

A Cappella & Chamber Choir

COURSE DESCRIPTION & DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

Sterling G. Keyes, MM: Instructor
Classroom: 1006 (Choir Room)

Course Objective: Through your experience in this class I sincerely hope that you will attain a higher appreciation of how to evaluate and acquire quality performance skills: to combine music, singing, teamwork, and discipline to create refined art. This course is about reaching deep inside of yourself and stretching your own comfort zones in order to optimize your personal growth and achieve excellence – not just in A Cappella Choir, but in all other endeavors. Attached is an outlined summary of the specific objectives and activities that will lead to a successful and meaningful experience this year.

Mr. Keyes' Job: To offer to every student the know-how, and power to stage your own success; to coach, to inspire, to evaluate progress and challenges; to nourish excellence in all endeavors, to foster love, devotion and camaraderie; to teach by model and example; to nurture talents and cultivate discovery of self; to be a mentor, a teacher, a model, and a friend.

Student's Job: To take appropriate risks that will result in your overall personal enrichment; to deny peer-pressure and fear, the power to keep you from succeeding; to trust, emote, work, bond, search for skill mastery, set a goal, practice, evaluate, improve, and excel.

Obviously in order to realize these ambitious, yet realistic goals we must also foster a learning environment and a work and study ethic that will facilitate these ends. Hence the grading process will assess a composite of both the means and the ends. Please read the disclosure footnote for each item.

The Means:

- In-class participation and attendance¹ (10 pts. Daily, 200 points total each term)
- Preparation Checks and self Evaluations² (25 points. each)
- Written Assignments such as IPA assignments (75 points)
- Comfort Zone Assignments (75 point)³
- Sectional and Rehearsal Group Practices⁴ (25 points, twice monthly)
- Concert Rehearsals⁵ (25 points each)

¹ Point loss assessed for tardiness (-5), failure to participate (-10), absence (-10), disruptive misconduct (-10). At the end of the term 20 points will be credited to each student's final participation score (this will offset up to two absences or four tardies). Any student with more than 5 un-excused absences during the course of a term will be removed from the ensemble. Attendance in A Cappella Choir will be taken by section leaders each day.

² Students will be given preparation assignments regularly. The student will give him/herself a self-grade out of ten on how well they prepared themselves. The teacher will also assess the preparation of the individuals out of ten. These scores are then combined for the total.

³ Comfort zone assignments are due at the end of the term and will be graded by the student.

⁴ These sectionals will be conducted outside of class and will be scheduled by the director or section leader. These rehearsals are required and will be scheduled far enough in advance that all students are expected to attend.

⁵ The last two class sessions before a concert are required to allow students to perform. Any student who misses either of these rehearsals or an early morning rehearsal will not be allowed to perform in the concert. Such student will not perform in the concert (however will be required to attend) and will automatically lose 20 points from their concert score. Hence, don't schedule anything else during school on these days.

The Ends:

- In-class Solo & Ensemble Song Performances⁶ (75 points each)
- Concerts and Festivals⁷ (150 points)
- Concert Reports and Men's and Women's Choir Rehearsals⁸ (75 points each)
- All other required performances⁹ (100 points)

Grading Scale:

It is very important to understand that most of the grades assessed in this course are directly determined by the students, including participation and evaluation. Students or parents who have any grievances with the grading procedure should contact me personally to resolve the issue in question. I will use the same letter grading scale as adopted for general use at Orem High School.

Class Fees and other Expenses:

Class fees will be as follows for A Cappella and Chamber Choir:

- Music Participation Fee (usually paid at registration) \$50
- Sweatshirt (optional) \$25, T-shirt \$5
- Dress \$90
- Tuxedos \$40 to \$200 depending on what the student already owns.

All fees must be paid in full before any performance attire or sweatshirts are issued. Performance attire will not be ordered for students who have not paid their fees. Late shipping of Dresses, Tuxes, or Sweatshirts will result in additional shipping fees to be paid by the student in question.

⁶ These performances will include both group and individual presentation. Preparation time will be given during class but after-class preparation will be necessary. In-class performance dates will be set at least two class sessions before actual performance. These performances will be graded according to preparation and application of discussed techniques.

⁷ Attached is a year calendar with Festival, Concert and Activity dates. Students should plan ahead to attend all required performances. No excuse, excepting those described below, will absolve any ensemble member from this obligation. Festivals and concerts will be graded as follows: Students will give themselves a self grade out of five on their participation and concert etiquette; Five signifies that the student was attentive and respectful during the performance of all groups and spoke (quietly) only between performance numbers; A *Four* means that the student did all described above except that they spoke once during a performance piece; A *Three* is given if the student did all above but spoke more than once during a performance piece; A *Two* is given if a teacher has to ask the student to be quiet or if the student does anything disrespectful during a performance; A *One* is given if the student does anything to embarrass the group; *Zeros* are reserved for students who fail to attend the concert. This score is then multiplied by thirty to become their percentage out of 150.

⁸ Each quarter students will be required to do two Concert reports. One of these Concert Reports may be excused by participating in the Lunch-time rehearsals of the Men's or Women's Choir (these will meet the two weeks before the concert for a total of four lunch-time rehearsals). Another option for Concert Report will be a Masterworks Listening Concert to be hosted in the Choir room one evening each term in the Choir room.

⁹ Students will be informed of all required performances at least 21 days prior to the performance. Call-time will be specified no later than two class sessions before a performance. One point will be subtracted from the student's concert score for each minute they arrive after the specified call-time. Students will be excused from performance only if extenuating circumstances are expressed to Mr. Keyes no less than two weeks before any performance. Circumstances not requiring two week notice include: death of family member, personal injury requiring hospitalization or surgery, and other such emergencies of a similar nature. Make-up for instructor-excused absences will be offered to compensate students' grades.

Tour:

A Cappella Choir students are expected (though not required) to participate in our annual trip. Eligibility guidelines will need to be met. This year students have voted to attend the Heritage Seattle Washington Festival. The trip will be from March 31 to April 3, 2011. Costs for this trip are currently estimated between \$500 and \$550. Please plan to attend the parent information meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Choir room.

Folders & Music:

Each student in A Cappella Choir will be checked a numbered cubby and music numbered to correspond with that cubby. All students need a black folder or three-ringed binder for keeping their music. Students must understand that fines will be assessed for any lost items checked-out to them. Fines for lost music as well as any robes or school costumes will be calculated at the current new purchase value.

CHORAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE CALENDAR 2010-2011

The following are required performance dates that all A Cappella Choir students will be expected to attend. This list also includes important meetings and functions where attendance is recommended. All performance listed below which are not required may be used to fulfill the term Concert Report assignments. This is by no means a comprehensive list. Students should remember that additional required performances may be assigned throughout the school year. Check calendar at www.ohschoirs.com for further details which may be added or updated later.

| Event | Date & Time | Location |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| <u>CHOIR TOUR PARENT MEETING</u> (Concert, A Cappella, & Chamber Choir & parents) | Wednesday, September 8, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m. | OHS Choir room |
| <u>A CAPPELLA CHOIR OPENING SOCIAL</u> | Saturday, September 11, 2010 @ TBA | OHS Choir room |
| <u>ALL-STATE CHOIR FESTIVAL</u> (for select members of Chamber Choir only) | Thursday - Saturday, October 7 – 9, 2010 | Riverton HS/SLC Tabernacle |
| <u>FALL CHOIR CONCERT</u> (All Choirs) | Wednesday, October 20, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m. | OHS Auditorium |
| <u>CHAMBER TOUR</u> (Chamber only – Chaperones needed) | Thursday – Saturday, November 18-20, 2010 | St. George, UT |
| <u>HOLIDAY CHOIR CONCERT</u> (All Choirs) | Wednesday, December 15, 2010 @ 7:00 pm | OHS Auditorium |
| <u>TEMPLE SQUARE PERFORMANCES</u> Friday, December 17, 2010 – All Day | Chamber & A Cappella Choirs @ 1:00 p.m. | Church Office Building |
| | Chamber & A Cappella Choirs @ 2:00 p.m. | Joseph Smith Building |
| | Chamber & A Cappella Choirs @ 6:30 p.m. | Assembly Hall |
| | Chamber & A Cappella Choirs @ 8:00 p.m. | South Visitor’s Center |
| <u>OREM/TIMPANOGOS/MOUNTAIN VIEW A CAPPELLA CHOIRS CHRISTMAS CONCERT</u> | Saturday, December 18, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m. | OHS Auditorium |

DISTRICT MASTERWORKS CONCERT (Chamber Choir)

Rehearsal: Friday, January 28, 2011; 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. AFHS Auditorium

Rehearsal: Saturday, January 29, 2011; 10:00 a.m. OHS Auditorium

Performance: Saturday, January 29, 2010; 7:00 p.m. Provo Tabernacle

OREM HIGH PIANO/VOCAL SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL (All Choirs)

Wednesday, February 9, 2011; 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Choir Room

NIGHT IN SHERWOOD FOREST DRESS REHEARSAL (A Cappella, Chamber, & Cast members)

Wed. February 9, 2011 (during Solo & Ensemble) OHS Commons

NIGHT IN SHERWOOD FOREST DINNER SHOW PERFORMANCE (A Cappella, Chamber & Cast)

Thursday – Saturday, February 10-12, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m. OHS Commons

REGION VII PIANO/VOCAL SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL (All qualifiers from all Choirs)

Wednesday, March 2, 2011; 2:30 – 7:00 p.m. MVHS

REGION VII CHAMBER CHOIR FESTIVAL (Chamber Choir)

Wednesday, March 16, 2011; 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. OHS Auditorium

TOUR PREVIEW CONCERT & PARENT MEETING (Concert, A Cappella, & Chamber Choirs)

Thursday, March 24, 2011; 7:00 p.m. OHS Auditorium

CHOIR TOUR (Concert Choir, A Cappella, & Chamber – Chaperones needed)

Thursday – Monday, March 31 – April 4, 2011; Seattle Washington

REGION VII TRAINING CHOIR FESTIVAL (Concert Choir)

Wednesday, April 6, 2011; 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Lehi High School

REGION VII LARGE CHOIR FESTIVAL (A Cappella Choir)

Wednesday, April 27, 2011; 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Timpview High School

STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL (Region I's and Chamber State Festival)

Saturday, April 30, 2011 – All Day Lone Peak High School

SPRING FLING (Hosted by A Cappella Choir – Choir Council & Team Members)

Saturday, May 7, 2011; 8:00 p.m. OHS Commons

SPRING CHORAL SHOWCASE (All Choirs)

Wednesday, May 18, 2011; 7:00 p.m. OHS Auditorium

AUDITION CHOIR PROBATION POLICY

Because of the importance commitment and effort have to the success of our group, all audition choir members will be required to maintain certain standards of academic performance, of attendance, and those of conduct, to ensure unrestricted participation in the group. Any student found in violation of any of the policies listed below may be placed on probation.

A student on probation will not be able to perform in any of the ensemble's performances for the rest of the term (although they will be required to attend them as part of their grade). And if the causes for probation do not improve into the next term, the student will be required to withdraw from the class. The following are sufficient reason for student probation:

- **Excess of 4 tardies** to class in one term. Warning after one tardy to any concert or concert rally time. Probation after two.
- **Excess of 4 non-school-excused absences** to school day rehearsals. *Any non-excused absence from any performance.* **Note:** Medical reasons will not place you in risk of having to withdraw, but will result in your sitting out on performances, as you will not have learned the music well enough to perform that term. Student will receive a warning after their third absence.
- **Possession or consumption of any illegal or controlled substance.** This includes use of alcohol, drugs, and abuse of prescription drugs. Students should avoid the very appearance of these substances as this is a no-tolerance policy.
- **Suspension.** Any A Cappella Choir student suspended for any reason will automatically be placed on probation.
- **UHSAA Eligibility: Students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA (Chamber a 2.7 GPA), and no more than two F's.** *No student may fail any class and expect to continue in good standing in A Cappella Choir.* Probation incurs after any term grade in which the student performs below standard. Withdrawal from the class if poor performance continues for another consecutive term.
- **No student can be on probation for two consecutive terms.** The counseling center will be notified of withdrawal.
- **Misbehavior or disrespect.** One warning in private will be given a student by the director if his/her behavior is becoming too distracting. Probation determined by the director if the problem does not improve after warning.

Only the Director, Mr. Keyes, can determine probation. No students should presume to assume conditions for a students' probation status. Students in the class should refrain from judging. It is inappropriate for other students to warn fellow students of probation. However, all students may encourage their peers to avoid behavior that may lead to probation. Mr. Keyes will warn students and inform students about probation in private.

Probation does not start and stop right with the terms, but will be the equivalent to a term in length (45 school days). At the end of a probationary term a student's conduct will be reassessed and Mr. Keyes will determine whether the student may continue with normal status.

Learning Target Goals for A Cappella and Chamber Choirs

- Produce a beautiful, healthy, singing tone
 - Establish proper posture for singing
 - Understand elongation and pronunciation of sung vowels
 - Employ proper pronunciation of consonants
 - Produce healthy (flow-phonation) sounds
 - Employ proper breath control and support
 - Understand the principles of resonance and use different resonant sound colors
 - Apply resonance understanding to blending with other singers
 - Apply healthy phonation, vowel/consonant pronunciation, and resonance concepts to balancing parts and harmonies with other sections
 - Establish understanding of effective vibrato for Choral Singing and employ a healthy even vibrato
 - Recognize accuracies and inaccuracies in pitch (intonation) and employ the principles entailed to generate accurate intonation with other singers
- Acquire and/or enhance literacy of music notation
 - Students can recognize the names of the notes on the lines and spaces of the treble and bass clefs
 - Students understand and recognize different meters and employ counting systems that will accurately reflect their understanding of meter
 - Students will count varying degrees of rhythmic notation
 - Students will recognize and implement instructions represented by musical symbols and terms
 - Students will complete several units of Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory 2.0 available in the computer lab which will reflect their level of mastery on any theory topic
- Achieve the ability to sight-sing level-appropriate music
 - Students will sight-sing (sing from first view) musical notation or varying degrees of difficulty
 - Students will recognize key signatures, be able to establish a tonal center for music literature they are learning for performance, and be able to sing basic scales related to those keys
 - Students will recognize the difference between Major, minor-harmonic, minor-melodic, and minor-natural tonal systems
 - Advanced students will demonstrate their abilities to read steps and $\frac{1}{2}$ steps by singing a whole-tone scale
- Build personal relations skills with others through collaborative rehearsal and performance situations
 - Students will perform music in groups (or ensembles)
 - Students will participate in a school-wide *Solo & Ensemble* festival where they will be expected to prepare and execute music which they have learned by themselves and in groups
 - All students will participate in sections (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass) in which tasks specific to that group must be met in collaboration with the others in their section
 - Students will perform as a group in school, region, state, and national festivals where they will be evaluated as a group and be provided with an opportunity to evaluate performances of other groups from around the country
- Strengthen leadership skills by working in specific roles of responsibility
 - Students will participate in organizational teams in which they will develop and demonstrate abilities to plan, organize and execute a given plan, program, or function
 - Students will have opportunity to plan, lead, and direct through various different roles both appointed and elected throughout the school year
- Become knowledgeable in singing/choral practice by performing and assessing performance of self and others
 - Students will be given effective tools for assessing their own performance and will give themselves their own grade on all concerts and other performances
 - Students will evaluate other performers through experience in the school-wide *Solo & Ensemble Festival* as well as their opportunities to observe other Choirs in Region, State, and National festivals
 - Students will work with other professional choral directors and learn essentials in the Choral Arts from direct workshop as well as observation of concert performances
- Perform a varied repertoire of music from diverse styles, cultures, and historical backgrounds
 - Students will perform literature from many different cultures, historical periods, languages, and musical styles
 - Concerts will provide a varied repertoire around a central theme
 - Students will gain a greater understanding of poetry and understanding the principles involved in assessing a good text for Choral Singing
 - Historical backgrounds will be given for any literature the choir will prepare for performance
- Discover meaning through aesthetics, artistic expression, historical foundations, and other purposes and affects of Musical Art
 - Students will be given tools for understanding and expressing an aesthetic response to a given performance of Music
 - Students will employ their understanding and unique level of mastery of all of the above concepts in understanding and evaluating other performances that they may attend or listen to
 - Students will prepare written assignments expressing their aesthetic experience with various different type of musical performances

Equal Opportunity:

This class is open audition to all students. Orem High School offers education to all students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin. Students who have a grievance with another student or any school employee should talk to the school administration or a counselor about their concerns.

Conclusion:

You may quickly see that this course comprises much more than simply singing and performing. This class has the power to open your eyes to much more than you've previously been able to see. This course is not about talent, ability, predisposition, prestige or power. Rather, it is about personal motivation, and exploration, discovery of your own creativity and the power within every individual to be a unique artist, who enriches the lives of others through understanding and expressing the beauty that lies in every human heart. The toughest challenge for most students will be mustering the courage to nurture and release those intimate artistic feelings, and to appreciate and not belittle the efforts and successes of others. Students are generally self-conscious in front of peers and these opportunities to stretch your personal comfort zone will be very rewarding to yourself and many others. There is no room for personal pride or arrogance in this class. Students who take this class for personal prestige and glory will find little satisfaction in this year's achievements. Those who realize the energy-unleashing power of real teamwork will experience the exhilaration and joy of camaraderie and success that they will look back on for years to come. It will be a life changing experience.

I look forward to a great year. I may be contacted in my office, or by email to answer any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Sterling G. Keyes

TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

EMAIL FROM SKYWARD: <https://skyward.alpinedistrict.org/scripts/wsisadll/WService=wsEAplus/seplog01>

OR sterling.keyes@gmail.com

SCHOOL PHONE: 801-227-8765 EXT. 106

BEST TIME TO CONTACT: 7:45 – 9:00 A.M. ON A-DAYS; 12:55 – 2:15 P.M. ON B-DAYS

Read and Approved by OHS Administration: _____

A CAPPELLA CHOIR DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

Student Name (please print)

Parent Name (please print)

I have read the above disclosure document and understand the requirements and responsibilities of this course and agree to adhere to the course guidelines as specified. I have read and agree to the terms of the A Cappella/Chamber Choir Probation Policy. I also have previewed the performance calendar and agree to attend (or allow my child to attend) all required performances. I understand the students will receive 20 points for returning this signed portion of the disclosure document to school before Labor Day.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

RELIGIOUS MUSIC DISCLAIMER

All students participating in Choir at Orem High School should understand that we will be singing a wide variety of music throughout the year which will include some religious music from different faiths. Especially during the holiday season, much of our music will comprise of traditional Christian Christmas music.

Any student, or parent of a student, who may have objections to singing religious music needs to contact me so that I can provide alternate learning experiences for the student. No student will be required to sing religious music, however, in fairness to the class and to the preparation of the teacher any student or parent wishing to opt-out of participating in religious music needs to contact me immediately so that appropriate accommodations can be made to meet the needs of such a student. Below is contact information so that you can contact me.

Religious music will be instructed according to its music content. Religious doctrines, practices, and religious rites will not be instructed under any circumstance. In some cases the cultural practices of any religious group may be discussed developing the proper musical style of a given piece, i.e. certain Hebrew, and Latin pieces have styles tightly connected to the culture of religious groups.

By signing this form the student and his/her parent, acknowledge that religious music will be a part of the diverse music education experience in this class, and either consent to their full participation in the instruction accompanying the music literature, or will check the "opt-out option" and will contact the teacher for further information.

Parent and Student, please check and sign the appropriate statement below:

- I _____ (student name) have read the above statement and agree to participate in the instruction of religious music literature.

- I _____ (parent name) have read the above statement and agree to allow my student full participation in the instruction of religious music literature.

(Student Signature)

(Parent Signature)

OR

- I _____ (student name) have read the above statement and wish to opt out of participation of any religious music. I understand that I must contact the instructor to receive further information of alternate assignments I may complete for equivalent points.

- I _____ (parent name) have read the above statement and wish for my student to opt out of participation of any religious music. I understand that I must contact the instructor to receive further information of alternate assignments my student may complete for equivalent points.

(Student Signature)

(Parent Signature)