



Advanced Choir Syllabus - 2023

Teacher info: Mr. Aaron Merryweather / aaron.merryweather@uintah.net
Website: uintahhighchoir.weebly.com

KEY INFORMATION: *For parents who don't want to read the whole syllabus.*

- This is an advanced choir and students are required to take it all year, all 3 trimesters. Please look at the full year and make sure you can keep this commitment.
- Students are required to attend ALL performances. A calendar will be given out at the beginning of the year outlining choir performances for the year. Please plan ahead for these performances.
- Students must be academically eligible (above a 2.0 GPA, no more than 1 F) to participate in this class and must maintain eligibility the whole year. Ineligible students will be removed from the class.
- There is a \$20 class fee, a \$45 uniform fee, a \$5 uniform rental fee, a \$15 choir t-shirt fee and additional potential costs due to choir travel activities. ALL FEES DUE (except t-shirt): END OF SEPT.

CHOIR GOALS

- Create memorable experiences making and sharing quality choral music.
 - Participate fully in rehearsals and performances.
 - Exhibit productive rehearsal habits.
- Become an improved, more independent vocalist.
 - Understand and demonstrate the elements of good choral singing.
 - Read, understand and respond to music notation.
- Gain a greater understanding and appreciation for choral music.
 - Experience, perform and study a varied repertoire of choral music.
 - Evaluate choral performances; your own and others.

CHOIR HABITS

- **Be committed:** Care about your team. Attend all performances & rehearsals.
- **Be respectful:** Watch what you say to and about others.
- **Be engaged:** Positively & actively participate.
- **Be helpful:** If something needs to be done, help out.
- **Be a vocalist:** Take care of your voice. Drink water, but no food or gum.
- **Be a good citizen:** Follow all school rules. (No electronic devices in class!)

GRADING

A = 93%, A- = 90%, B+ = 87%, B = 83%, B- = 80%, C+ = 77%, C = 73%, C- = 70%, D+ = 67%, D = 63%, D- = 60%, F = 59.9

Polyphony

- Performances = 40%
- Assessments/Tests = 25%
- Daily Participation = 20%
- Assignments = 5%
- Friday Assignments = 10%

Luminosa & Virsonum

- Performances = 30%
- Assessments/Tests = 35%
- Daily Participation = 20%
- Assignments = 5%
- Friday Assignments = 10%

Performances = 40% (Polyphony) = 30% (Luminosa & Virsonum)

- Students are required to attend ALL choir performances. Remember you are part of a team.
- Major performances are worth 100 points. Minor Performances are worth 50 points.
- At all performances, students earn: 25% if on time. 25% if dressed appropriately. 50% for attending.

Steps to request to be excused from a performance:

- Fill out a **Performance Absence Request Form** at least 2 weeks before the proposed absence.
- Collect a response from Mr. M. and a possible performance make-up assignment.
- Complete the performance make-up assignment and turn it in to Mr. M. by the assigned deadline.
- If the **Performance Absence Request Form** is not filled out completely and turned in to Mr. M. at least 2 weeks before the requested absence the request will be denied.
- Mr. M. will determine whether a performance absence request will be excused with these designations:
 - Unavoidable: No need for make-up assignment. Student has no way of avoiding the conflict. (Ex: Emergencies, unexpected sickness, funerals)
 - Partially Unavoidable: Significant make-up assignment required. Conflict is mostly out of the student's control. (Ex: Family vacations, trips, other activities.)
 - Partially Unavoidable School Activity: Lesser make-up assignment required. Conflict is mostly out of the student's control. (Ex: UHS sport, club, activity)
 - Avoidable: No make-up assignment available. Student chooses an activity over a choir commitment. (Ex: work, concert, other activities.)
- Significant make-up assignment:
 - Major Performance = 4-page paper, performance video.
 - Minor Performance = 2-page paper, performance video.
- Lesser make-up assignment:
 - Major Performance = 2-page paper, performance video.
 - Minor Performance = 1-page paper, performance video.

Assessments/Tests = 25% (Polyphony) = 35% (Luminosa & Virsonum)

- Includes all written, vocal and online tests, quizzes and assignments functioning as assessments.

Daily Rehearsal = 20%

- You earn 5 points a day when you are physically present in class.
- How points are lost:
 - 1-2 absences or 1-2 tardies: no points lost
 - 3+ tardies: 3 points lost
 - 3-4 absences: 5 points lost
 - 5+ absences: 10 points lost
 - Unexcused/Suspension: 10 points lost (no make-up available)
 - Not following proper rehearsal habits: teacher's discretion
- It is the student's responsibility to make up anything missed due to an absence.
- 5 points can be made up by practicing 30 min. at home and filling out a **Daily Rehearsal Make Up Form**.
- **Tardy procedures:**
 - If you are tardy to class you will be required to sign the tardy log
 - Your teacher will hold you for 2 minutes after class (6 minutes is plenty to get where you need to go)
 - After 4 tardies your teacher will let you know that on the 5th tardy you will be assigned a Saturday school
 - If you are more than 10 minutes late to any class you'll need a slip from the attendance office

Assignments = 5%

- Includes anything that is not considered an assessment, test or quiz. (points vary)

Friday Assignments = 10%

- Includes all Friday assignments.

INFORMATION & POLICIES

Late Work Policy - Any assignment, test, quiz, etc. with a deadline that is turned in late, docked 40%.

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy - Here is a link to the high school's website (www.uintahhigh.net ([Links to an external site.](#))) where you can find the high school cheating/plagiarism policy. The document is listed under **Links and Resources** on the main page. Please make sure you are familiar with it.

This is a full year class. 3 trimesters. - Please look at your schedule now for the full year and schedule things so that you can participate all 3 trimesters. Please inform Mr. Merryweather if there are any possible conflicts. (Ex. Leaving for a mission, graduating early, working the last term, etc.)

Eligibility - You must be eligible (above a 2.0 GPA, no more than 1 F) to participate in choir due to activities outside of the school day. (competitions, trips, etc.) In most cases these activities will be required. You must maintain eligibility throughout the school year. If you are not eligible to attend a required event your grade will reflect your failure to participate. Eligibility is outlined in the student handbook.

Uniforms - Official choir uniforms will be used for the duration of the school year at concerts, festivals, competitions and other possible performances.

Polyphony Women

- Black velvet top - purchased by student - \$45

- Black/red satin skirt – borrowed from choral program - \$5
- Black dressy shoes (no flip flops/sandals) – provided by student

Polyphony Men

- Black tux slacks, white tux shirt – purchased by student - \$45
- Black tux jacket, black vest, red tie, red pocket square – borrowed from choral program - \$5
- Black dress shoes – provided by student

Luminosa Women

- Black velvet top - purchased by student - \$45
- Black/silver satin skirt – borrowed from choral program - \$5
- Black dressy shoes (no flip flops/sandals) – provided by student

Virsonum Men

- Black tux slacks, white tux shirt – purchased by student - \$45
- Black vest, silver tie, silver pocket square – borrowed from choral program - \$5
- Black dress shoes – provided by student

Fees (ALL FEES DUE(except t-shirt): SEP. 28, 2023)

- Class Fee: \$20
 - Polyphony: One-time fee for the year.
 - Luminosa & Virsonum: One-time fee for the year.
- Uniform fee: \$45 (See uniform descriptions above)
- Uniform rental fee: \$5 (See uniform descriptions above)
- Choir t-shirt fee: \$15 (Due in January)
- Potential costs for choir travel activities.

Trips - In a performance ensemble there are times when we will travel to perform. All school rules apply during these activities. Parents will be responsible for retrieving students who are sent home for breaking the rules. Cost and information for these trips will be sent home.

Choir Procedures

- ***Chromebooks***: You may only use your Chromebook in class for the assigned in class activity. If you are found using it for anything else you will be removed from the activity and given busy work to complete by the end of class.
- ***Leaving Class***: If you need to use the restroom, get a drink, or leave class for another legitimate reason ask your teacher for permission, if yes then:
 - Sign the hall pass log either from your teacher’s Canvas course or on the Chromebook assigned to your classroom
 - Take a hall pass
 - Do what you need to do and quickly return to class
 - Return the hall pass
 - Sign back in

Online Choir – Canvas - We will be using Canvas extensively this year. Rehearsal resources and required assignments, tests, etc. will be outlined. It will also be used as a Friday - Check In for Friday online class attendance. Please check Canvas weekly, (or daily) especially if you are absent.

Calendar - Here is a link to the choir calendar: <http://uintahhighchoir.weebly.com/calendar.html>

Choir Release Form: If you are willing to let your child ride with the director, a chaperone or another student to a performance during school hours in order to attend a performance please check the appropriate response and sign below. This releases the driver and the school from any liability.

This release form is primarily for the possible community performances Polyphony does around Christmas time and for the Singing Valentines Fundraiser we do with all the advanced choirs in February.

Yes _____ No _____

Parent Signature: _____

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION IN THIS SYLLABUS!

Print Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____