

Syllabus

Concert Choir

Heritage Academy
A University-Model School®

Heritage Academy is a certified, University-Model School® that partners with Christian Parents to prepare college-worthy, character witnesses for Jesus Christ.

I. Course Purpose and Content

Concert Choir is an introductory choral group for secondary students interested in advancing their skills in choral technique and performance. Students enrolled in this course will explore sacred and secular choral music from a variety of cultures and time periods. Classroom instruction and at-home practice will emphasize the development of basic vocal technique, choral technique, part-singing, sight-reading, and an increased understanding of music theory. Performance opportunities will encourage students to improve their proficiencies with harmony, pitch, tone, dynamics, and vocal range.

In-class instruction will include:

- The evaluation each singer's voice to discover the part the student is best suited to sing
- Introductory sight-reading and instruction for correct vocal technique
- Expansion of music literacy: learning to read music in conjunction with good singing technique.
- Discussion of musical styles related to choral music and the importance of preserving the integrity of the composer's original context.
- Study of the musical elements of melody, harmony, and rhythm.
- Practice and performance of pieces and warm-ups that will help students excel in sight reading, pitch-matching, and harmony performance.
- Directions for singing solfege and sign pitches, which is the backbone to excellent vocal performance.
- Practice of good singing technique: posture, breathing, tone quality, vowel sounds, diction, matching pitches, musical expressiveness, harmonizing, singing wide intervals, solo singing, and conducting.

II. Worldview Integration

Heritage Academy is committed to teaching subjects in such a way that students develop a Biblical worldview out of which to think and act. The following foundation, Biblical truths undergird the exploration and practice of music:

- All people are created by God and uniquely designed to reflect God's image. As God is a Trinity, (three persons in one), so all people reflect his image by being spirit, soul, and body. (Genesis 1:27, I Thess. 5:23).
- Music is one way that a person's spirit, soul, and body may unite together to uniquely and creatively expresses the person's whole being and sometimes the person's perspective about other matters. Though not unspoiled by the sinful nature, music exemplifies creative and expressive qualities possessed by all those created in God's image.
- God has designed each of us for his pleasure and purposes and has made the human's capacity for creativity both timeless and universal. As redeemed people, we have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of Light. We have also been given new hearts and the Holy Spirit, to rule within us. As we offer ourselves to God, we can use the gift of creativity given to us by God, and our capacities to enjoy, evaluate, and compose music, to accurately discern and express our present human condition and the hope that is born out of God's promises. Music may be used to enhance personal and community joy, worship, and ministry.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"(Ephesians. 2:10).

III. Required Texts/Materials

Essential Musicianship: A Comprehensive Choral Method, Book 3
[ISBN: 9780793543546; Hal Leonard Music Publishing]

- One-inch, black three-ringed binder
- Tab Dividers labeled Communication Sheets | Vocal Exercises | Music

→ **Course Binder:** Weekly communication sheets, homework, music, and take-home worksheets and materials will be kept in a black, 1 inch, 3-ring binder. The binder needs three pocketed dividers marked “Communication Sheets”, “Vocal Exercises”, “Music”. Your student will need to “file” any handouts in the appropriate divider each class day.

IV. Student Responsibilities and Course Guidelines

A. Attendance

Attendance is imperative as concepts cannot be learned if a student is absent. Students are expected to attend class and contribute positively to the classroom environment.

Tardiness is disruptive to other class members. Please arrive on time and prepared. All absences and tardies are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian. Please remember that three tardies generate one absence.

As communicated in Heritage Academy’s Family Manual, a passing grade awarded at the end of the semester generally requires that a secondary student has attended at least forty-two class periods during the semester. Failure to meet this minimum attendance requirement may result in an F being awarded and recorded on the student’s transcript.

B. Absences and Late Work

In the case of planned absence(s), homework that is due during the student’s absence must be completed and submitted to the instructor in advance.

When a student is unexpectedly and unavoidably absent due to ill health, past-due assignments must be submitted within two course periods after the student’s return to school. **When an unexpected absence must occur, please be sure to notify the school office and the instructor of the students’ absence as quickly as possible, preferably before the involved class occurs. This contact may occur by phone or by email.**

Late work that is submitted simply “late” will be graded and penalized with a **ten percent grade reduction for each course period that it is late**; homework will not be accepted more than three course periods (1 week) past its due date, unless previous arrangements between the teacher and the student’s parent have been agreed to in light of peculiar circumstances that are occurring beyond the family’s control.

C. Student Conduct and Preparation for Learning

For the sake of promoting a safe and focused learning environment, the student is expected to do the following throughout the course of the semester:

- 1) Arrive on time to each class period with the appropriate class materials available for access (e.g., organized notebook with dividers and filed materials, paper, writing tools, texts, and other tools as directed)
- 2) Arrive prepared to submit completed at-home assignments at start of each class period.
- 3) Arrive ready to listen, learn, take notes, and participate in teacher-directed classroom discussions and activities.
- 4) Ask for clarification or further explanation when a concept or direction remains unclear.

- 5) Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation, kindness, and respect toward the teacher and fellow classmates, demonstrating respect to Heritage Academy’s Code of Conduct.
- 6) Help keep the classroom area clean and orderly.
- 7) Cooperate with the parent-educator and the Heritage Academy teacher to complete homework in a timely fashion
- 8) Communicate concerns regarding schoolwork to both the Heritage Academy teacher and the parent-educator, so that these concerns can be addressed quickly.
- 9) On the whole, conduct himself or herself in a manner that is worthy of Christ and reflects the life of the Holy Spirit in him/her: “. . . that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light” (Colossians 1:12).

D. At-Home (Satellite Classroom) Investment

Home assignments will be recorded on the Weekly Communication Sheet your student will receive in class each Monday. Students are expected to complete their home assignments prior to the next class period. Each student will spend about 30 minutes daily Monday – Friday on their homework. Home assignments will include, but will not be limited to, vocalization exercises, singing, worksheets, sight-reading practice, rhythm assignments, and listening exercises. The teacher’s goal will be to clearly communicate my expectations concerning all at-home work. Please contact the instructor if instructions are unclear.

E. Assessments: Students will receive 5 points daily for active participation in class. Points will be deducted daily for wasting rehearsal time, disrupting the rehearsal, being late, or being unprepared. We will have written quizzes over musical knowledge; vocal quizzes covering sight-reading and correct singing technique. Each student will have singing exams for their Mid-Term and their Final. Students will receive a grade for all performances and concerts as indicated in the Grade Apportionment section below.

F. Grades

Apportionment

Active Participation/Behavior*	10%
Concerts and musical performance	35%
Homework	20%
Exams/Quizzes/Mid-term/Final	35%

Participation and in-class behavior will be graded each class period with a total of 5 points possible. Students who are tardy, ill prepared, or are disruptive in class will not be awarded full points. Students will also be expected to demonstrate respectful, safe, and responsible classroom behavior.

Grading Scale

100-95.....A	86-83.....B	76-73.....C	<60.....F
94-90.....A-	82-80.....B-	72-70.....C-	
89-87.....B+	79-77.....C+	69-60.....D	

The course grade the student has earned at the end of the semester will also be the course grade that appears on the student’s transcript. To receive high school credit for this course, the student must achieve a percentage grade of 70% or above, translating to a letter grade of C- or above, and fulfill attendance requirements.

V. Parent Responsibilities

A. Embrace the University Model

University-Model Schooling at Heritage Academy is driven by two guiding principles:

- ◆ to preserve and strengthen God-ordained family relationships
- ◆ to offer students the opportunity to achieve a high degree of academic excellence.

Heritage Academy operates as a University-Model School[®], designed for families who want their students to flourish from a life anchored in the home yet still gain from the best aspects of traditional, classroom education. Courses offered at Heritage Academy occur every-other-day so that students may realize the benefits of qualified teachers and a focused learning community, yet continue to experience home as the primary, consistent base where parents remain their foremost guides for spiritual, social, academic, and character formation.

Parents, please consider ways you may maximize the benefits University-Model Schooling offers to your family. How can you as parents utilize the at-home study time this model provides to nurture deeper relationship and model and impart the faith, values, and life-patterns you desire your student to embrace?

B. Fulfill Parent Role: *Guide for Dependent Study*

Within the University-Model School[®], **parents commit to fulfill a specified role related to each course** in which their student is enrolled, as prescribed by the course's description. Each role identifies specific responsibilities that the teacher relies on the parent to perform, thus facilitating effective home/school partnership whereby students are assured of receiving needed support. For this course, Heritage Academy has designated parents the role of **"Guide for Dependent Study."**

This role recognizes that many courses at this level will begin to cover subject matter that may be unfamiliar to many parents. At the same time, the student is at a dependent age where disciplined study habits and strategies for managing time must be developed, not by parental force, but through positive encouragement and through the student's growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for this class to be successful, I as a teacher am depending upon you as parents to ensure that your son or daughter keeps up with the course material and to communicate with me should any difficulties or concerns arise.

C. Monitor Engrade and View Seven-Week and Thirteen-Week Engrade Reports

As your student earns grades for completed tests, quizzes, and various projects and homework assignments, these will be recorded on **Engrade.com** for you to view at your convenience. My general goal will be to post grades online within a week of their being awarded.

In Engrade, missing assignments will also be noted by an "M." Please take time to follow your student's progress on Engrade so that you can quickly recognize and explore/address areas of patterns of difficulty or concern that may appear and affirm positive accomplishments.

Directions to register for Engrade are accessible on Heritage Academy's website under "Resources" and "Engrade", or may also be received from the office. If you need aide setting up Engrade (it should only take about two minutes), please contact Heritage Academy's office.

Engrade Reports, which will include parent-directed comments related to your student's behavior and progress in class, will be ready for parents to view at the seven-week and thirteen-week point in the semester.

D. Attend Parent/Teacher Fellowship

I hope you will take time to come to Parent/Teacher Fellowship scheduled during the 7th week of each semester. This will give you and I brief opportunity to connect face-to-face and discuss your student's progress, making the most of the partnership that is so vital to students' success within the University Model[®].

VI. Contacting the instructor

Teacher contact information will be provided on the weekly communication sheets that will be distributed in class or may be found in the school directory.