve as a leader and gain insight into service in the church through singing in front of congregations and audiences.
3. Learn basic principles of vocal technique. These basics include proper breathing, posture, diction, tone production, and vowel production.
4. Become acquainted with a broad range of historical music styles and periods. These styles will include compositions and composers from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern periods.
5. Become acquainted with and be able to perform various modern compositions of Christian Contemporary composers as well as composers from our own rich heritage as a Lutheran Church.

Course Outline

1. Choral School
 - A. Basics of Vowel Production
 - i. Closed Vowels
 - ii. Open Vowels
 - iii. Bright Vowels
 - iv. Dark Vowels
 - v. Diphthongs
 - vi. Inverted Diphthongs
 - B. Vocal Techniques
 - i. Tone quality and color
 - ii. Facial Expression
 - iii. Diction
 - C. Sight Singing
 - i. key signatures
 - ii. Solfeggio ...do, re, mi
 - iii. Rehearsal of Solfeggio
 - D. Music Terminology
 - i. Tempo
 - ii. Dynamics

2. Students will gain an understanding of the following topics in daily rehearsal and performances:
 - A. Music Vocabulary
 - B. Vocal Technique
 - C. Sight Singing Skills
 - D. Music Literature
 - E. Performance Etiquette
 - F. Historical Background
3. Performances
 - A. Opening Service
 - B. Heidelberg Fall Festival
 - C. Sunday Morning Worship
 - D. Christmas Concert
 - E. Easter Concert
 - F. Clinics with Area Professionals
 - G. WSMA Large Group Festival
 - H. Spring Spotlight Concert

Instructional Strategies

1. Students will rehearse selections as a group
2. Students will rehearse selections as necessary in sections
3. The Director will present concepts and ideas as lectures during Choral School as well as during rehearsals.
4. Students will rehearse in their own sections as well as in mixed arrangements.

Grading

Students enrolled in Concert Choir receive one full credit. Grades will be assessed by giving points for attendance at performances, quizzes, individual vocal assessment, and other means. Below is an example of the points that may be earned in a typical first semester.

1. Public Performances

- Opening Service..... 100 Points
 - Heidelberg (both performances)..... 100 Points
 - Advent Service(s)..... 100 Points (each)
 - Christmas Service..... 100 Points
- Absences that are excused ahead of time may be pro-rated at the discretion of the director.*

2. General Knowledge Assessment

- Taking written quizzes..... 25 points each
- Written quizzes will assess the student's knowledge of basic musical skills, including note names, key signatures, time signatures, note values, voice testing and counting.*

3. Other Assessment (optional)

- Concert Attendance..... 25 points each
- Students who attend formal concerts not hosted by Luther High School will receive points for attending those concerts. A copy of the concert program must be signed by the director of the ensemble, or the student's parents. Attached to the program should be a summary of the concert including the name of the student, date of the concert, and their reactions to what they saw and heard. Summaries should be brief – 100 words or less.*

- Volunteer assistance..... director's discretion
- Singers may volunteer to help with the setup and takedown of concerts, filing music, organizing robes, cleaning the choir room, and other activities to be mutually agreed upon. Points will be awarded based on the amount of time and assistance given.*

- Individual growth..... director's discretion
- Students who seek individual help with their choir music outside of the school day will be awarded points for the time spent improving their level of musical ability.*

- Performance in a Worship Service director's discretion

Choir members who use their time and talents performing for their church's worship service will be given points toward their choir grade. Students wishing to receive credit for these performances must bring in a service bulletin signed by their pastor or parent(s). (Solo and Ensemble also counts.)

Grading Scale

A+	99-100
A	95-98
A-	93-94
B+	91-92
B	87-90
B-	85-86
C+	83-84
C	79-82
C-	77-78
D+	75-76
D	72-74
D-	70-71
F	0 -69

Student Materials

Students should have a pencil in their folders for making notes during rehearsals.

Classroom Procedures

1. Each rehearsal will begin with a standardized warm-up.
2. Students who are not in the room when the period begins are considered tardy and marked as such. Students who do not proceed to their assigned seats in a timely manner may be marked tardy as well.
3. Make-up Work – Choral School tests and quizzes are to be completed by the end of the first quarter. Quizzes and tests not handed in by that time will become F's.
4. Behavior – Students who display disruptive behavior will receive verbal warnings. If the inappropriate behavior continues, they will be written up, and their membership in the Choir may be terminated.

Additional Information

More information about Music Department policies and procedures can be found in the Music Department Handbook. Each family with a student involved in music at Luther High School is given a copy of the Handbook at the start of the school year.