

STRINGS ENSEMBLE

# COURSE OUTLINE

Welcome to Strings 8-12. Students are strongly recommended to have experience in choral performance to succeed in this course. The Argyle Chamber Choir is considered a 'flag-ship' ensemble within our community, and is often invited to participate in exciting events, trips, and learning opportunities. Students wishing to participate in this course must be willing to commit to a higher level of performance and provide a strong work ethic.

Students participating in this class will develop skills and conceptual knowledge in various aspects of choral music including but not limited to: vocal technique, vocal performance, sight-reading, music theory, diction, musicianship, vocal improvisation, professionalism, collaboration, and performance.

## **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS (As indicated by the BC Curriculum)**

### Big Ideas

1. Building community and confidence by group singing
2. Exploring our identity through music while nurturing relationships
3. Creating artistic works collaboratively

### Individual Growth: gaining an understanding of music notation and style

- developing an understanding of how your voice functions
- seeking support and clarification when necessary
- contributing positively to the ensemble

### Collaboration: working together and valuing diversity

- being present, engaged and willing to try
- creating a supportive, encouraging environment for everyone

### Communication: understanding the value of communication in the ensemble

- engaging with others, sharing and developing ideas
- reflecting on events and accomplishments to further growth

This course benefits from the assistance of mentors, teaching assistants, and special guests which are part of the learning community at Argyle music.

## ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is a significant factor in ensuring success in school. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/legal guardian to ensure the student has regular school attendance. Occasionally, students must miss class for unavoidable reasons such as illness, family emergencies or medical/dental appointments.

1. A Parent or legal guardian must phone the school to inform them of a student's absence (Please be aware a teacher CANNOT excuse a student for an absence, and thus the office must be contacted in such event).
2. Students are also required to inform the teacher as soon as possible via MS TEAMS or verbally.

## CONCERT EXPECTATIONS

Full participation at all concerts and events is expected. There will be set-up and/or clean-up duties assigned as well as a pre-concert CALL time. Audience participation is also an integral part of the concert for the performers. Please speak with me immediately if there is a scheduling conflict. An UNEXCUSED absence for performance results in a participation deduction from your final grade.

## CONCERT ATTIRE/UNIFORMS

Appropriate concert attire, including options for uniforms, will be notified in advance. Dressing for performances counts towards professionalism and participation marks<sup>1</sup>.

## ASSESSMENT

- Technical Skill 40%
  - IMPROVEMENT<sup>2</sup>: Improvement in some or all of the following areas: pitch, tone, diction, phrasing, musicality, and/or interpretation.
  - SINGING ASSESSMENTS: Completion of technical and skill-based assessments
- Participation 40%
  - PREPAREDNESS: Being in place, ready to participate with ALL required materials: pencil, music, folder/binder at the start of class.
  - PROFESSIONALISM: Professional conduct in-class and at performances
  - PARTICIPATION: a willing active attempt at all aspects of the course. This can include but not be limited to, accepting challenges, encouraging others, and helping in the setup and tear-down of performances.
- PERFORMANCE 20%
  - LIVE PERFORMANCE: Success within live performance settings and scenarios in regards to preparation, execution, delivery, and attempt.

Please note, there is no final exam for this course. The performances count as significant assessments in lieu of a written exam.

## COVID-19

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the causative virus for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is reported to be highly transmissible through respiratory droplets and aerosols emitted during coughing, sneezing, speaking and

singing. When masking is no longer mandatory, many choir members, for a number of private reasons, may wish to continue masking. Masking is encouraged by personal preference until further notice.

## SUPPORT

Students are welcome to come to get additional support outside of class time during the tutorial time (flex block), or at lunch. Practice rooms are available during, before and after the day at school. Your instructor is required to be available to you as long as you communicate in advance.

## IMPORTANT DATES 2022-2023

The following are dates of performances and trips. These are an essential part of being in this class. It is important that you mark these dates down in your calendar, and plan accordingly with your work/personal schedule. Failure to attend these events could significantly impact your participation mark. In case of illness or other circumstances, please reach the instructor directly.

### FALL SEMESTER DATES

- Dec 12, 2023 : (Afternoon/Evening) Winter Concert @ St Andrew's Wesley – **Choirs & Sr Instrumental Ensembles**
- Jan 18, 2023 : (Afternoon/Evening) Winter Concert

SPRING DATES, TBA

These dates are subject to change. Most up-to-date calendars are communicated over email and regularly updated on MS TEAMS.

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<sup>1</sup> It is always a part of Argyle Music's mission, to find comfortable, accessible, and (within reason) options for uniforms. Please speak to your instructor if you require assistance in acquiring appropriate concert wear.

<sup>2</sup> Due to the significant range in grade levels that are offered within this course, many additional factors including but not limited to, if the student has participated within this course before or if the students already has a background in music, will be considered within this grade.