

Seycove Secondary
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Grade 8 Choir Course Outline 2016-2017

Instructor: Melodie Langevin
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Class Times: Block 7

Week 1 Tuesday: 11:30-12:50
Thursday: 9:55-11:15

Week 2 Monday: 8:30-9:50
Wednesday: 11:30-12:50
Friday: 9:55-11:15

Course Description

Grade 8 Choir is a non-auditioned ensemble for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of vocal technique, gain basic music literacy, and become confident performing on a stage. Students enrolled in this course will sing quality choral repertoire and acquire skills that will enable them to perform at a high level not only in the choir classroom but in their academic courses as well.

Course Objectives

Students will develop their musicianship and vocal proficiency through learning fundamental music theory concepts, practicing ear training and sight singing, and rehearsing and performing varied choral repertoire. At the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate a marked improvement in vocal production and technique, music literacy, and performance etiquette. Particular attention will be paid to ensemble participation in the contexts of rehearsal and performance.

Attendance and Rehearsal Etiquette

As with any music ensemble or sports team, Individual and group success is affected by attendance. **Failure to attend class, sectionals, dress rehearsals, or sound checks and/or chronic lateness will not only have a negative impact on term and final marks, but it will negatively affect ensemble morale as well.** Serious illness or other legitimate excuses are to be communicated to Ms. Langevin as soon as possible. To eliminate confusion about excused and unexcused absences, please refer to the *Seycove Music Attendance Policies* (attached).

Students are expected to come to rehearsal prepared. This means bringing a pencil to make markings in the music and keeping an organized and tidy binder or folder. Students are also strongly encouraged to review difficult passages in our repertoire before rehearsal. During rehearsal, talking should be infrequent and should stop altogether when the director is speaking.

Website

www.seycovemusic.weebly.com

Visit our website frequently for more information about Seycove's choral and band programs and to keep up-to-date with announcements, dates and times, and other pertinent information.

Sectionals

A section leader will be chosen for each section of your ensemble. These students will be responsible for leading sectionals, taking attendance, and providing feedback. Your section leader will also be the one you approach if you miss a rehearsal and/or need music.

Concert Dress and Etiquette

Choir 8 students wear customized "Seycove Music" T-shirts with all black for performances. Please note that "all black" includes socks and shoes. Students will receive their T-shirts at the beginning of the year.

Students are expected to demonstrate professionalism at all times while representing the Seycove music program at concerts and events, whether they are performing or in the audience. When performing at our own events, all students participate in concert **set-up and tear-down**. Student initiative will raise performance marks.

Concerts

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. Concert dates are listed below; ensure that you are available for all of the major performances. Concerts are your exams and there are no alternative exam dates. Missing a concert should only happen in very serious circumstances.

Assessment

Daily Participation	40%
Performances	30%
Assignments and Projects	15%
Theory and Singing Tests	15%

Performances and Events

Remembrance Day Ceremony	November 10, 2016
Grade 8 Choir Retreat	November 16-18, 2016
Christmas Concert	December 9, 2016
Term 2 Choir 8 In-Class Performance	February 23, 2017
Year-End Concert	June 16, 2017

*Dates are subject to change and smaller performance opportunities may arise.

Seycove Choirs

Rehearsal Expectations

Attendance

Attendance will be taken **immediately** at the beginning of class so we do not waste valuable rehearsal time. Please arrive as early as possible.

Preparation

The rehearsal schedule will be on the board before you arrive so you can put your repertoire in order. This will allow us to transition smoothly from one piece to the next.

Binder/Folder

Please keep your binder or folder tidy and organized. This means making sure you have all of the current repertoire and that you recycle/return any repertoire that you no longer need.

Pencil

It is essential that you bring a pencil to rehearsal. You think you'll remember that subtle crescendo without writing it in, but you won't. If you forget your pencil, you will have to use the giant pencil of shame.

Music

If you are given an original score to sing from, please treat it with care. Originals are expensive and we would like them to last as long as possible.

Food and Drinks

Do not leave food/drinks or empty food/drink containers in the choir room (for obvious reasons). The only time food or drinks are allowed on the risers is during noon hour rehearsals.

Ensemble Etiquette

Chatting with your neighbour while the director is talking is disrespectful. As soon as rehearsal begins, everyone's focus is on the director and the music.

Remember that we are endeavouring to achieve a high level of choral performance at all times; in order to sing well as an ensemble, all members must trust one another and treat each other with respect.

End of Rehearsal

It is expected that all of your belongings – including torn sheets of paper and hoodies – will leave the choir room with you at the end of rehearsal.

Set Up/Tear Down

All students participate in performance set up and tear down. A failure to do either will result in a loss of participation and performance marks.

Seycove Music Attendance Policies

If you have...

- a. **a regularly occurring conflict between this course and another activity, such as an outside-of-school team**, speak with your instructor about it in September. If you are not available for most of the classes, it's just not fair to others and you will not be allowed to take this course.
- b. **a medical appointment, illness or emergency**, your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please let your instructor know as soon as you know about an upcoming absence. Please make sure your parents call the office to excuse your absence. Please make your best effort not to schedule these appointments during our class time.
- c. **a field trip**, your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please let your instructor know as soon as you know about an upcoming absence. The office will mark you absent.
- d. **a game for a Seycove team**, your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please let your instructor know at the start of the season about any upcoming absences. The office will mark you absent.
- e. **a practice or team meeting, these do NOT take precedence over class time and you should not miss class for them, generally**. If you absolutely must attend an important practice that conflicts with your class, bring your instructor your team schedule at the start of the season and together you will plan which, if any, classes/rehearsals you will miss.
- f. **a project or a make-up test to do, volunteering or a club meeting**. These do not take precedence over our class time, even if we meet in an x-block. You should not miss rehearsal for these things, generally, but if you ask permission ahead of time it might be possible depending on the rehearsal plan.
- g. **a family event, such as a birthday, vacation or other events of a personal nature**. Your parents have the right to call the school to excuse you in these instances, however please be aware that all absences impact the group negatively and impede progress. All students have made personal sacrifices in order to attend and have a great experience, including planning their personal time to happen later. Whenever possible, book personal events outside of class time.
- h. **a part time job. You should never miss school, even x-block classes, for a part-time job**. Employers cannot insist that you miss school. Give employers your school schedule early to avoid conflicts later. If it happens, we wouldn't want you to lose your job, but let's talk about how we can ensure it never happens again.