

CHAMBER CHOIR

Semester 1

Monday-Thursday
11:10-12:10

Semester 2

Mondays Thursdays
12:30-1:00 3:30-4:30

* Students may be requested to attend Friday sectional rehearsals

Mrs. Christina Banman

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www.millerchoirs.weebly.com

Course Description:

The chamber choir is an auditioned ensemble of grade 10-12 students that works at a high level of musicianship. Students in this choir have the opportunity to develop advanced levels of artistic choral singing, exploring musical styles from both historical composers and modern repertoire. A high level of commitment and professionalism is expected from all members. Chamber Choir is a full credit course that runs for the full school year. The course will run every day within the timetable from September to December during semester 1, and twice/week outside of the timetable during semester 2.

Course Objectives:

Skill Development

- The development of listening/aural skills
- The development of music literacy skills
- The development of a sound vocal technique
- The development of music study, preparation, and performance skills
- The development of expressive and communicative musical skills

Personal Development

- To enhance each chorister's self-image
- To encourage a sense of discipline, self-esteem, responsibility, and commitment in all choir members
- To develop peer leadership based on each chorister's strengths
- To foster a love and appreciation of choral music

Ensemble Development

- To perform quality choral repertoire at the highest artistic standard
- To develop professionalism in all aspects of the program
- To develop the ability to sing in different languages and experience different cultures through music
- To develop the ability to perform and function as a cohesive ensemble through teamwork

Chorister Expectations:

Chamber choir members are expected to follow the same guidelines in chamber choir as they do in junior or senior choir. In additions, members will be assigned section leader positions within junior and senior choir.

Section Leader Role:

- Encourage and support fellow choir members
- Be available to answer questions, clarify instructions, and help others understand their part
- Provide catch up information to students who have missed rehearsal
- Leading sections of rehearsal
- Administrative roles such as handing out music or taking attendance
- Setting a level of commitment, both musically and behaviourally

Course Materials:

Black personalized choir folder - \$36.00

Students will be expected to purchase a personalized choir folder. The choir folder will be the student's property and will be used to help facilitate the use of music in performance and limit the wear-and-tear on sheet music. Student fundraising accounts can be used to assist in the cost of these folders.

If for any reason a student is not able to purchase a choir folder at this time, a school owned folder will be provided upon request.

Assessment:

Musical Progress – 25%

Students will be assessed throughout the year on their progress related to the skills and techniques of singing. Self-assessment and teacher assessment will include:

- Singing alignment
- Expression (body and facial)
- Vowel shaping and diction
- Accurate representation of the score (dynamics, interpretation, expressive markings)
- Accuracy in part singing
- Breathing technique
- Resonance and tone production

Rehearsal Skills – 25%

Students will be assessed as they develop competencies in a variety of rehearsal contexts by

- demonstrating conventions of group ensemble work
- selecting, encoding, and decoding music and sound (e.g., staff notation, expressive symbols and terms, non-verbal cues, hand signs, gestures, rhythm syllables) for making music
- listening critically to respond in artistic ways (e.g., in performance and interpretation, with aural cues and physical cues and gestures)
- listening critically with discrimination and purpose to
 - o situate and contextualize music (e.g., cultural/ideological/historical/social contexts, music style, genre, tradition)
 - o support enjoyment and understanding of music
 - o make and interpret music expressively and creatively
 - o inform music analysis, interpretation, appreciation, and evaluation

Performances – 50%

- Choralfest
- Candlelight concerts (2)
- Red River Valley Festival
- Chamber choir mentorship workshop at Parkside Junior High
- Spring concert

**Please see "Performances" section below for full details on performance assessment and expectations*

Performances:

Concert and festival performances are an essential aspect of the performance-oriented curriculum and should be treated as final examinations of course content. Each member of chamber choir is an important piece of the ensemble. Missing members in a performance setting affects balance, blend, volume, and in some cases depletes an entire section of voices. As the performance experience cannot be made up or duplicated, **attendance is mandatory**.

In the event that you must be absent from a concert, it will be evaluated in two ways – EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED. **Please see junior or senior choir syllabus for full details.*

Remember that students may make up the full amount of an excused concert absence by completing an alternative assignment provided by the teacher. Students with an unexcused absence will only be able to make up a portion of the lost marks. All assignments will be accepted until June. **Until the assignment has been completed the student will receive a zero in place of the concert mark.**

Performance Dress:

MEN:

Black dress pants
Black long-sleeved dress shirt
Black dress shoes with black socks
Black belt

WOMEN:

Black dress pants OR floor length skirt or dress
- mid-length skirt or dress permitted with
opaque black leggings only
Black top with sleeves
Sensible black dress shoes
Gold, silver, or black jewelry if desired

Uniform scarves and ties will be provided for students.

Students should aim for a professional and not casual appearance.

If a suitable performance outfit cannot be acquired, arrangements will be made upon request.

FILL OUT AND RETURN BY **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the policy on chorister expectations, assessment procedure, and performance requirements.

Student name: _____ Student email: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian information

Please indicate your preferred mode of contact:

- Phone _____
- Email _____
- I would like to be kept informed of upcoming performances and events (include email address above)

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.