

## **Choirs at Concord High**

### **Concert Choir**

- Is open to any student 9-12 with no audition or previous experience necessary
- Emphasizes training in basic musicianship, theory, and aural skills, as well as proper vocal technique, and performance practice within a collaborative, highly interactive rehearsal setting
- Performs a wide variety of music from differing choral genres, stylistic periods, and cultural traditions
- Performs at community concerts, music festivals, and adjudicated competitions that serve as a focal point within daily classroom instruction.

### **Show Choir**

- Is a select ensemble open to students by audition and/or teacher recommendation only
- Places considerable weight on advanced musicianship skills and independent knowledge of choral performance practice, proper vocal technique, and collaborative rehearsal strategies
- Emphasizes dance and choreography within performance

- Focuses on repertoire from musical theater, Broadway, and vocal jazz
- Performs at community concerts, music festivals, and adjudicated competitions that serve as a focal point within daily classroom instruction.

### **Ladies First**

- Is a select ensemble open to girls by audition and/or teacher recommendation only
- Requires advanced musicianship skills, and a deep understanding of the variability of choral performance practice within differing ensemble settings
- Focuses on repertoire from the barbershop tradition, and emphasizes performance practice and choreography intrinsic to this musical genre.
- Has a demanding performance schedule year-round that subsequently requires a significant time commitment from each member of the ensemble
- Performs at community concerts, school events, paid engagements, television and radio appearances, large-scale professional venues, music festivals, and adjudicated competitions throughout the year that serve as a focal point to daily instruction and as an impetus to the group's motivation

## The Portfolio

The development of a professional portfolio is of critical importance to any working musician. It verifies and validates a musician's training and academic background, represents their individual performance experience, and stands as a testament to their competitive viability as a working professional. As such, the development of a professional portfolio is a life skill that represents not only musical achievement, but also the fundamental training and motivation necessary to be successful in the adult world.

This project is designed to give students an opportunity to develop a conscious awareness of their individual achievements, and to foster a deliberate and hands-on approach to continued self-development. The portfolio is a reflection of the self. It is intended to allow students to assess where they are now, and to plan for where they wish to be in the future. As such, the portfolio is designed for use in college admissions, and/or entry into the work force. As a work in progress, this assignment will never be finished. As such, all grading will be based on the professionalism of presentation and/or continued progress on the portfolio itself.

Students will develop the portfolio in the following categories:

1. Introduction
2. Resume
3. Transcripts/CHS Academic History
4. Letters of Recommendation
5. Repertoire List
6. Student Work
7. Awards and Accolades

## Grading Policy

### Attendance and Class Participation 50%

Absences and tardiness will be handled in accordance with school policy. In general, the following is something to keep in mind. There is no excuse for me to be late for work, and there is no excuse for you to be late to class. Tardiness is disrespectful to me as an instructor, and disruptive to students who have arrived on time. Tardiness is never acceptable, and will always result in the loss of participation points. Participation points can never be made up.

Participation will be graded in accordance with a weighted point system for individual rehearsals that addresses not only active engagement in the rehearsal proper, but also attention to any and all procedures regarding attendance, attitude/respect, being prepared for class, etc. As such, participation points may be earned by actively engaging in rehearsals, activities, and discussions. However, students can lose points for being tardy, not being prepared or on task, and/or otherwise disrupting the flow of the class. Thus, it is possible for students to lose as much or more than he/she has acquired in a given day. Remember, points lost can never be made up. The active participation of each and every member is of the utmost of importance to the overall success of the ensemble, as well as to the individual student concerned. Therefore, remember: **this is the most important part of your grade.**

**Concert/Dress Rehearsal/Tour(s)**  
**25%**

Participation at **all** performances is **mandatory**. An unexcused absence will result in a lowering of the grade by as much as two (2) full letter grades.

**Written requests for any and all absences are required (by the parent) at least two weeks prior to the performance date.** Reasonable requests will be granted, upon teacher discretion, with no loss of grade.

**Written Assignments**            **25%**

Music theory assignments and related written work will be given on a continual basis. Testing and grading (including finals) will correspond to the level of the class. Late assignments will **not** be accepted unless **previously** arranged.



**Choir Costume**

Choir Costumes are purchased at the beginning of the school year to enable the costumes to be received in time for the first performances. All costumes are to be kept in a garment bag purchased for that purpose. All costumes are to be kept clean, hemmed to specification.

**Concert Choir**

Ladies in Concert choir wear a long black dress with short sleeves, boys wear a tuxedo style outfit. Estimated Cost:

Girls dress \$85  
Boys tuxedo \$115  
Coat, Pants,  
Shirt,  
Cummerbund/bowtie

**Ladies First**

Costume consists of glitter top and palazzo pants. Each year shoes are selected from a store such as Payless Shoes that will match. Estimated Cost:

Glitter top \$38  
Palazzo Pants \$35  
Shoes \$20

**Show Choir**

Show choir costumes are sequined red in color. Girls have a flared dress, empire style. Boys wear tuxedo pants and red sequined vest

Girls flared dress: \$135  
Boys Shirt/Vest: \$75

## Scholarships

### Tour Scholarships

We urge students to begin earning money right away for Tour. Recognizing that not everyone can easily afford the cost of tour the Choir Booster Club will offer fundraising opportunities to help students earn money. There may be a limited number of *partial* scholarships available from outside sponsors provided by the Choir Director. Students who request a scholarship from Mr. Emigh must demonstrate their desire by participating in a majority of the fundraisers provided by the Choir Booster Club before a scholarship will be considered. All students chosen for a scholarship will be notified in writing.

### Choir Scholarships

Every year the Choir Booster Club offers two scholarships to graduating seniors who will be attending college full-time in the Fall after graduation. In the past these scholarships have ranged from \$100-\$250 each. Scholarships are chosen by a Scholarship Committee comprised of Choir Booster Club members based on written entries from qualifying students. Scholarships are awarded at the Annual Choir Booster Award Night in the Spring.

## Letter Awards

Letters will be awarded at the Annual Choir Booster Award Night in the Spring to choir students who are at least Juniors and have earned 50 choir points by the Spring of the current school year.

### Point Allocation:

- Participation in the program – *10 points* for each choir class (5 points per semester)
- Longevity and commitment – *5 points* – Three years in choir
- Leadership – *5 points* – Choir Council Member
- Excellence – *5 points* – Choir Award - this is the venue for the Director to recognize those students who have contributed exceptionally to the program
- Extra Activities – *a maximum of 5 points in any given school year* – for CHS Choir related activity that involves 20 or more hours of student involvement – examples include: Ladies First or Show Choir Gigs (95% attendance) or Pops (performing/emcee or major technical role). These activities must be planned parts of the choir program for the year and presented to the Booster Executive Board by the Choir Director for approval as an extra activity.

## Tours/Performances

The Choir Program usually schedules one tour for all choirs (on certain years another separate one will be scheduled for Ladies First) where they will compete at an adjudicated festival. Previous tours have been to: Hawaii, Seattle, Las Vegas and Vancouver. Tours are an incredible opportunity for each student to experience a higher level of performance and competition, meet students from other schools and enjoy the ability to experience places other than where they live. The cost of the tours varies with the location, ranging from a cost of \$800 to \$1500.

Three performances normally occur during the school year. Each of the performances are performed in front of an audience at either Concord High School or another selected venue.

The first occurs in December, the Winter Concert. This is a full dress performance and usually occurs at a venue away from Concord High School (i.e. Methodist Church on West Street).

The second performance has traditionally been the "POPs" concert. This performance/show is an auditioned show that the students produce and direct. This is an informal show where the students get the opportunity to showcase their talents. This performance is held at Concord High.

The third performance is the Spring Concert and is a culmination of the music they have been learning and competing with on their tours. This performance is usually held at a venue away from Concord High School

## Fundraising

Fundraising is an integral part of the choir program and is primarily done to offset the cost of the tour. Fundraising also contributes to the cost of sheet music and to fund equipment (sound system, piano) needed to maintain the program. Fundraising will also contribute to the cost of an accompanist and professional choreographer.

Fundraising is by parent/student volunteering only. If parents do not volunteer than the student and their families will bear the full cost of the choir tours. The student will also not experience the full benefit of an accompanist, choreographer and/or additional sheet music up and above what the district funds.

Fundraising activities include (but not limited to):

- Car Washes
- Candy sales
- Basketball/Baseball night (i.e. Warriors and Giants games)
- Movie Night (Brenden Theatres)
- Silent Auctions/Bake Sales
- Christmas wrapping paper sales
- Silent Auctions
- Candle/Jewelry/Pampered Chef Party (where the percentage earned is donated)

See any member of the Booster Club for ideas and volunteering for fundraising activities, even if you do not want to "run" a fundraising activity on your own.

## Volunteers

There are several ways to volunteer with the Choir Program and each depends on your willingness and time available to dedicate to the success of the choir program.

One way to volunteer is to participate in the fundraising activities. If you don't have the time or inclination to "run" a fundraising activity, volunteer to help at a fundraising event or at any of the performances.

Volunteering to participate in the Booster Club is an ongoing need. Each year nominations are sought for each of the positions on the board. While dedication of time is important, it is an essential part of the success of the choir program. If the Concord High School Choir does not have a functioning Booster Club, all funds raised previously will be managed by the district at a cost to the program (a percentage of funds earned). All decisions for the choir program will come from either the school administration or the district instead of from the booster club and the parents of choir students.

Parents who volunteer to drive to events (performances and fundraising gigs) will need to be fingerprinted by the district and carry the insurance required by the district. Parents who volunteer to chaperone on any tour will also need to be fingerprinted by the school district. See a booster member for more information.

## Booster Club Membership

The Choir Booster Club is run by volunteers. The booster club exists to support the choir program by organizing fundraising, coordinating tours, assisting with performances, chaperoning, managing funds and running monthly meetings for the parents.

The school district only provides \$400 a year for the overall Choir program. With well over 100 student in choir, this only averages \$4 a student, which doesn't even cover the cost of sheet music. The huge funding gap is completely covered by the Choir Booster Organization and fundraising by volunteers. The Choir Boosters also pay for piano accompanist, professional choreography and additional sheet music for competition. Future fundraising will help to offset the cost of a new piano and sound system.

A family membership in the Choir Boosters is available at three different levels: **Bronze - \$35, Silver - \$50 and Gold - \$100.** We encourage and hope that all of you will become a part of the Choir Booster organization.

Choir booster membership is vital to the continuing success of the choir program. In addition, silver and gold members receive free admission for either themselves (silver) or their families at all scheduled performances.

## Website

The Concord High School Choir Program currently maintains a website to provide information to parents and students. Information that can be found at the website include: Booster Club board members and phone/email, booster meeting information, performance times and locations and any other pertinent information that parents and students should know. The website for the Choir Program is:  
<http://www.concordhighschool.net/chschoir/index.html>

### Concord High School Choir Booster 2007-2008 Executive Board

Music Director	Christian Emigh	682-8000 Ext. 3380
Co-Presidents	Patty Pereira Lisa Love	288-1854 798-8487
Vice President	Deanna Lung	295-8970
Secretary	Nancy Dobey	827-2271
Treasurer	Silvia Berndtson	458-9496



