

Concert Choir (Music)

Elective – Year – 11/12

Prerequisites: Audition and Consent of Instructor

Course Description

The Luther high School Concert 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 Concert 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 Concert 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 Concert on the Green.

Course Objectives

The student enrolled in Concert 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 musical 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

- I. Choral School
 - A. Basics of Vocal Technique
 1. Choral Philosophy
 2. Proper Mental Set
 3. Breathing
 4. Mental and Physical Inertia
 - B. Basics of Vowel Production
 1. Closed Vowels
 2. Open Vowels
 3. Bright Vowels
 4. Dark Vowels
 5. Diphthongs
 6. Inverted Diphthongs
 - C. Advanced Vocal Techniques
 1. Tone Quality and Color
 2. Resonance
 3. Facial Expression
 4. Diction
 5. Consonants
 - a. Voiced

- b. Non – Voiced
 - D. Sight Singing
 - 1. Key Signatures
 - 2. Solfeggio
 - 3. Diatonic Intervals
 - 4. Rehearsal with Solfeggio Vowels and Numbers
- II. 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. Historical Background
 - F. Performance Etiquette
- III. Performances
 - A. Opening Service
 - B. Reformation Service
 - C. Heidelberg Fall Festival
 - D. Sunday Morning Worship
 - E. Christmas Concert
 - F. WXOW Holiday Concert
 - G. Easter Concert
 - H. Clinics with Area Professionals
 - I. WSMA Large Group Festival
 - J. Spring Spotlight Concert

Instructional Strategies

- Students will rehearse selections as a group.
- Students will rehearse selections as necessary in sections.
- The director will present concepts and ideas as lectures during Choral School as well as during rehearsals.
- Students will rehearse in their own sections as well as in mixed arrangements.

Grading Methods

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
 Reformation Service 100 Points
 December Service(s) 100 Points(each)
 WXOW Holiday Concert 100 Points
 Christmas Service 100 Points

Absences that are excused ahead of time may be pro-rated at the discretion of the director.

2. Vocal Skills Assessment

Sight reading 125 points

Singers will perform a minimum of 5 exercises of varying skill degrees, worth 25 points each.

Exercises will include rhythm skills, melodic skills, and interval skills. Singers will be asked to perform the exercises individually.

3. Note Mastery Assessment

Singing sections of learned music 125 points

Singers will demonstrate individually how well they know their music by singing sections of the music chosen by the director. A starting pitch will be given, and the student may sing a cappella or accompanied, whichever is appropriate for the selected music. Each section sung correctly will be awarded 25 points. Sections not sung correctly will receive no points until corrected. Singers may use music.

4. General Knowledge Assessment

Taking written quizzes 75 points

Written quizzes will assess the student's knowledge of basic musical skills, including note names, key signatures, time signatures, note values, and counting.

Choral school tests 75 points

Students will be tested on the material presented during each session of Choral School. Students unable to attend Choral School may make up the material during the first quarter of the school year.

5. 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.

Performance in a Worship Service director's discretion

Students 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).

WSMA Performance director's discretion

Students who develop their vocal talent by preparing and performing a selection for the Wisconsin State Music Association District Solo and Ensemble Festival will be given points toward their choir grade. Students wishing to receive points for these performances must submit a copy of their signed WSMA adjudicator's form.

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.

Total points, categories 1-4: 1,000 points

Grading Scale:

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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

- Each rehearsal will begin with a standardized warm-up.
- 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.
- 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.
- Behavior – Students who display disruptive behavior will receive verbal warnings. If the inappropriate behavior continues, they will be written up, and membership 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.