

Chamber Choir, Honors (Music 2010)
David Kobayashi, Esq. - Director
2018-2019 School Year
(updated 9/10/2018)

Chamber Choir is an elite vocal ensemble class for students. Repertoire consists of pieces of music in varying styles and levels of difficulty. Through frequent performance, students will develop their skills in musicianship, performing, and leadership. Students will study advanced music, techniques, and vocabulary. In addition, students will continue their studies in reading and sight-singing.

Prerequisites

Students in Chamber Choir must be concurrently registered in Prep Chorus (2530) and Music Lessons (2520).

Requirements

- 1) Show up on time and be prepared.
- 2) Abide by all school rules, including but not limited to the Honor Code.
- 3) Accept the request to join the Chamber Choir Dropbox folder (if membership to Dropbox is required, please sign up at <http://dropbox.com>).
- 4) Have a good attitude.

Meeting Schedule

This class meets every school day during H Period in Room W207.

In addition, there will be rehearsals after school during the week of any performances. Information about these rehearsals and any changes to the regular rehearsal schedule will be announced in class, posted in the Dropbox folder, on the class webpage, and/or emailed to students, as soon as possible.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. A student who is present for the school day must attend all classes, including those before and after school. As mandated by Mr. Mendolia, students should be aware that “[c]lass attendance at St. Francis Prep is a major priority. All students are required to complete all required work even if they are absent. If a student is absent from class 6 or more times for any given quarter, this will be considered excessive absence. This will result in a mandatory 5 point deduction from the quarterly grade. Please be advised classes missed due to lateness or early dismissal will be included in this group.”

Students are expected to be on time for class. Any student who arrives to class after the 7:45 bell will be marked late and lose 5 points from his/her quarterly average. All students who are late must get a late pass. Students absent for H period but present for the remainder of the school day will lose 10 points from their grade. A student who misses the H period rehearsal but is present for the regular school day must provide a late pass to the director by the end of that school day or be marked as cutting the class.

Absence

Students on a school-sanctioned retreat or field trip will not be penalized for missing rehearsal. However, if a retreat or field trip is scheduled to leave after H period, students should be at rehearsal.

A student may be excused from one rehearsal per quarter provided the following is observed:

- The student's parent/guardian provides a notice in writing (letter or email) explaining the need for the absence from rehearsal at least 24 hours before the absence.
- The student obtains the necessary pass(es) or other documentation from the Dean's Office and shows it to the director within 1 day of returning to school.
- The student is aware that the absence will be counted toward the attendance policy and may subject him/her to the 5-point deduction for excessive absence.
- In the event of a medical or family emergency, students will make their best effort to provide any relevant documentation (i.e., passes, parent letter, etc.) as soon as feasibly possible.

As per official school policy, students in a H period course who miss class time to fulfill obligations in other classes, sports teams, or clubs will be marked as cutting. Students directed to report to another teacher during a scheduled rehearsal or performance for any reason- even if deemed "mandatory"- must take the initiative of speaking with the teacher(s) to sort out any scheduling issues (most teachers are rational human beings and will work to resolve a scheduling conflict). Students who are having problems with a teacher in this regard are encouraged to speak with Mr. Mendolia if the problem is not resolved.

Any unexcused absence will be treated as a cut, which will result in a 15-point deduction from the quarterly average and/or a referral to the Dean's office.

A student may be excused from a performance if he/she notifies the director in writing (signed by parent/guardian) of the serious family obligation or religious observance no less than 60 days before the date of the performance. In the event of an absence from a performance due to a family or medical emergency, a written note from a parent, guardian, or doctor should be submitted as soon as feasibly possible. Students excused from a performance will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the music before a panel of at least 2 music teachers within 7 days after returning to school.

Students who cut a performance shall receive a 0 for that performance and will not return to the group for the next school year.

Except for prolonged illness, a student who is late or absent more than 10% of the class during a quarter risks failing and may result in not being allowed to participate in a performance. Extenuating circumstances that may result in a prolonged absence or lateness should be discussed with the director as soon as feasibly possible

Required Materials

Students may use iPads to read their music from Dropbox during rehearsals. iPads should only be used for purposes relevant to the class. Phones or other electronic devices may not be used at any time in class, including for the purpose of accessing the Dropbox folder. Students using iPads for non-class purposes or phones will lose 5 points per incident. Students who prefer hard copies of

the music should have a plain black binder for class. Students who are not prepared (i.e., do not have all their music) will lose 5 points.

Restroom Use

Students are free to go to the restroom at any time without asking for permission, subject to the following: a) students may not leave the room during warmups, and b) no more than 2 people out of the room at any time, and c) students who abuse the restroom policy will lose points and/or risk losing the privilege of leaving the room during class.

Illness

Students who are present for the school day are presumed to be able to rehearse. Anyone who is unable to sing due to illness must show proper documentation (i.e., doctor's note, pass from Dean's office). Students will not be excused from rehearsal merely because they don't feel well. Students sitting out will not be allowed to do schoolwork or use any electronic devices.

Grading Policy

Quarterly grades are based on the following: a) musical aptitude 33%, b) participation/attitude 33%, c) quarterly writing assignment 33%, and d) minus any deductions. The final grade will be an average of the 4 quarters (20% each) and the final exam.

There will be at least one performance exam each quarter. Students will be notified of exams in advance. There may also be written assignments or tests as time allows.

Students will have a listening assignment each quarter. These must be submitted on the due date. Students who fail to submit their homework will receive a 0 for that assignment.

Disruptions of any kind are not welcome. Students who are unable to act maturely will have 5 points deducted from their quarterly grade per incident and are subject to being reported to the Dean's office for repeated disruptions.

Final Exam

All students will perform a final exam that will count as 20% of the final grade for the course. The exam will consist of students selecting a song, having it approved by the director, selecting an accompanist(s), and preparing the piece with the accompanist(s).

No more than 4 students will be allowed to sing together for the final exam.

Final pieces must be selected and approved by **Friday, February 15, 2019**. Students who have not selected their piece by this date will have one assigned to them by the director.

Pianists will be graded based on their performance as accompanists for the singers. In the event that a pianist(s) is not used during the final exam, an alternate exam will be discussed and administered.

The tentative date for the final exam will be **Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 3pm**.

2018-19 Performance Schedule (current as of 8/30/2018)

- Saturday, October 13, 2018: Open House (12-4pm)
- Saturday, December 8, 2018: Christmas Concert 2 (7:45pm)
- Friday, March 15, 2019: Jazz/Pop Concert (7:45pm)
- Friday, May 10, 2019: Spring Concert 2 (7:45pm)
- May 2019: National Anthem performance at a Mets game (date TBD)

There will be other performances throughout the year as opportunities arise. Students will be notified in advance of additional performances as they become available.

The dress for all performances will be discussed in class as dates draw near. The default dress code is as follows:

- Ladies: solid black with black dress shoes and skin color stockings or tights. Skirts should be no higher than knee-level, tops should fit correctly and/or not expose midriffs, etc. Silver jewelry that is not excessive is allowed. Shoes should be comfortable when standing for prolonged periods and must not have an excessively high heel (no more than 2 inches). Ladies may use the Prep Chorus dress as a substitute.
- Gentlemen: solid black business suit with black dress shirt. Silver tie. Black belt, socks, and dress shoes. Silver jewelry that is not excessive is allowed. Shoes should be comfortable when standing for prolonged periods.

Students who fail to wear the proper dress will not be allowed to perform and are subject to automatically failing the quarter.

Outside Music Lessons

The director strongly believes that all Chamber Choir students should take regular outside music lessons from a professional voice instructor (in addition those offered at the Prep). This is especially true for anyone considering studying music in college. A good instructor will help students develop their technique and assist in preparing a repertoire of music that will be needed for the college audition process. A list of recommended instructors will be posted and updated regularly on the class webpage. Students should make the effort to contact an instructor and arrange to have at least one lesson with him/her.

Continued Membership in the Chamber Choir

Membership in the Chamber Choir is the highest privilege a voice student at the Prep can achieve. Continued membership in the ensemble will depend on the following: a) good overall academic standing, b) attendance/lateness record, c) adherence to these rules and the school's rules of conduct, and d) continued development and improvement of musical abilities. The director, at his discretion, may elect to not have a student return to the ensemble if he/she cannot meet any of the above.

Etc.

Students, parents, and/or guardians who are concerned about their child's performance are encouraged to communicate with me as soon as possible via email at dkobayashi@sfponline.org or by phone at (718) 423-8810 x255.

10 RULES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

BY JOHN CAGE

- Rule 1: Find a place you trust, and then, try trusting it for a while.
- Rule 2: (General Duties as a Student)
Pull everything out of your teacher.
Pull everything out of your fellow students.
- Rule 3: (General Duties as a Teacher)
Pull everything out of your students.
- Rule 4: Consider everything an experiment.
- Rule 5: Be Self Disciplined. This means finding someone wise or smart and choosing to follow them. To be disciplined is to follow in a good way. To be self disciplined is to follow in an even better way.
- Rule 6: Follow the leader. Nothing is a mistake. There is no win and no fail. There is only make.
- Rule 7: The only rule is work. If you work it will lead to something. It is the people who do all the work all the time who eventually catch onto things. You can fool the fans—but not the players.
- Rule 8: Do not try to create and analyze at the same time. They are different processes.
- Rule 9: Be happy whenever you can manage it. Enjoy yourself. It is lighter than you think.
- Rule 10: We are breaking all the rules, even our own rules and how do we do that? By leaving plenty of room for “x” qualities.

Helpful Hints:

Always Be Around.
Come or go to everything.
Always go to classes.
Read everything you can get your hands on.
Look at movies carefully and often.
SAVE EVERYTHING. It may come in handy later.

FIRST HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

I hereby affirm that I have a) reviewed the course requirements for Chamber Choir/Prep Chorus (please circle the applicable ensemble) with my parent or guardian, and b) signed up to receive email notifications via MySFP.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Class: Chamber Choir