

# Foundational Choir

Instructor: Mr. Sólás B. Lalgee  
[slalgee@oakarts.org](mailto:slalgee@oakarts.org)

Fall 2014 thru Spring 2015  
M/F: Period 4 in Room 205

<http://blalgee.blogspot.com>

## Course Description:

This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of choral and ensemble singing to Vocal Music students, grade 6 to 8. In this course, students study a variety of repertoire from many different genres and will learn the basics of choral and vocal technique. Specifically, students will work on matching pitch, intonation, singing in 2-4-part harmony, developing blend and vowel shape, and reading music. As part of a rigorous pre-professional arts program, students also learn the value of professionalism in the choir rehearsal, proper concert and rehearsal etiquette, and the ability to work in harmony and dynamically with one another to create a wonderful piece of music. In addition, all students are coached on the art of stage presence so that they learn the process of making a song "performance-ready."

## Course Objectives:

Acquire and reinforce the ability to listen and retain melodies and harmonies in sections and individually.

Learn proper diction and enunciation

Gain perspective of Tone, Intonation and what it is to blend and stagger breathing

Demonstrate an idea of dynamic control and sensibility

Ability to focus in rehearsal and apply good self-management skills and be supportive of others learning processes

Demonstrate excellent performance skills

Master basic choral terminology

Memorize material in a timely manner and pass all repertoire checks

Demonstrate healthy vocal technique

This class will be modeling the "Studio Habits Of Mind"  
(see attached handout)

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## Course Policies:

Students will respect and follow all OSA policies outlined in the student handbook. Students will arrive on time, prepared and focused.

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*(This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with or without advanced notice)*

No late homework will be accepted unless the student has an excused absence (list of approved excused absences can be found in the student handbook).

**Note: For an excused absence, a student must turn in the assignment the day after he/she returns to school. There are no exceptions.**

**All work must be done in pencil.**

**Note: Any work done in pen will receive half credit**

**Students will receive 0 out of 15 participation points for each absence. In order to have the absence excused, a parent/guardian must send an email notification with the reason for student's absence within one week's time.**

No eating, chewing gum, or use of cell phones in the classroom (unless as requested by the teacher or upon request of the student for educational purposes. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in deducted daily participation points.

## Class Materials:

Students must take care of their music folders. Any damage caused by the student will have to be replaced at their families cost.

## Grading Criteria:

Students are graded on a point system. There are no category weightings:

### **Professionalism: 15 points per day**

Students should arrive quietly and immediately retrieve their music folders, be ready in their seat and wait for class to begin. Students are also required to make sure their work space is clean upon leaving and

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whatever changes have been made to the class are returned to normal. In addition, I'm instituting a kindness clause. Learning to sing can be frustrating and difficult. Students need to be supportive of themselves and each other by creating a sense of safety through kindness and patience. Also, bathroom use should happen before class not during. Emergencies happen and will be allowed of course without penalty, but body awareness is part of life. Go before class. Water is fine, no juice or soda...we have carpets. NO GUM! Finally, Silence while the teacher/class focus is elsewhere musically or section wise is imperative to rehearsal. Two warnings will be given, then 0 points will be awarded. Quiet patience is required to audition and be accepted into rehearsals of upper-level performance ensembles.

## **Daily Participation: 15 points per day**

Students will receive 15 points per day for their attentiveness, and discussion feedback. Lack of participation and/or disruptive behavior will reduce points at the discretion of the instructor.

Tardiness (not being fully prepared and in place at the bell) will result in a loss of 5 pts. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> late arrival students will receive 0 pts. for that day. Any further tardiness will result in a phone call home. The same goes for excessive talking as well with the same loss of pts.

## **Homework: 10 points per assignment**

From time to time home study will be necessary, at such times there will be a student practice log for parents to sign off on.

## **Repertoire Checks: 25 points**

Students will be quizzed regularly on a variety of topics including Musical vocabulary words and directions, part memorization, retention and performance. In addition, Historical/Social aspects of the works covered in the class will also be a part of what is checked during these repertoire checks.

## **Performances (50 points)**

**There are several Vocal/Music Department Performances throughout the year both on site and off. Participation is mandatory for all of them. At least seven performances will occur over the year.**

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I have READ and UNDERSTAND this syllabus and agree to its terms:

Parent / Guardian Name

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PRINT

Parent / Guardian Signature

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Student Name

---

PRINT

Student Signature

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DATE

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