

One Voice Ensemble

Instructor: Mr. Sólás B. Lalgee
slalgee@oakarts.org

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

<http://blalgee.blogspot.com>

The One Voice Ensemble is the foundational ensemble course in the High School Vocal Department. The primary focus of this course is to establish in the students an understanding, appreciation and foundation of basic vocal and choral applications and technical process. 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 with one another to create a wonderful piece of music. In this course, students study and perform a variety of repertoire from many different genres, with a special emphasis on inspirational, American Folk music, Jazz Choral works, World Music repertoire. Specifically, students will work on matching pitch, intonation, singing in 4-part harmony and beyond, developing blend and vowel shape, and reading music.

Course Objectives:

The main objective of the One Voice Ensemble is to prepare vocal students for the higher levels of Chamber Choir and Vocal Rush. Students will focus primarily on the following topics:

Tone, Intonation, and Blend

Demonstrate an idea of dynamic control and sensibility

Demonstrate excellent retention of simple and complex harmonies

Sight-Singing and music literacy

Stage presence and performance techniques

Collaboration

Demonstrate a strong work ethic

Professionalism and Rehearsal Etiquette

Demonstrate a comprehensive mastery of vocalist vocabulary

Prepare, focus and perform well

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Observe the practices of the “Studio Habits Of Mind”
(attached handout)

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

(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

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also required to make sure their work space is clean upon leaving and 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 3rd 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

PRINT

Parent / Guardian Signature

DATE

•
Student Name

PRINT

Student Signature

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