

Cantate Choir (Music)

Elective – Year – 9

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

The Luther High School Cantate Choir prepares students for life and for eternity by providing them with the opportunity to worship their risen Savior as part of a choral ensemble. Members of the Cantate Choir are introduced to vocal literature from our Lutheran heritage as well as the various styles of Western music. Students will learn to use their voices in praise to God to the best of their abilities for a lifetime of praise and worship.

Course Goals

The Christian director will:

1. Provide an opportunity through music for a closer relationship between students and their Savior.
2. Lead students to value music as a God-given gift and a way to praise Him.
3. Develop in students lifetime skills, abilities and attitudes necessary for a rewarding worship life.
4. Develop and improve the vocal abilities of students in the areas of sight-reading, tone production, breathing, and expressive singing.
5. Select appropriate literature for the performance opportunities presented to the choir throughout the school year.
6. Encourage Cantate Choir members to audition for Concert Choir.
7. Foster in students a lifelong love of choral singing as a means to praise and glorify God.

Course Objectives

The Students enrolled in Cantate Choir will:

1. Grow in relationship with his/her Lord and Savior while gaining insight and understanding of the gift of music and its appropriate use both in sacred and secular contexts.
2. Serve as a leader and gain insight into service in the church through singing.
3. Learn basic principles of vocal technique. These basics include proper breathing, posture, diction, tone production, and vowel production.
4. Become acquainted with a broad range of historical music styles and periods. These styles will include compositions and composers from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern periods.
5. Become acquainted with and be able to perform various modern compositions of Christian Contemporary composers as well as composers from our own rich heritage as a Lutheran Church.

Course Outline

1. Choral School
 - A. Basics of Vowel Production
 - i. Closed Vowels
 - ii. Open Vowels
 - iii. Bright Vowels
 - iv. Dark Vowels
 - v. Diphthongs
 - vi. Inverted Diphthongs
 - B. Vocal Techniques
 - i. Tone quality and color
 - ii. Facial Expression
 - iii. Diction
 - C. Sight Singing
 - i. key signatures
 - ii. Solfeggio ...do, re, mi
 - iii. Rehearsal of Solfeggio
 - D. Music Terminology
 - i. Tempo
 - ii. Dynamics

2. Students will gain an understanding of the following topics in daily rehearsal and performances:
 - A. Music vocabulary
 - B. Vocal technique
 - C. Sight singing skills
 - D. Music literature
 - E. Performance etiquette
 - F. Historical context of musical selections
3. Performances
 - A. Opening Service
 - B. Fall Family Festival
 - C. Chapel Services
 - D. Christmas Concert
 - E. Holy Week Concert
 - F. Clinics with recognized choral professionals
 - G. Spring Spotlight Concert

Instructional Strategies

1. Students will rehearse selections as a group.
2. Students will rehearse selections as necessary in sections.
3. The Director will present concepts and ideas as lectures during rehearsals and sectionals.
4. Students will rehearse in their own sections as well as in mixed arrangements.

Grading

Students enrolled in Concert Choir receive one full credit. Grades will be assessed by giving points for effort and attendance at performances. Quizzes, individual vocal assessment, and evaluation of group skills will be included throughout the year. Students may be assessed on their written reflections of rehearsals, performances, and clinics. Students will also be assessed on their attitude, participation and effort.

Student Materials

Students should have a pencil in their folders for making notes during rehearsals.

Classroom Procedures

1. Each rehearsal will begin with a standardized warm-up.
2. Students who are not in the room when the period begins are considered tardy and marked as such. Students who do not proceed to their assigned seats in a timely manner may be marked tardy as well.
3. Make-up Work – tests and quizzes are to be completed by the end of the quarter. Quizzes and tests not handed in by that time will become F's.
4. Behavior – Students who display disruptive behavior will receive verbal warnings. If the inappropriate behavior continues, they will be written up, and their membership in the Choir may be terminated.

Additional Information

More information about Music Department policies and procedures can be found in the Music Department Handbook. Each family with a student involved in music at Luther High School is given a copy of the Handbook at the start of the school year.