

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Course Title: Developing Treble Choir A/B
Grade Level(s): 9-12
Length of Course: Two semesters or equivalent term
Credit: 10 units (may be repeated for credit)
Prerequisite: None
Co-requisite: None

Course Overview:

Developing Treble Choir is designed for beginning choral students, who specifically sing in the treble range, to increase their vocal skills and explore music through choral repertoire and performance. This course is intended to serve as a Level 1 (of 3) within the choir program for treble singers. Students will expand their musicianship by creating, performing, and responding to music in a variety of contexts. They will receive instruction in music reading, music theory, and in vocal development and technique catered to their needs as treble singers. The choral literature of *Developing Treble Choir* represents a wide variety of cultures, countries, languages, and time periods. By studying diverse repertoire, students learn stylistic interpretation, performance practice, critical analysis and observation techniques, and leadership skills. Students will learn how to work as a cohesive unit while contributing individually to the success of the group. Members of the class are introduced to large ensemble, small group, and solo singing. This choir performs in at least two mandatory major concerts per semester.

Schools Offering: Del Valle High School
Granada High School
Livermore High School
Vineyard High School

Meets University of California
Entrance Requirements: Seeking “f” approval

Board Approval: *Pending Board Approval*

Course Materials:

Choral repertoire octavos (sheet music),
www.musictheory.net (theory lessons and exercises)
www.noteflight.com (web-based notation software)

Supplemental Materials:

The Choral Warm-Up: Method, Procedures, and
Core Vocal Exercises;
Jordan, James;
GIA Publications, 2005
ISBN: 978-1579993894

Your Voice: An Inside View, 2nd Edition;
McCoy, Scott;
Inside View Press, 2012
ISBN: 978-0975530788

The School Choral Program: Philosophy,
Planning, Organizing, and Teaching;
Holt, Michele and James Jordan
GIA Publications, 2008
ISBN: 978-1-57999-679-6

DEVELOPING TREBLE CHOIR A/B

COURSE CONTENT:

Unit One: Literacy

Students will gain an understanding of the importance of musical independence, and will build a foundation of the skills necessary for that independence.

Guiding questions for student learning will include:

- How can we become musically independent?
- How can literacy in Western notation help us achieve the goal of musical independence?

These questions will guide the content goals for this unit, which focus on decoding and encoding in solfege, identifying symbols on the staff, sight reading choral repertoire, and building skills for independent and small group practice. Students will be able to encode and decode one-line melodies using solfege and will approach reading in two and three parts using solfege.

Summary of Key Assignments, Labs and/or Activities

Throughout the course, students will continue to work through a series of musicianship assignments of increasing difficulty in the categories of ear training, staff identification, and keyboard identification. Students will utilize classroom repertoire as exercises for enhancing literacy through consistent pitch and rhythmic analysis.

Unit Two: Repertoire

Specific repertoire choices will change for every semester. However, several enduring understandings will guide the selection and teaching of repertoire. Students will progress from unison to two-part Soprano and Alto (SA) music by the end of the semester, with the potential for three-part music as an enrichment activity. Through the process of rehearsing repertoire, students will understand the importance of authenticity in performance by performing music from a variety of styles, genres, and time periods. Students will also gain an appreciation for the flexibility and versatility of the human voice, and will build a foundation of the technical skills and concepts that allow for the creation of different vocal sounds, colors, and styles. Students will gain an understanding of the way music interacts with culture, and develop the skills necessary to critically explore the impact of culture on music, and the impact of music on culture. The study of diverse repertoire will also allow students to experience the importance of community, and develop the interpersonal skills necessary to build and maintain that community. Students in *Developing Treble Choir* will study repertoire that prepares them for advancement to either *Intermediate Treble Choir*, *Concert Choir* (intermediate mixed voice repertoire) or *Advanced Chamber Choir* (advanced mixed-voice repertoire). This repertoire will range from music in different languages, varying historical time periods, and a wide variety of genres including contemporary popular music.

Summary of Key Assignments, Labs and/or Activities

Students will demonstrate the musical skills they have learned throughout the semester in a formal public performance. Repertoire for *Developing Treble Choir* represents a wide range of languages, cultures, time periods, and choral traditions. *Developing Treble Choir* will perform an

a cappella, highly advanced repertoire. Skills from units 1, 3, and 4 will all inform the performance so that it is musically expressive, founded in healthy vocal technique, and stylistically authentic. After performing, students will listen to a recording of the performance. Students will evaluate their own performance, the performance of the group as a whole, discuss specific musical elements that went well in the performance, and offer suggestions for further improvement.

Unit Three: Vocal Technique & Health

Students will focus on the development of their physiological and perceptive knowledge about the structure and function of the human voice.

Some guiding questions will include:

- How can the human voice be manipulated?
- How can we achieve authentic performance through that manipulation?
- How can we explore a variety of styles while maintaining good vocal health?

Students will gain an appreciation for the flexibility and versatility of the human voice and will build a foundation of the technical skills and concepts that allow for the creation of different vocal sounds, colors, and styles. Basic vocal anatomy will be introduced and explored, along with the sensations of beautiful and healthy singing. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) will be utilized as a tool to teach diction in a variety of languages.

Summary of Key Assignments, Labs and/or Activities

Student progress in improving vocal technique will be monitored daily, with consistent feedback to ensure healthy and aligned vocal production. Should individual vocal assessments be necessary to ensure timely learning of repertoire, students will be assessed in groups of 2 or 3.

Unit Four: Music in Culture, Culture in Music

Students will focus on the critical analysis of music as it relates to culture. Students will gain an understanding of the way music interacts with culture, and will build the skills necessary to critically explore the impact of culture on music, as well as the impact of music on culture. Students will experience the importance of community, and foster the interpersonal skills necessary to develop and maintain that community. In order for students to understand and experience music at a deeper level, listening and analysis skills will be practiced. Students will understand how to better listen to and describe music that is familiar to them through the use of descriptive words for the various musical elements. Students will also discuss the many different cultural purposes music can play in their current lives. Students will apply these skills in order to better listen to and describe music that is unfamiliar to them through the use of descriptive words for the various musical elements. Students will understand that music serves many different purposes in different cultures and settings around the world. Students will also explore issues of authenticity in music, and be able to describe how different styles of music have different parameters for authenticity.

Summary of Key Assignments, Labs and/or Activities

Students will be asked to research repertoire selections from each repertoire concert and find out more about the background of the piece(s) and composer(s). Using descriptive words for specific

musical elements, students will describe the style of the piece. Students will use criteria for authenticity to describe whether or not the piece is true to its original form, and whether or not the piece is intended to represent a particular style in its truest form. Students will discuss the cultural purpose of the piece and whether or not the composer, arranger, original audience, or original performers had differing views on that purpose.

California Arts Standards for Public Schools - Prekindergarten Through Grade Twelve - The California Arts Standards for Music - Ensembles

Creating

Acc.MU:E.Cr1 Compose and improvise ideas for arrangements, sections, and short compositions for specific purposes that reflect characteristic(s) of music from a variety of cultures studied in rehearsal.

Acc.MU:E.Cr2 a. Select and develop arrangements, sections, and short compositions for specific purposes that demonstrate understanding of characteristic(s) of music from a variety of cultures studied in rehearsal.

Performing

Prof.MU:E.Pr4.1 Explain the criteria used to select a varied repertoire to study based on an understanding of theoretical and structural characteristics of the music, the technical skill of the individual or ensemble, and the purpose or context of the performance.

Prof.MU:E.Pr4.2 Demonstrate, using music reading skills where appropriate, how compositional devices employed and theoretical and structural aspects of musical works impact and inform prepared or improvised performances.

Prof.MU:E.Pr6 a. Demonstrate attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music representing diverse cultures, styles, and genres.

Prof.MU:E.Pr6 b. Demonstrate an understanding of expressive intent by connecting with an audience through prepared and improvised performances

Responding

Prof.MU:E.Re7.1 Apply criteria to select music for specified purposes, supporting choices by citing characteristics found in the music and connections to interest, purpose, and context.

Prof.MU:E.Re7.2 Explain how the analysis of passages and understanding the way elements of music are manipulated inform the response to music.

- Prof.MU:E.Re8 Explain and support interpretations of the expressive intent and meaning of musical works, citing as evidence the treatment of the elements of music, contexts, (when appropriate) the setting of the text, and personal research.
- Prof.MU:E.Re9 Evaluate works and performances based on personally- or collaboratively-developed criteria, including analysis of the structure and context.
- Connecting*
- Prof.MU:E.Cn10 Connect and demonstrate how personal interests, knowledge, and skills relate to choices and intent when creating, performing, and responding to music. Prof.MU:E.Cn11 Connect and demonstrate the relationships between music and societal, cultural, and historical contexts when creating, performing, and responding.
- Prof.MU:E.Cn11r Connect and demonstrate the relationships between music and societal, cultural, and historical contexts when creating, performing, and responding.

Instructional Methods and/or Strategies

- Individualized instruction
- Lecture
- Small group discussion
- Large group discussion & debate
- Master-class setting
- Ensemble and sectional rehearsal
- Reading, writing, analysis, listening homework

Assessment Methods and/or Tools

- Solfege Practices
- Self-Teaching
- Practice Techniques
- Formal Concerts
- Part Tests
- Program Order Selection