

Chamber Choir, Honors (Music 2010)
Director - David Kobayashi, Esq.
2020-2021 School Year
(updated 9/10/2020)

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Saint Francis Prep Chamber Choir is to spread joy and happiness through the sharing of our gift of music in order to contribute to our school community, build opportunities for our futures and have fun! Through the creation of music we seek to challenge ourselves, help one another and build a Family based in trust, creativity, love, faith and self-expression.

Chamber Choir is an elite vocal ensemble class for students. Repertoire consists of music in varying styles and levels of difficulty. Through frequent performance, students will develop their skills in a supportive environment that will provide ample opportunity for everyone to succeed.

Prerequisites

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

Requirements

- 1) Show up on time and be prepared.
- 2) Students must wear a mask and take all precautions necessary in any face-to-face setting, including maintaining social distancing guidelines. This is non-negotiable. "Covidiocy" will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- 3) Abide by all school rules, including but not limited to the Honor Code.
- 4) Have a good attitude. Your continued enthusiasm will be crucial to its success.
- 5) Be patient.

Meeting Schedule

This class will meet every school day during what is currently called Z Period (7:45-8:22am) in room E002. This room is located near the end of the East bottom ramp toward the cafeteria, on the left side and just past the stairs leading to the Gym. There will also be rehearsals after school during the week of any performances.

Information about all rehearsals and any changes to the schedule will be announced in class, posted to Google Classroom, and/or emailed to students as soon as possible.

Attendance is mandatory. A student who is present for the school day must attend all classes, including those before and after school. Students who are not in a live cohort are expected to comply with all school rules regarding attendance.

Students who arrive after the late bell signaling the start of the class period will be marked late and lose points from their quarterly average. In-school students will have to present a late pass. Students absent for Z period but present for the remainder of the school day must provide a late

pass to the director by the end of that school day or will be reported to the Dean's office for cutting.

Absence

Now more than ever, it is imperative that students stay home if they are not feeling well. This has always been true and never more so. Legal absences from school will not be penalized. An absent pass or other documentation from the Attendance office should be shown to the instructor any time a student returns from an absence.

Students who miss rehearsal due to a school-sanctioned activity (e.g., field trip, retreat, AP exams) during Z period will not be penalized. Students should notify the instructor of any pending activities at least 2 days in advance. If a school-sanctioned activity is scheduled to begin after Z period, students should be at rehearsal.

Students who need to miss class due to a family or medical obligation must do the following:

- Provide written notice (letter or email) explaining the need for the absence from rehearsal at least 24 hours before the absence.
- Understand and acknowledge that the instructor reserves the right to not excuse a student for missing rehearsal (e.g., excessive absence).
- If excused, the student must obtain 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.
- In the event of a medical or family emergency, students will make their best effort to provide any relevant documentation (i.e., passes, parent/doctor letter, etc.) as soon as feasibly possible.

As per official school policy, students in a Z 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 class time (including performances) for any reason- even if deemed "mandatory" or under the threat of penalty- must take the initiative of speaking with the teacher(s) or coach to sort out any scheduling issues. Students having difficulties with a teacher in this regard are encouraged to speak with Mr. Mendolia if the problem persists.

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.

Except for prolonged illness, a student who is late or absent more than 10% of the class during a quarter (including excused absences) 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.

Absence From A Performance

Just don't.

Performances are the truest assessment of a student's abilities in this class. Thus, absence from a performance is strongly forbidden except in extremely narrow circumstances.

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.

Required Materials

Student iPads should only be used for purposes relevant to the class. Students using iPads for non-class purposes or phones will lose 5 points per incident and/or be referred to the Dean's Office.

Phones or other electronic devices may not be used at any time in class, including for the purpose of accessing the music for rehearsal.

In accordance with the school's Technology Acceptable Use Policy, the recording, transmission, posting, or sharing of any audio, photo, or video from the class is strictly prohibited without the director's express permission. Students found to violate the policy will be subject to discipline and point deduction.

Restroom Use

The following is the policy regarding restroom use during class time:

- 1) Class time is of utmost importance, and every effort should be made to avoid missing it.
- 2) While it is understandable that students need to use the restroom from time to time, bathroom usage should be limited where possible.
- 3) If it is urgent that a student needs to use the restroom, he or she should just go quickly and come back. Do not disrupt class by asking for permission to leave the room!
- 4) No one leaves the room during warmups or the last 5 minutes of class.
- 5) No more than any 2 students will be allowed out of the room at once.
- 6) Students who are found to abuse the restroom policy (i.e., going anywhere other than restrooms) will lose points, be subject to a referral from the Dean, 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.

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.

2020-21 Performance Schedule*

The following are the scheduled performances for the academic year:

- Saturday, October 17, 2020: Open House (12-4pm)
- Saturday, December 12, 2020: Christmas Concert 2 (7:45pm)
- Friday, March 19, 2021: Pazz/Jop Concert (7:45pm)
- Friday, May 7, 2021: Spring Concert 2 (7:45pm)

It is the director's hope that the situation will improve enough that performances later in the school year can be salvaged.

There may be other performances throughout the year as opportunities arise beyond those listed above. 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.

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 12, 2021**. 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 **Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 3pm.***

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.

Auditing Members

All students auditing the course (i.e., those who have been approved to perform in the ensemble but are not officially registered because they are already in another Music H period course) are responsible to schedule their rehearsal availability and stick with it throughout the course of the year. If an auditing student's primary ensemble does not meet on a given day, he/she should come to Chamber rehearsal. Auditing students will be responsible for all work, including preparation, performance exams, and written assignments. Auditing students who fail to abide by these policies will not be allowed to perform and his/her membership in the ensemble shall be terminated.

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** with my parent or guardian and that I agree to abide by all rules for the class.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____