



THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Excellence with Honor

Course Descriptions

In all 5 of the *Choirs listed below*, students are instructed in the basic fundamentals of music while being given an opportunity to experience character-building choral teamwork. Emphasis is placed on establishing good vocal technique, general musicianship, sight singing, and ear training. Basic elements of music theory are also reviewed and applied. Students learn to sing harmonically and communicate through song while gaining a better understanding of musical interpretation through a varied repertoire. Vocal exercises are used at the beginning of each class to help students develop good vocal technique. Vocal skills such as vowel formation, diction, proper breathing, and posture are regularly developed. Performances are scheduled as required rhetorical events—times to display objective mastery while providing school and community enjoyment. Expenses will include high school concert clothing (the same concert dress is used throughout high school but **differs** from junior high choir clothing) and annual festival and/or field trip costs. A few scholarships are available. See director with questions/concerns.

Concordia

Students in Concordia will have 4 years of choir experience beginning with the 8th grade **OR** have director's signature permission to participate in a higher level of experience. This group will work more intensively regarding theory and vocal/choral technique; during the course of the year, it may perform at additional events such as the Veteran's Day assembly or the Fine Arts Assembly. Throughout the year, students in this group will perform as a full mixed voice choir and also break into smaller ensembles. Members of this group are expected to act as role models for the members of other TCA choirs. Along with Jubilate and Corda Musica, they carry the primary responsibility of performance equipment set up and tear down. Student leadership within the classroom is also expected; there is a strong emphasis placed on rehearsal skills and rehearsal techniques, and the students rotate through leading different parts of the rehearsal process. In addition, Concordia students will participate in rhetoric level discussions regarding the selection of quality repertoire for their own performance purposes. It has become a tradition for Concordia to seek out a collegiate level piece that they will strive to learn and perform. This class meets the vocal emphasis Art-Music Appreciation requirement for senior year provided that students have completed the proper choir in the junior year as well.

Cantemus (*Let us sing*)

Students in Cantemus will have 2 to 3 years of choir experience beginning with the 8th grade **OR** have director's signature permission to participate in a higher level of experience. This group will work at an intermediate high school level regarding theory and vocal/choral technique. Students in this group will participate in at least 2 or more concerts throughout the year as well as the Vocal Variety Show. Additional performances may be scheduled for this group. Students in this group will perform as a mixed voice choir **throughout the year**; they will also work/perform as separate women's and men's ensembles. Students are asked to meet a basic proficiency requirement for music theory. This includes but is not limited to sight reading in solfège, melodic and rhythmic notation and study of key signatures. This class meets the vocal emphasis Art-Music Appreciation graduation requirement during the junior year with the proviso that students proceed to the appropriate choir in the senior year.

Cantatores (*Singers*)

There is no experience requirement for students who sing in Cantatores. However, expectations for quality effort and musical development will remain high. Skills that are developed in this group will be valuable for growth as a vocal/choral musician. Students in this group will participate in at least 2 or more concerts throughout the year as well as the Vocal Variety Show. Additional performances may be scheduled for this group. Students in this group will perform as a mixed voice choir **throughout the year**. They may have opportunities to perform as separate women's and men's groups as well.

Corda Musica Women's Ensemble (*Musical Hearts*)

Corda Musica Women's Ensemble was designed to provide young women with the opportunity to participate in an intensive small ensemble experience within a challenging and enjoyable environment. This fast-paced group will be open for audition to high school women whose combined score in music theory, pitch accuracy, tone quality, rehearsal etiquette, and work ethic, cause them to receive a recommendation from their current vocal music teacher. Members of this group may be required to participate in multiple performance-related activities during the course of the school year. Students are expected to advance in theory and vocal skills with each year of participation in the ensemble. Individualized feedback on vocal technique and other aspects of vocal musicianship are a regular part of this class. This class was created to maintain a 9th-12th grade interactive environment where seniors, in particular, will serve as role models in rehearsal while providing musical leadership. Along with Jubilate and Concordia, they carry the responsibility of performance equipment set up and tear down. Openings for this class are determined by distribution of grade level, balance of voice parts, and vocal timbre. Students enrolled in this class during their junior and senior year will complete the vocal emphasis Art-Music Appreciation graduation requirement.

Mixed Voice Ensemble: Jubilate (*Joyous*)

Jubilate Mixed Voice Ensemble was designed to provide young men and women with the opportunity to participate in an intensive mixed voice small ensemble experience within a challenging and enjoyable environment. The secondary purpose within this group is to allow a men's ensemble experience to take place while the women of the group have the opportunity for more individualized feedback as they delve into the study of vocal technique, pitch, and intonation. This fast-paced group will be open for audition to high school men and women whose combined score in music theory, pitch accuracy, tone quality, rehearsal etiquette, and work ethic, cause them to receive a recommendation from their current vocal music teacher. Members of this group may be required to participate in multiple performance-related activities during the course of the school year. This class was created to maintain a 9th-12th grade interactive environment where seniors, in particular, will serve as role models in rehearsal while providing musical leadership. Along with Concordia and Corda Musica, they carry the responsibility of performance equipment set up and tear down. Openings for this class are determined by distribution of grade level, balance of voice parts, and vocal timbre. Students enrolled in this class during their junior and senior year will complete the vocal emphasis Art-Music Appreciation graduation requirement.