



## AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2015 | 2016 Syllabus

ALA Course Name: JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT CHOIR  
Teacher: Rick Lunt  
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### Course: JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT CHOIR

Grade Level: 7-8

Credit: 1.0

Pre-requisites: N/A

Course Requirements: Materials fee, Costume fee, and Music Festival fee.

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The ALA Junior High Concert Choir is an auditioned mixed choir of 20-40 singers. The Concert Choir studies accompanied choral literature from a variety of genres. Interested students are strongly recommended to invest themselves in private voice lessons. An annual choir festival is encouraged in the curriculum, though not required, as it provides unique opportunities for significant personal and ensemble musical enhancement, academic growth and life-lasting memories of incredible times with some of your best friends!

### II. CLASS PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES, & EXPECTATIONS

Class Procedures:

- Weekly updates will be recorded in Power School each Monday by 10:00 a.m.
- Assessments will be given often to assess current mastery of content.
- See school-wide disclosure for attendance or grading processes.

Class Guidelines:

- Respect the people, furniture, and equipment in the choir room and other rehearsal rooms.
- Do not speak when others are speaking.
- Be prepared and on task always.
- Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.
- Be in assigned seat with music and pencil when the bell rings.
- Observe all school rules and the dress code in the student handbook.

Class Expectations:

- Provide lasting memories and positive relationships by building people.
- Transfer all calendar dates to personal and family calendars.

- Participate in all rehearsals, performances, choir fund-raisers, etc.
- I allow ALA to use any photos, audio recordings, videotapes or films, including internet use, in which I appear as a member of the ALA Choir program without any restrictions. I understand that if I do not wish to grant this permission, I must present this in writing to Mr. Lunt by Sept. 1.
- I understand that even though I may be 16, I am required to travel to and from school functions on the school bus unless prior agreement was made between parent and Mr. Lunt.
- I understand that I am required to pick up every costume, music, instrument, etc. after each class period or concert. Failure to do so will be a loss in Participation Points and items will be placed weekly in the lost and found.
- It is the responsibility of students and parents to pay all financial obligations by the designated due dates.
- I understand that if a student needs special accommodations, (i.e. not reading out loud, needs to sit in the front, etc.) I am expected to email Mr. Lunt regarding the desired accommodations.
- I understand that for whatever reason a student may not be going on tour at the last minute, receiving a full refund is not possible. Unfortunately, your housing, travel, and others fees have already been calculated and paid for and those monies are not refundable to us.

#### Class rules.

- Respect the people, furniture, and equipment in the choir room and other rehearsal rooms.
- Do not speak when others are speaking.
- Be prepared and on task always.
- Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.
- Be in assigned seat with music and pencil when the bell rings.
- Observe all school rules and the dress code in the student handbook.
- Do your best daily to assist in achieving our collective goals.

### III. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following learning outcomes are expected at the conclusion of this course. Below are the learning targets, assignments and assessments that will assist with mastery of content.

Learning Targets	Content of Assignments & Assessments
<p><b>PERFORM:</b> Students will use body, voice, and instruments as means of musical expression.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce a beautiful tone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tone, Posture, Breathing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Demonstrate technical performance skills. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Perform rhythms, practice habits, Hold melodic &amp; harmonic parts, match vowels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Demonstrate notational literacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify &amp; define standard notation terms and symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Demonstrate productive rehearsal habits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stay focused, be prepared, participate fully, respect others, demonstrate good care of voice, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Perform varied repertoire. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Demonstrate ability to communicate feelings through choral performance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>CREATE:</b> Students will improvise and compose music.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvise rhythmic and melodic ideas and phrases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explore possibilities of sound that can be explored with voice.</li> <li>○ Improvise melodic and rhythmic melodies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Record musical thoughts in standard notation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Notate improvised and or dictated rhythms and pitches separately.</li> <li>○ Combine notated rhythms and pitches to make a melody and notate it on the staff.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>LISTEN   ANALYZE   EVALUATE:</b> Students will expand music listening skills and use music vocabulary to analyze and evaluate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze and evaluate musical examples. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Describe music events / changes as they occur in performance repertoire or in recorded examples.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Evaluate ensemble performances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ List important criteria for determining the quality of a music performance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Document personal growth as a musician. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evaluate strengths and weaknesses in personal performance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>DISCOVER MEANING:</b> Students will find avenues of understanding and communication through connecting music to personal growth, the joy of living, traditions, culture, and history.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine how music relates to personal development and enjoyment of life. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evaluate how the study of music expands the ability to communicate with and understand others.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Experience how music connects us to history, culture, heritage, and community.</li> <li>• Demonstrate how people celebrate, mourn, create, communicate ideas, help others, express feelings, come together, and/or enjoy themselves through music.</li> </ul>

## IV. FINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Please see the attachment, "Choir Finance Form," online for further information.

- All Concert Choir students are required to pay for the designated costume.

## V. GRADING / ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES.

### A. REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION (65%)

There are two elements of the rehearsal participation score: attendance and rehearsal participation. Students are given 10 points each rehearsal for attendance. The students' rehearsal participation score will be determined by level of participation, their attitude, and their behavior during rehearsals.

#### Daily Rehearsal Participation

As this is a movement and vocal class, you are expected to be punctual to class and are required to know the information given in prior classes, especially if absent.

Point System (Maximum points per day = 4):

- 4 points = Punctual and ready; great participation throughout class.
- 3 points = Parent or doctor excused, school activity, vacation, excused tardy.
- 2 points = Unexcused tardy; not in assigned attire; poor participation.
- 1 points = Unexcused absence; truancy; suspended.

The following are additional causes for losing points:

talking during a rehearsal, putting on makeup, wearing a hat, folder not put away, doing other homework in class, using improper language, costumes left behind, not having a pencil, using a cell phone, or leaning in chair.

#### Making up Rehearsal Participation Points

To make-up excused absences, students must use an Absence Make-up Form available in the Choir Room. The students must complete 30 minutes of private rehearsal with our current repertoire to make-up the absence. In most cases, the student will be able to make-up all the points they missed by being absent, but the instructor reserves the right to reward or to remove points as necessary. Students will have 2-weeks from the day of the absence to make up the points.

#### Sit-Out Day

Students will be allowed one sit-out day per term. He or she will be expected to document the procedures of the class that day and new knowledge that was obtained. Personal meaning and discoveries must be documented. This information should be written in an essay format and will be turned into the teacher at the end of the period. If this information is not turned in, the student will be treated as if he or she were absent. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time that the student sits out, 5 points will be given for participation that day, 3<sup>rd</sup> time is 4 points, 4<sup>th</sup> time is 3 points and so on.

### B. PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION (20%)

Each required performance is worth a pre-determined amount of points. If the student attends all performances on time, they will earn all possible points.

1. Concert Attendance — 50 points each; forty points if late, 25 if excused one week in advance. All choir members must sign in at each function to receive points. If you are caught signing someone else in, whom is not attending, you will lose all points possible for that event.
2. Written Performance Evaluation — 50 points
3. Flier and Poster Distribution – 50 points

Criteria and Points Eared for Concerts, Performances, and Extra Rehearsals

- On Time for Call Time = 50 points
  - Correct Concert Attire = 25 points
  - Concert Etiquette = 50 points
  - Compelling Performance = 75 points
- TOTAL POINTS = 200

Excused Performance Absense

In the rare circumstance that a student needs to miss a performance, the instructor must receive e-mail notification from a parent/gaurdian at least one week prior to the performance. If the instructor receives adequate notification and the instructor deems the circumstances justified, the student will be eligible to make-up a portion or all of that performance's points by copleted the performance make-up assignment.

Unexcused Performance Absences

If a student misses a performance without prior notificaiton, the student may not be able to make-up that performance's points and it may result in the student being dismissed from the choir. Of course, the instructor reserves the right to discern when circumstances are emergency situations out of the hands of the student. Nevertheless, the eligibility of the student to make-up points will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

C. CHORAL ENRICHMENT EXERCISE (5%)

You must complete one Enrichment Exercise per semester. If you are enrolled in more than one choir, only prepare one Enrichment Assignment. All submissions are to be typed and double-spaced and are due one week before the last day of the quarter. Late Enrichment Exercises will onlybe accepted until the end of that quarter and points will be deducted.

Deadline reminders will be discussed in class, as well as on the board. It is the students responsibility to turn these in in a timely manner.

E. CLASS ASSESSMENTS (10%)

The quizzes may cover classroom procedures, sight-reading, sectionals, music marking, dance checks, singing checks, or choreography. Quizzes must be made up within two weeks of the absence or they will not be able to be made up.

## F. GRADING / ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES.

- Rehearsal Participation = 65%
- Performance Participation = 20%
- Choral Enrichment Exercise = 5%
- Class Assessments = 10%

## VI. CLASS POLICIES AND DRESS/COSTUME CODE

### Class Policies:

- Music should be handled with care. During the semester you will be handling a lot of music. It is your responsibility to return the music in the same condition that you received it in or you will be billed \$3.00 per octavo missing.

### Costume Expectations:

- Men: Tie required.
- Women: Blue dress and jewelry required.

## VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Music folder and pencil at each rehearsals.
- For class costume information, see website under "Forms; Wardrobe Instructions."

## VIII. FINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Please see the attachment, "Choir Finance Plan," online for further information.

- The FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL by the final deadline on February 1st. All choir students are encouraged to sell tickets to designated concerts.
- All choir students will be asked by The Choir Booster Club to participate in their annual Donation Letter Campaign. Each student will be asked to supply 10 addresses of family and friends, both in and out of state, whom they believe would be willing to donate to the ALA Choir Program. Donations over \$100 qualify as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes. Each donor will be listed in our concert programs throughout the year. You are not expected to pay postage.
- Fund Raisers will be provided for those going on tour or that need costume assistance.

## IX. CLASS POLICIES AND DRESS | COSTUME CODE

### Class Policies:

- Music should be handled with care. During the semester you will be handling a lot of music. It is your responsibility to return the music in the same condition that you received it in or you will be billed \$3.00 per octavo missing.
- REPERTOIRE SELECTION: Students in ALA Choirs will sing a variety of literature and will experience a wide spectrum of music from the early Renaissance through the 20th Century. By studying these genres one will expect to perform religious music.

*It is the position of MENC, The National Association for Music Education, that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education. The*

*omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience.*

If one were to attempt to exclude religious music from school performances, one would basically eliminate all the classical church literature. It is the intent of Mr. Lunt and ALA to treat with honor and dignity the rights of all students to worship as they choose according to their own conscience. The study of nondenominational church music will be limited to its musical, historical, and cultural elements. See Mr. Lunt with any questions.

Costume Codes:

- The Concert Choir student owns the dress and tuxedo. Any alterations and cleaning are the responsibility of each individual student.
- If assigned jewelry is lost, you will be required to purchase another set. If jewelry is not worn during a concert, you will not receive full participation points.
- Concert Choir members are required to purchase the required costume as designated online under "Forms" as *Wardrobe Instructions*.

## **X. SCHOOL POLICIES AND ELIGIBILITY**

Concert Choir students are expected to follow all ALA policies.



**American Leadership Academy  
Fine Arts Department  
CHOIR**

**Disclosure Document  
JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT CHOIR**

- I allow ALA to use any photo's, audio recordings, videotapes or films, including Internet use, in which I appear as a member of a Concert Choir without any restriction.
- I agree to abide by all of the above policies and procedures in the Concert Choir Disclosure Document, which I have read and understand.

Print student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign up for class group texting:

- Type in the "TO" box: 81010
- Type in the "MESSAGE" box: @16jhcc

If you are not receiving emails from Mr. Lunt, please provide the emails below:

Student Email:

Parent Email: