

Concert Choir
South Hamilton High School
2000–2001

Instructor:
Mr. Bensen
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Class Time: M–F 1:21–2:02

Revised 12/1/00

The Big Idea

Hi. Welcome to Concert Choir. We're glad you're here. There are lots of objectives that this choir seeks to accomplish: (1) To enrich your understanding and appreciation of music, (2) To exercise your thinking and problem-solving skills, (3) To teach you more about your instrument, the voice, (4) To give an advantage to singers who want to pursue music as a career, (5) To give an advantage to *everyone*—a fulfilling pastime outside their career, (6) To help all members develop socially, intellectually, and artistically, (7) To expose singers to great choral works of the past and the present, and (8) To have fun doing all of that.

**The Big Idea
behind
The Big Idea**

It's my job, and my commitment, to do everything I can to promote these goals. But for it to work, each singer has to "buy in." Make the commitment to make this an outstanding choral group. If you ever need help, have comments, or want more from me, come and talk to me. I will not always be immediately available to talk, but I will *always* find a time for you.

Attendance

This class requires the active participation and contributions of *each* singer, which is difficult or impossible to "make up." Punctual attendance at every class is vital. When an excused absence is scheduled in advance, see Mr. Bensen *before* being gone in order to get make-up work. When this is not possible, see Mr. Bensen as early as possible following the absence to get make-up assignments. Any unexcused absences hurt the entire choir and will adversely affect a member's term grade. School policies on tardiness will be strictly enforced. To be considered "on time," each singer must be in his or her assigned seat *with folder* at 1:21.

During choir...

Each choir member is expected to show respect for other choir members, for the director, and for other students at South Hamilton. Each singer will be held accountable for his or her conduct, effort, and attitude. Rehearsals will be very structured to make the most of limited time. While this class is intended to be fun and relaxed in atmosphere, it cannot be chaotic. If a student is disruptive, he or she will be reminded to monitor his or her actions more closely. If necessary, a second reminder will be given. On a third occurrence, the student may be referred to the office.

Assignments

As with any class, outside work is necessary to get the most out of the course. This class is unique in that each choir member is allowed to choose many of the assignments that he or she will complete. While some assignments are mandatory, others are to be chosen from the categories on the “Assignment Menu” for this term. Each term, choose either one *major* elective assignment *or* three other elective assignments. Extra assignments completed during one term can be counted on another term, since most students enroll in choir by the year. It is suggested to choose both a major elective assignment and three other elective assignments during consecutive terms. (See the examples on the assignment menu.)

Lessons

Each choir member is assigned a minimum of seven (8) lessons per term, at least twenty (20) minutes in duration. Mr. Bensen will schedule lessons during the first week of the term. Missed lessons must be made up within one week. A singer may study with another voice teacher (e.g. from ISU). The singer must keep a record of lessons, and the alternate voice teacher will be asked to evaluate the student’s effort and progress at the end of the term.

Performances

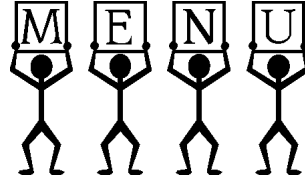
Performance is the culmination of all of our rehearsal and study. Participation in scheduled performances is mandatory. In the event of a death in the family or *serious* illness, a makeup assignment for a missed performance will be assigned. No other reason for absence from a performance is acceptable.

Grading

Grades for individual assignments will be determined by grading inventories handed out for each assignment. The term grade will be determined using assessments described on the included term inventory.

If a singer fails to complete assignments or attend lessons, he or she may be assigned a grade of *incomplete*. The singer will receive a written report of what is incomplete and what needs to be done to correct the problem. If the work is not finished within two weeks of the end of the term, the grade will remain an incomplete and can only be removed by retaking the course.

Concert Choir Assignment



Required Assignments

- Voice Lessons (8 per term)
- Daily preparation of assigned music
- Periodic quizzes over concepts covered in class
- Term self-evaluation
- Scheduled performances
- Final exam

Everybody in choir
does these

Then, for
each term,
you can
choose this

Major Elective Assignments (Choose one)

- All-State Auditions
- Accompanying one or more pieces in rehearsal and performance
- Participating for a term in a church or community choir
- Participating in Special Edition as singer or accompanist
- Participating in another co-curricular choir as singer or accompanist
- Performing in a Contest solo or group
- Performing a solo for church or civic group
- Serving as Choir Assistant (filing music, etc.)
- Performing in the Hamilton Holidays musical
- Working on the Concert Choir Publicity Crew
- Singing the National Anthem for a sports event (solo or in a group)
- Auditioning for a solo in class
- Giving a group presentation about a musical topic in class
- Independent project approved by Mr. Bensen (bulletin boards, a brief class presentation, etc.)

or this

Elective Assignments (Choose 3, minimum of two *different* activities,)

- Participating in All-State Choir
- Taking attendance for the term
- Serving as section leader
- Writing or presenting a reaction to a recital, concert, or other musical performance
- Presenting a brief oral or written report of musical topic from class
- Presenting a written or spoken reaction to a videotape of Chorale rehearsal
- Independent project approved Mr. Bensen

EXAMPLES

Ann's Choices:

- Term 1: Took attendance this term
 - Was a section leader
 - Wrote about the Middle School concert
- Term 2: Was a choir assistant

Ed's Assignment Choices:

- Term 1: Sang the Banner for a Volleyball game
- Term 2: Auditioned for All-State