



SEYCOVE MUSIC

2022-2023

Seycove Secondary Choral Program

Handbook | 2022-2023

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Dear Seycove Choir Students and Families,

Welcome to all our new singers and welcome back to those returning! I hope you had a wonderful summer and that you'll tell me all about it when I see you this week.

This is going to be an exciting year for a number of reasons, the most obvious being that my husband and I are expecting our first child in November! A passionate new choir director will be replacing me while I learn how to be a mom. This is such a wonderful opportunity for our program to be injected with fresh energy and inspiration and I can't wait to be there cheering you on from the audience throughout the year! I will be with you and the interim director every step of the way. As we prepare for the days ahead, I'd like to provide you with some important information via this year's Seycove Choirs Handbook. You'll find details about everything from expectations and leadership opportunities to required materials and concert attire. There is a contract to sign and submit once you've read through its entirety.

X-BLOCK MUSIC CLASSES

There will be no X-Block classes in the first week of school. The *first* X-Block classes are as follows:

- Monday, Sept. 12th: Intermediate Vocal Jazz, lunch; Intermediate Choir (10), 3:05-4:30
- Tuesday, Sept. 13th: TB Advanced Choir (11, 12), lunch; Sr. Chamber, 3:05-4:30
- Wednesday, Sept. 14th: SA Advanced Choir (11, 12), lunch; Choir 8/9, 3:05-4:30
- Thursday, Sept. 15th: Jazz in the Box, 3:05-4:30

SEYCOVE MUSIC PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Every parent of a child in the music program is a member of the SMPA and warmly encouraged to join this fun and dynamic group of parents! The SMPA supports all students in the music program by providing funding for scholarships and bursaries, musical equipment, clinics and workshops, advocacy and more. We'll be looking for parents to join our SMPA executive this year so we hope there might be some interest amongst our wonderful families!

INTRODUCTION TO THE YEAR

7:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st | SEYCOVE CAFETERIA

Please join us for this brief but highly informative meeting. We will discuss the program's structure, plans, and events for the year, including festivals and trips, and other pertinent information.

We have a ton of fun plans in the works and we're so excited to share them with you soon! Thank you for taking the time to read the Seycove Choral Program Handbook 2022-2023, and to submit the contract at the end. I hope to see you at our Introduction to the Year on September 21st!



Melodie Langevin, *Director of Choirs*

This handbook is a detailed explanation of the structure of and requirements for all choral courses at Seycove. It is meant to provide students and parents with guidelines and clarity around important aspects of our program such as values, attendance and expectations, uniforms, performances, and assessment. If every student strives to meet expectations, they will not only be rewarded musically, but academically, emotionally, and socially as well.

Please don't forget to complete and submit the [Start-of-Year](#) (page 9), [Contract](#), and [Media Release](#) forms (page 12). You can choose to use the electronic Google form that's quick and easy!

If you have any questions or concerns, the best way to contact me is via email:

mlangevin@sd44.ca

You can also find a wealth of information and updates on our Seycove Music Program website:

seycovemusic.weebly.com

You can keep up with Seycove Choirs activities and highlights on our Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/seycovechoirs/>

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Mission

The Seycove Choral Program strives to instill in students a lifelong passion for expressing themselves confidently and powerfully in harmony with others. Our mission is to foster the development of musicianship and friendship, artistry and empathy, and self-confidence and aspiration that enriches students' lives beyond the choir room and their school.

Vision

Students in the Seycove Choral Program will share musical experiences both in and far beyond the choir classroom, supporting one another and their communities through the compelling act of singing. They will learn quality repertoire that celebrates diversity, challenges them both musically and artistically, and inspires them to use their voices to lift people up. Our program will be known for its enthusiastic pursuit of fulfilling musical experiences that stay with our singers for a lifetime.

Goals

The steps we take toward realizing our vision will involve establishing an unequivocal focus on community, encouraging students to value diversity, hard work, and kindness. We will strive for exemplary musicianship that allows students to perform the music we learn with authenticity and dynamism, and that motivates them to make and appreciate music in other areas of their lives. As we navigate a changing choral landscape, we will embrace the opportunity to further develop new skills and welcome the opportunity to share musical experiences with each other and our community.

Seycove Choirs Values

Community, Integrity, Artistry, Innovation, Diversity, Advocacy

Seycove Choir Students:

- strive to be inclusive, supportive, and kind
- approach every rehearsal, interaction, and performance with a positive and collaborative spirit
- work hard, respect one another, and celebrate differences
- prioritize their commitment to their ensemble(s)
- believe that the development of technique, knowledge, and skill paves the way to authentic, meaningful, and powerful performances
- recognize the opportunity to effect change through singing
- embrace innovation and change with enthusiasm
- celebrate our successes, ensemble and individual, musical and otherwise

Seycove's Choral Ensembles

Seycove offers students three different categories of choir: **Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, and Vocal Jazz**. *All students sing in Concert Choir*, while students seeking a more robust and varied vocal ensemble experience enroll in Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz. Each ensemble performs in at least one major concert per term.

Choir 8/9 | Students in this ensemble learn the basics of vocal technique, music theory, and choral sound through warm-ups, exercises, sharing sessions, and rehearsing and performing diverse repertoire. Choir 8/9 typically goes on a retreat early in the year.

Intermediate Choir | This is an ensemble for students in Grade 10. Having learned the basics of vocal technique, music theory, and choral sound in Grade 8 and 9, these students will begin to explore different vocal colours, music with more splits and increased range, and a wider variety of musical styles.

Advanced Choir | Advanced Choir is designed to give Senior students the opportunity to sing in the kinds of ensembles they will encounter after graduation. This course offers students the experience of singing in SSAA and TTBB configurations (such as Gracenote, Elektra, Chor Leoni), in small self-directed ensembles (such as musica intima, Fifth Street, Pentatonix), and in large SATB ensembles (such as Vancouver Youth Choir). If possible, this ensemble will attend one or two concerts put on by choirs in their community, depending on health and safety guidelines.

Senior Chamber Choir | This auditioned ensemble performs challenging, multi-divisi repertoire that pushes students to sing with excellent vocal technique, to listen critically, and to have an understanding of tuning, balance, and diction. This ensemble performs frequently throughout the year as Seycove's premier choir and often travels to participate in festivals and competitions. This ensemble is for dedicated singers who will embrace the rigour and time commitment an ensemble of this caliber requires.

Intermediate Vocal Jazz | Students who want to explore the world of vocal jazz will enjoy learning the fundamentals in Int. Vocal Jazz. This ensemble performs a wide range of contemporary vocal jazz, R&B, and pop, both a cappella and with rhythm section. In vocal jazz we experiment with different styles of singing, technique, and improvisation. Int. Vocal Jazz has two major performances in a year - Feb Blues and Cabaret.

Jazz in the Box | JITB is an auditioned 16-18 voice ensemble that provides students with the most challenging singing experience Seycove has to offer. As a small group, JITB forces the singers to work hard with their section and as individuals to sing difficult rhythms and harmonies with accuracy and flexibility. JITB performs at numerous events throughout the year.

EQ Vocal Jazz | EQ Vocal Jazz is a course dedicated to the development of the solo voice. Students seeking to gain confidence singing on their own will enjoy exploring their technique and developing their own unique style in the encouraging presence of peers who are on a similar journey. Students work on songs they love and perform often.

Attendance

Your presence is the most important aspect of being part of a choir. An ensemble is only as good as the attendance of all of its singers.

All scheduled X-Block rehearsals, dress rehearsals, concerts, and performances are mandatory. This year's Important Dates are provided on page 7 so that students and their families have ample time to arrange work schedules, vacations, visiting relatives, appointments, etc. Please share these schedules with your parents/guardians, employers, coaches and anyone else with whom you schedule your activities. Work should not be the reason you are absent, and neither should birthday parties, tutoring, or club meetings. These absences will be considered unexcused absences from your scheduled classes and performances. Conflicts will inevitably arise, but will only be acknowledged as excused if they were unavoidable or deemed critical by a parent or guardian.

Submit an Absence Request Form if you encounter an *unavoidable conflict*.

Expectations

It is expected that Seycove Choir Students will:

- demonstrate respect for others and ensure that all members feel welcome and safe
- bring their best attitude and work habits to rehearsals and performances
- be ready to warm-up before or at the sound of the bell
- refrain from using their devices inappropriately during rehearsals and performances
- keep their folder tidy and organized and stored in their designated folder slot
- bring a pencil to rehearsal to mark important breaths, cut-offs, vowel shape, etc.
- write their name (in pencil) on every piece of music received and treat it with care
- NOT leave food/drinks or empty food/drink containers in the choir room
- refrain from chatting in the middle of rehearsal and while Ms. Langevin is talking
- demonstrate respect for music program equipment
- ensure all belongings leave the choir room with them after rehearsal

Materials and Music

Every student in a choral ensemble will be given a choir folder slot and the opportunity to order a professional black choir folder. Music will be distributed in both physical and digital formats and students are encouraged to bring the materials necessary to make musical markings and notes.

Important Dates

September 21	Introduction to the Year
October	Choir retreats (school-based)
October 21	BC Music Educators Association Conference (Pro-D)
November 10	Remembrance Day Ceremony
December 8	Winter Choir Concert
December 16	Santa's Breakfast (if going ahead)
January - TBD	Elementary School Visits
February 28	Feb Blues
March 3	Spring Concert
May 1	Music Monday
May 27	Cabaret in the Cove 2023
June 9	Year-End Choir Concert
June 20	Graduation Ceremony (Sr. Chamber)

*An event in blue is an important performance

Assessment

*Students are assessed continuously throughout the semester based on their individual growth, engagement, and participation during class. **Failure to attend class prevents active student engagement and represents a lack of personal and social responsibility.***

Student progress will be assessed based on the following:

Daily Participation

Students will complete rubric-based self-assessments throughout the term. Their self-assessment may be positively or negatively affected by:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rehearsal preparedness- Folder, music, and pencil in hand- Positive energy, enthusiasm, and amiability- Demonstration of leadership and initiative- Focused effort and attentive listening- Full participation in all elements of rehearsal- Willingness to take risks and challenge themselves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Excessive socializing or talking- Gum or food (unless a lunch hour class)- Garbage left behind after class- Materials not being used in class- Unfocused, idle participation- Poor or negative attitude- Inappropriate use of electronic devices- Disruptive behaviour
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Students will also be observed by Ms. Langevin during each rehearsal and their performance informally assessed based on an ensemble-specific rubric.

Assignments and Projects

Theory and Singing Tests

Performances

Failure to attend a performance will negatively impact a student's learning and the ensemble's experience.

The breakdown of marks will be as follows:

Daily Participation	40%
Performances	35%
Theory and Singing Tests	15%
Assignments and Projects	10%

Concert Requirements

Seycove's choral ensembles are performance-based courses. Performance dates are communicated in this document and it is expected that students will make every effort to participate in the culmination of everyone's work each term. In extreme cases, please speak with Ms. Langevin.

Concert Attire

Audiences hear what they see! All ensembles have specific concert attire for performances:

Choir 8/9

- Seycove Music T-Shirt (Grade 8's only)
- Black, long-sleeve collared shirt or black blouse (Grade 9's only)
- Black dress pants or skirt (no jeans, leggings, yoga pants, etc.)
- Black dress shoes and black socks (no sneakers, boots, sandals etc.)

Intermediate Choir

- Black, long-sleeve collared shirt or black blouse
- Black dress pants or skirt (no jeans, yoga pants, etc.)
- Black dress shoes and black socks (no sneakers, boots, sandals etc.)

Advanced Choir

- Black, long-sleeve collared shirt or black blouse
- Black dress pants or skirt (no jeans, yoga pants, etc.)
- Black dress shoes and black socks (no sneakers, boots, sandals etc.)

Senior Chamber Choir

- Black Sr. Chamber multi-way dress
- Black, long-sleeve collared shirt with blue tie
- Black dress pants or tights (no jeans, baggy pants, etc.)
- Black dress shoes and black socks (no sneakers, boots, sandals etc.)

Intermediate VJ

- TBD (usually black with colour accent chosen by the ensemble)

Jazz in the Box

- TBD (chosen by the ensemble)

A black binder or folder is required at every performance unless otherwise stated. Please use the [Start-of-Year Order Form](#) to order your required concert attire and/or a personalized black choir folder.

Leadership Opportunities

Leaders in our program keep their peers informed, motivated, and heard throughout the school year. Members who take on Teaching Assistant and/or Section Leader roles will receive extra credit and volunteer hours for their leadership. Two new roles this year will be the Choir President, a senior student who works closely with Ms. Langevin throughout the year, and a Social Chair who will be in charge of building choir community. Both will receive extra credit and volunteer hours.

Choir President

- Liaison between Ms. Langevin and other choir members
- Takes on parts of the rehearsal if Ms. Langevin is busy
- Encourages and holds singers accountable to expectations
- Communicates with all students in the program (sending out reminders, concert info, etc.)
- Distributes/organizes/collects music
- Complete any other duties deemed necessary for the success of the Seycove Choir Program

Social Chair

- Works with Ms. Langevin and Choir President to plan choir events
- Creating announcements pertaining to choir
- Posting on the Seycove Choirs Instagram account
- Spearheading recruitment efforts
- Documents the year by taking photos at events
- Invites student body to events

Teaching Assistant

- Mentor to younger singers (Grades 8 to 10)
- Takes attendance, if needed
- Helps with warming up the ensemble
- Sings within the ensemble and occasionally runs sectionals
- Works with Ms. Langevin to plan events

Section Leader

- Competent choral singer
- Encouraging to other students
- Identifies sections of music that need work
- Runs sectionals during rehearsal
- Work well with others
- Organizes a minimum of one sectional outside of rehearsal per term
- Communicate problem spots to Ms. Langevin

Section Leader positions are available in:

- Intermediate Choir
- Advanced Choir (SSAA and TTBB)
- Sr. Chamber Choir

Music Trips

You'll remember outstanding concerts, workshops, and retreats, but nothing compares to the memories you'll make on a music trip. Traveling and performing far from home with your ensemble will be one of the most rewarding experiences you have throughout your time in the program.

Choir students usually have the opportunity to go on three different levels of trips: retreats, domestic trips, and international trips. Retreats are annual, and the domestic and international trips alternate each year. A choir student's experience might look as follows:

- Grade 8: Retreat
- Grade 9: Retreat
- Grade 10: Retreat and domestic trip
- Grade 11: Retreat and international trip
- Grade 12: Retreat and domestic trip

Fundraising

In an effort to ensure that all students are able to participate in music trips, the Seycove Music Program and its Seycove Music Parents' Association offer all students opportunities to fundraise. Our program's most successful fundraiser has been Purdys Chocolates, with students earning anywhere from \$25 to \$2500 after the campaign.

All music students have a fundraising account that the district allows families to draw from for music trips. At this time, and at the discretion of the district, funds are only able to be used for travel and cannot be used for music lessons, instrument rental and the purchase of music supplies related to the student's music education.

It is important to note that music students' balances cannot be accessed after graduation or upon withdrawal from the program. The funds are raised expressly to support a student's music education at Seycove. However, a student's account balance can be transferred to a sibling, another student in the program, or will be donated to the general program.

Contract

If you prefer, you can submit this contract electronically [here!](#)

Student

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read the Choir Handbook and understand the expectations, guidelines and requirements of the course. I have also studied the calendar and am aware of my responsibilities to attend and perform at mandatory events, such as the Winter, Spring, and Year-End concerts, as well as any festivals or performances that are specific requirements of the choir in which I sing.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian

I have read the Choir Handbook and understand the requirements of the course. I have examined the calendar.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Media Release Form

In an effort to showcase to our community the musical and creative talent we have in our program, we sometimes use photos or videos that may include your singer on our website, in brochures, or on social media. Such photos and videos will always reflect the high level of musicality and performance that we strive for at Seycove.

I understand that the Seycove Music Program may take photos and/or videos of students during class and at events for use in educational or promotional materials in print, multimedia, or web form. Photos/videos will only be used for purposes related to the Seycove Music program.

- I DO grant permission for the use of my singer's photo/video.
- I DO NOT grant permission for the use of my singer's photo/video.