

UAHS CHORAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

2009 - 2010 Guidelines and Expectations

Welcome to the Upper Arlington High School Choral Music Program. This is an exciting time as we look to explore new horizons, and we look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you. This handbook is designed to provide students and parents with an overview of the program, its policies, procedures, and the responsibilities of its participants.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

All students are responsible for reading and abiding by the *STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES*. In addition, conduct in the choral music area is as follows:

1. Have a TEACHABLE POSITIVE attitude.
2. NO FOOD, BEVERAGES, or GUM in rehearsal or performance areas.
3. Students will be in assigned seats with music folder and pencil by the designated time. Bookbags and other belongings not needed for choral class should be placed underneath your seat.
4. Rehearsal time is for rehearsal only. NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. STAY SEATED and QUIET during rehearsal. Be respectful of those who are trying to learn. If you have a question, please raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking or getting out of your seat. Remember-you are dismissed by the teacher, not the clock.
6. USE THE RESTROOM BEFORE OR AFTER CLASS. Only in cases of emergency will passes be given.
7. Respect school property. BE PROUD OF OUR ROOM AND FACILITIES! If you drop something-pick it up. If you move something-put it back where you found it when you're done.
8. Golden Rule. TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WANT TO BE TREATED YOURSELF!

Disruption or any kind of misbehavior may result in one or more of the following consequences:

1. verbal warning and loss of participation points
2. detention
3. parental phone conference
4. office referral
5. Removal from class/choral program

GRADES

Students will be assessed in the following manner:

Your grade will be based on the following. It is aimed at giving you the highest grade while allowing us to be certain you are learning what you need to know to be a good musician. *Every student should keep a 1-1/2" or smaller three ring binder containing everything presented in class: music, completed worksheets, notes, study guides, etc. You will be assigned a designated cabinet in which to keep your folders but a folder will not be provided for you.*

DAILY GRADES

You will be given a daily class grade based on your participation and readiness for class. Students receive approximately **50% of their 9 week grade** for active participation. Students must come prepared to class with all materials and actively participate in the singing process in order to receive full credit. **Bring your music folder to class daily for full credit!** **GLEE CLUBS/CHORUS**...Missing glee club/chorus only is considered an unexcused absence. You are only excused from glee club/chorus if you are officially excused through the attendance office from 1st period on.

CLASS ACTIVITIES

The activities of the class will usually be made up of two or more of the following:

Daily Warm-Up/Vocal Exercises, Singing choral arrangements from sheet music, Sight Reading and Listening Exercises, and Theory worksheets.

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WRITTEN TESTS and QUIZZES/ SIGHT SINGING and PART READING TESTS

Students will be learning about note reading, musical expression, musical terms, correct singing techniques, etc., and will be tested at various times throughout the year. **20% of your 9 week grade** will be based on these activities. Students will also be tested on pitch and rhythmic note accuracy, using sight reading examples as well as songs we are preparing throughout the year.

PERFORMANCES

Concerts will count as **30% of your 9 week grade**. High School Choral Contest will also count as a performance grade for the groups which are chosen to participate. If a student is going to miss a performance for any reason, a note from his/her parent should be given to the directors at least two weeks in advance. If a performance is missed for an unexpected emergency, the student must present a note from his/her parent the *NEXT SCHOOL DAY*. If the absence is excused, a "make-up" assignment will be given **EVEN THOUGH A PERFORMANCE CAN NEVER TRULY BE MADE-UP**. Everyone is encouraged to make performances a priority!

BONUS POINTS

UAHS choral students are strongly encouraged to attend local choral concerts. A list of area High School and College concerts will be posted in the choral room as well as in a parental news letter. Students will earn bonus points for each concert they attend. To receive points, a student must present a brief oral review of the concert with Mr. Kauffman or Mrs. Leacock the following school day. In addition you should turn in a program from the concert signed by a parent.

AUDITION PROCESS

Generally auditions will be decided by a panel of people. The directors will make final decisions in the case of a tie. We encourage you to audition for any and all opportunities. Our greatest wish is that you will be supportive of others who are auditioning and accepting of the decisions made. *Auditions are not based on seniority or overall involvement in the choral program*. Our goal is to fairly assess the talents of each auditionee and place them where they will most benefit the choral department as well as continue to develop musically.

OFFICERS

We welcome student input and encourage students to take ownership in the program through a leadership role. The chorus officer's primary function is to act as a "voice" for the group. Officers are elected by their peers and should always focus on supporting the positive learning environment we are trying to create. If an officer is not fulfilling the expectations of their office, they will be considered for replacement from that office.

UNIFORMS

Professional appearance is a sign of pride for any fine musical organization. Therefore, we have established a uniform to be worn at all UAHS performance events. Performance attire for the UAHS Choral Department will be as follows:

Men's Glee Club Jacket & Tie

Choral Department Robe & Stole, (provided by the school)

Gentlemen

WHITE button down dress shirt

BLACK dress pants (NO JEANS!!!)

BLACK socks

BLACK dress shoes (NO SNEAKERS)

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Ladies

DRESS or BLOUSE and SKIRT(no slacks or skirts longer than the robe, please)

BLACK flats/character shoes with a 1" heel or less with "NUDE" hose or none at all.

JEWELRY should be confined to small earrings only

Ensemble members are to wear the designated attire for this year and to add the robe/stole for the Symphonic Choir portion of the concert.

Men's Glee members will perform without a robe/stole.

*Please note that if a student is not dressed in the appropriate performance attire, he/she **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate in the performance.*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Freshmen Choir (level 1) Course #4910 _____ No Prerequisite

Membership is open to all Freshman boys and girls wanting to sing, regardless of ability level. The course is designed to address the beginning levels of vocal technique and musicianship. It is important to note that this course is designed to still allow freshman a study hall at least two days a week while the directors works independently with other sections of the Freshman choir. The Freshmen Choir may perform at festivals and district/state contests throughout the year.

Concert Chorale (level 2) Course # 4911

The course is designed to address the intermediate level of vocal technique and musicianship. Membership is open primarily to 10th and 11th graders who are still developing their vocal music knowledge base while continuing to develop a healthy vocal technique that will facilitate more challenging literature. The Concert Chorale will perform at festivals and district/state contests throughout the year.

Men's Glee (level 2) Course # 4914 – designed for freshmen and sophomores

Men's Chorus (level 3) Course #4924 – designed for juniors and seniors

Women's Glee (level 2) Course # 4913 - designed for freshmen and sophomores

Women's Chorus (level 3) Course # 4923 - designed for juniors and seniors

The course is designed to address the intermediate level of vocal technique and musicianship. **Men's Glee/Chorus** and **Women's Glee/Chorus** are a great answer for students whose schedule is completely full but still want to be involved in a singing ensemble. The courses meet 2 days a week before school. This also enables members of the orchestra and band department to be involved in choral music. Literature is chosen specifically for SSA, SSAA, TTB or TTBB voicings. All groups will perform at festivals and district/state contests throughout the year.

Symphonic Choir (level 3) Course # 4912

prerequisite 1- 2 years of high school music or equivalent as determined by the director

This course is an intermediate to advanced level performance group at the high school level. *Membership is open by audition only.* The course is designed to improve the individual's vocal technique and build upon an intermediate to advanced musicianship level. The Symphonic Choir will perform at festivals and district/state contests throughout the year.

Vocal Ensemble (level 4) Course # 4915

prerequisite 1-2 years of high school music or equivalent as determined by the director

All Vocal Ensemble members must also participate in the Symphonic Choir

Membership is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors by audition only. The vocal ensemble is an extension of the Symphonic Choir and will allow advanced vocal students to rehearse and perform music at a higher technical and artistic level. Members must have the ability to sing alone and yet blend with the ensemble. Several programs throughout the year will require the participant to dance as well as sing. The Vocal Ensemble performs evening concerts during the year for school and community events, as well as festivals and district/state contests throughout the year.

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UAHS CHORAL CONTRACT

Please return by Thursday September 3rd, 2009

With your \$25.00 choral fee check made out to the Vocal Music Boosters

The Upper Arlington High School Choral Music Department has a contract which assures that all participants have read and understand the policies of the department, and are willing to abide by the guidelines and expectations stated in the document. Please fill out the form and sign below.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Grade _____

Height _____

Parent's Name _____

Street Address _____

Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____ Student's Cell Phone _____

Student Email _____

Parent Email _____

List **ALL** choirs you are currently in at UAHS and in the community;

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Potential performance or rehearsal conflicts:

PLEASE FILL OUT THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM FOUND ON THE BACK OF THIS CONTRACT IN DETAIL!!!

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A Note from The Directors

Dear Chorus Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Upper Arlington High School Choral Program. The 2009 - 2010 school year promises to be an exciting time of continued excellence in our SUPERIOR choral program. As we journey into our fifth full year of working together at UAHS, we are very excited to develop the opportunities that will foster the growth of our students musical lives. We look forward to meeting all of the family members at our concerts, during our **“Open House” on September 16th, or at our Vocal Music Booster meetings held on the 2nd Monday of every month. The first VMB meeting is Monday Sept. 14th. Go to www.uavocalmusic.org for more info.**

In this class you will learn about many facets of music, not just singing. Our goal is to make you a **self-sufficient musician**. Therefore, you will develop a comprehensive understanding of music theory and music history that will enhance our ability to be a great performance ensemble. The Choral Handbook has been written to inform you of the events in which choral students will be involved, as well as policies and procedures implemented by the department. Hopefully many of your concerns and questions will be answered within the handbook. Communication between parents, students and the directors is vitally important if we are to maintain our **SUPERIOR** level of excellence.

Please take the time to read through the handbook and discuss its contents with your student. Fill out the **“CHORAL CONTRACT”** and have the student return it to us by **Thursday September 3rd**. If there is ever a problem concerning your child, please feel free to call or email us. We are truly looking forward to a successful year.

We definitely have the **“TEAM”** to make it all happen!

This year as in last year, we will be assessing a choral department fee. Running an organization of nearly 400 people is an expensive investment. Listed below are exactly what your fees are going towards;

Every student will have a dry cleaned choir robe, stole and or glee club/chorus jacket and tie.

Every student will receive a choral department directory.

We are hiring an Events Photographer for the Encore and Musical.

Monthly website maintenance fees.

The fee is \$25.00 and all checks should be made out the UA Vocal Music Boosters.

If for financial reasons you are having difficulty with your school fees, please let us know and we will help.

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THE CHORAL CORNER

Creating daily musical moments for a lifetime of musical memories...

The 2009-2010 school year will be full of great musical opportunities for the students who are willing to work hard enough to make this our best choral year ever! As Mrs. Leacock and I enter our fifth full year of teaching together at the high school, we are greatly looking forward to our very bright and exciting future. Our mission of creating musical opportunities will challenge our students to achieve what WE believe has the potential to be a great choral music year!

We will begin our performance season with another new Fall Follies theme ... ***Fall Follies***: AMERICANA! This year's Fall Follies will once again be performed in the style of a true Vaudeville show. This show will have narration to connect many of the famous songs about our vast American musical history! ***Fall Follies*** will also feature a variety of talented individual acts from within our choral department. The Follies will run on Thursday, October 29th and Saturday, October 31st at 7:30 pm and a Sunday matinee on November 1st at 2:30 pm.

On Wednesday December 16th, as part of our Winter Choral Concert, our vocal music students will present "*Sure On This Shining Night*". This concert event will involve all 8 choirs performing classical literature and seasonal carols in a variety of languages and musical styles. Admission is free to this event.

The format of our 7th annual "*Wonderful Night of Music*" piano recital has been changed this year. The master-classes during school will be held on Wednesday, January 21st. The piano master-class will consist of the world-class talent of Tom Scott from Cleveland, Ohio. Tom will take us on a very thought provoking musical journey throughout these classes. He will perform on the recently restored Knabe 9' grand piano and our 9' Grotrian piano. For this master-class we are once again going to create a more intimate concert setting by bringing the students to the stage and surrounding the piano during the performance. There will be no evening concert this year but the selected piano students will still be given the opportunity to perform for their classmates.

The UAHS Vocal Music Department has been fortunate enough to boast a series of local and state premieres. Past shows include 2006 *Disney's Beauty and The Beast*, 2007 *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, 2008 *Jekyll & Hyde* (USA Weekend National recognition as one of the top 5 high school productions in the country), and 2009 *Damn Yankees*. This year will be another first as we perform the American musical theater classic *West Side Story* for the first time in our school's storied history. "*The world's greatest love story takes to the streets in this landmark Broadway musical that is one of the theatre's finest accomplishments. Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" is transported to modern-day New York City, as two young idealistic lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs, the "American" Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks. Their struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence and prejudice is one of the most innovative, heart-wrenching and relevant musical dramas of our time*". The production staff will include choreographer Melanie Bales, professor of Dance at The Ohio State University and choreographer for *Damn Yankees* (2009), as well as Opera Columbus Artistic Director and Conductor Bill Boggs, conducting the pit orchestra. Our musical will run on Thursday, February 25th, Friday, February 26th, and Saturday, February 27th at 7:30 pm. We will again include a Sunday matinee on February 28th at 2:30 pm.

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Another opportunity to show off our hard work will be during the Ohio Music Education Association's adjudicated event. This annual event will be our standard by which we measure our musical growth. We will be working hard to extend the tradition of superior level ratings in the two most difficult classifications A and AA. District contest is Friday and Saturday, March 12th and 13th. If we are fortunate enough to qualify for state contest it will be held the weekend of April 23rd and 24th. *Both the district and state locations, as well as the specific day and time will be assigned to us the week before the event. More information to follow.*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Requiem Mass* complete with full orchestral accompaniment and conducted by professor emeritus R.D. Mathey from Bowling Green State University was our featured major work last year. Doing a major work has become a tradition that we are very proud of. Other past works include Ron Leavitt's *Missa Festiva*, Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Franz Schubert's *Mass in G*, Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and John Rutter's *Mass of The Children*. This spring the Symphonic Choir and members of the Symphonic Band will combine to perform another major work adding to our quite impressive list. Our preliminary thoughts are on Howard Hanson's "*Song of Democracy*" based on the poetry of Walt Whitman. The specific venue and date for this concert are still to be determined. Our goal is the spring of 2010. More info. soon!

Sadly, our busy year (or 4 years) will come to a close on Wednesday, June 2nd at our ***Spring Choral Concert and Senior Roast***. This 7:00 pm concert will culminate our year with some wonderful choral music and a sure to be memorable "roasting" of the senior class by the current juniors.

In closing, there are many reasons for the success of our program; the determination and resiliency of the students, the outstanding support of the high school and district administration, the love and vision of your directors and yet what do you get when you combine all of these attributes into one group.... ***The Vocal Music Boosters!*** As we have said many times, the Boosters are integral parts of our very efficient team. They too approach our program with determination and resiliency, support our students both spiritually and financially and have a love and vision as equally intense as the directors have. The past years of success have created a bond and an expectation! A bond was created with many of the officers and committee chairs returning to serve again, and an expectation that is already being aggressively approached by our new Booster president Mary Griffith and her staff. We would personally like to welcome all of the board members and committee chairs to what we feel will be a most innovative and exciting year.

As you can see, this is quite an involved schedule of opportunities we have planned for our singers. We hope you will find it within you to get as excited about our choral program as we are and get involved in the Vocal Music Boosters wonderfully supportive organization.

We'd like to teach the world to sing!!!

Mr. Eric Kauffman and Mrs. Amy Leacock
Vocal Music Directors

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Vocal Music Boosters

Parental support is an important part of a good choral program. Throughout the year there are many opportunities to help with various activities. Chaperones are always needed for daytime and evening choral activities, as well as for social events. Parents also play a key role in successful fund-raisers. If you would like to help at anytime during the year, it is important that you get involved with our **Vocal Music Boosters Organization**. Newsletters will also be sent home to keep you informed of volunteer opportunities.

The Boosters meet on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 in the choir room (181). The first scheduled meeting is Monday September 14th 2009.

Questions concerning the **Vocal Music Boosters** may be addressed to:

- *Mary Griffith – President, at 989-3720 or maryscatering60@yahoo.com*
- *Sarah McCormick - Vice President, at 459-0755 or mccorms@hotmail.com*
- *Jim Sanderson – Treasurer, at 442-8319 or edmundkent@aol.com*
- *Donna Gallucci – Secretary & Website Liaison, at 459-5587 or ddkkad@sbcglobal.net*
- *Karen Motil – -Past President, at 442 - 6739 or kmotil@columbus.rr.com*

2009 - 2010 Calendar of Events

The following dates which are in ***Bold Italics*** are ***required*** performance dates for the entire choral department or specific choirs noted. The other dates are opportunities for interested students. Events, dates and times are subject to addition and change.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Aug. 15 th - 17 th	All Day	Vocal Ensemble Retreat	Heartland Retreat Center
<i>Aug. 31st</i>	<i>7:20 am</i>	<i>Women's Glee/Chorus (Rehearsal begins)</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
<i>Sept. 1st</i>	<i>7:20 am</i>	<i>Men's Glee/Chorus (Rehearsal begins)</i>	<i>Room 181</i>
Sept. 14 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
<i>Sept. 20th (SUNDAY)</i>	<i>1:00 – 4:00 pm</i>	<i>Choral Canvass & Choir Picture Day</i>	<i>UAHS Auditorium</i>
Sept. 16th	7:00 pm	Open House	Room 181 & 183
Sept. 23rd	3:15 – 4:30 pm	Fall Follies Solo Auditions	Room 181
Oct. 3 rd	9:00 am-Noon	Fall Follies Publicity Blitz	Room 181
		(Participants: Ensemble & ALL officers)	
Oct. 12 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
Oct. 21 st	3:30 – 4:30 pm	Informational meeting for anyone	Room 181
		auditioning for <i>West Side Story</i>	
<i>Oct. 27th & 28th</i>	<i>6:00 pm Call</i>	<i>Dress Rehearsal Fall Follies</i>	<i>UAHS Auditorium</i>
<i>Oct. 29th & 31st</i>	<i>7:30 pm</i>	<i>FALL FOLLIES: “Americana”</i>	<i>UAHS Auditorium</i>
<i>Nov. 1st</i>	<i>2:30 pm</i>	<i>FALL FOLLIES: “Americana”</i>	<i>UAHS Auditorium</i>

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Nov. 9 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
Nov. 10 th	All Day	OCC Honors Chorus	Capital University
Nov. 16 th – Nov. 20 th	TBA	Auditions for <i>West Side Story</i>	Room 181
Nov. 23 rd	3:30 pm	West Side Story Cast Announcement Party	Room 181/Little Theater
Dec. 4 th	8:00 pm	Vocal Ensemble Holiday Preview Concert	UAHS Auditorium
Dec. 14 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
Dec. 14 th	Morning	All school music winter concert assembly	UAHS Auditorium
Dec. 16th	7:30 pm	Winter Choral Concert	UAHS Auditorium
Jan. 11 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
Jan. 21 st	Class Only	Tom Scott Piano Recital Series	UAHS Auditorium
Jan. 28 th	All Day	OMEA Conference (<i>Teachers Only</i>)	Cincinnati
Feb. 6 th	10:00 am	West Side Story Publicity Blitz	UAHS Auditorium
Feb. 8 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
Feb. 13 th	TBA	OMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest	Off Site - TBA
Feb. 25, 26, 27 th	7:30 pm	<i>West Side Story</i>	UAHS Auditorium
Feb. 28 th	2:30 pm	<i>West Side Story</i>	UAHS Auditorium
March. 8 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
March 12th & 13th	TBA	Large Group District Choir Contest	TBA
April 12 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
April 23rd & 24th	TBA	Large Group State Choir Contest	TBA
May 10 th	7:30 pm	Vocal Music Booster Meeting	Room 181
May 21 st	7:30 pm	UA Night of Jazz (Vocal Ensemble)	UAHS Auditorium
May 24 th – June 1 st	TBA	Vocal Ensemble Auditions	Room 181
June 2nd	7:00 pm	Spring Concert/Senior Roast	UAHS Auditorium

Vocal Music Boosters 2009-2010 Meeting Dates at 7:30 pm in Room 181: *Sept. 14th, Oct. 12th, Nov. 9th, Dec. 14th, Jan. 11th, Feb. 8th, March 8th, April 12th, May 10th.*

UAHS CHORAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

UPPER ARLINGTON
HIGH SCHOOL
CHORAL
HANDBOOK

UAHS VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

www.uavocalmusic.org

Eric Kauffman, Choral Director

ekauffman@uaschools.org

614 - 487 - 5240, EXT. 126

Amy Leacock, Director/Accompanist

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