



# CHORAL ENSEMBLES SYLLABUS

## Vox Nova | Women's Chorale | Symphonic Chorus

### 2024-2025

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Online Syllabus agreement form due by Friday, August 30, 2024

#### Course Description

The purpose of the choral music experience at PCCA is to develop advanced technique and musicianship through ensemble singing. Our choirs perform several concert programs over the course of the school year. Our repertoire will accurately represent a variety of historical periods and styles and will reflect the finest choral literature available. Singing in choir educates the entire person: mind, body, and spirit. Therefore, choral music is vital in a well-rounded education.

#### Goals and Objectives

- To provide students with a high-quality musical experience through singing choral music
- To build a safe artistic environment for vocal and interpersonal development
- To create opportunities to learn about music, including its development, construction, and expression
- To learn how music can serve and benefit our entire community and its culture
- To develop leadership skills within individuals to be able to lead within their own discipline throughout life

#### Expectations

1. You will attend class regularly and on time. You will use the restroom for emergencies only.
2. You will participate in all class functions including discussions, performing, and other activities as they relate to our ensemble.
3. You are an auditioned member of one of the most elite arts programs in the United States and your demeanor must reflect this at all times. No cell phones will be used in-class unless approved by the teacher.
4. You will have your music and mark it during each rehearsal. When you make a mistake, mark the problem so that it does not occur again. If you are absent, check with another choir member for new markings.
5. You will respect all students who have been placed in a leadership position. If you are a student leader, you will treat others with respect and patience. Leaders model the behavior of all choir members.
6. Your body is your instrument, so you will use your knowledge of vocal health to govern your actions.

#### Regular Practice Outside of School

You must commit to learning your choir music in rehearsal, sectional rehearsals, and on your own. It is imperative that every choir member knows his/her pitches, rhythms, and overall musical markings in order to make a meaningful contribution to our ensemble.

#### Required Materials

- Printed Music (provided): Your music is your textbook for this course. When it is returned, it must be in good condition. You will receive an invoice for the replacement cost of lost or damaged music.
- Digital Music: All students must have a school-owned device each day in class. You will download your music from Canvas and use your school-provided device/computer when singing.
- Concert attire

- Pinellas County School Insurance: All students must have the supplemental school insurance to participate in this ensemble due to the after-school requirements.

## Classroom Policies

### Daily Routine

You are expected to be in your seat and prepared to sing when the final bell rings.

### Tardy, Restroom, Accompanist, Hall Pass, Class absence Policy

- The GHS and District Tardy Policy will be enforced. Excessive tardiness will be grounds for PCCA probation and reassignment.
- Students are not permitted to attend club meetings or other activities during rehearsal time.
- Students may use the restroom pass one at a time. Please return to the classroom promptly. Hall passes to other classes and to the office will not be issued during rehearsal. Our time is valuable and cannot be replicated or made up.
- Students may have two excused absences per grading period without penalty. After two absences in choir, students will receive zeros for each subsequent absence.

### Assessment

For Voice and Piano Majors, the following assessments are used to determine your grade for this course.

Daily Grade-35% of final grade: Attentiveness, participation, written assignments, bringing required materials to class-including laptops, score marking, singing exams, rehearsal evaluation form (in case of illness), etc.

Attitude and Effort-10% of final grade

Applied Lesson Grade-55% of final grade (only counts toward your grade in one chorus class)

For students who are not voice or piano majors, the following assessments are used to determine your grade for this course.

Daily Grade-90% of final grade: Attentiveness, participation, written assignments, bringing required materials to class including laptops, score marking, singing exams, rehearsal evaluation form (in case of illness), etc.

Attitude and Effort-10% of final grade

### Grading Scale

90-100%=A    80-89%=B    70-79%=C    60-69%=D    59% and below=F

### Semester Exam Grades

The mid-term exam grade for voice and piano majors will be a letter grade based upon your semester jury score.

8.0-10.0=A    7.5-7.9=B    7.0-7.4=C    6.0-6.9=D    5.9 and below=F

Students who are not voice or piano majors will be given an alternative final exam that will require self-reflection and writing as their mid-term exam. The final exam will reflect the choir's MPA score.

### Attendance at After-School Rehearsals and Performances

There is a zero-tolerance policy on attendance: attendance at all rehearsals after the school day is mandatory. No one will be permitted to leave early. You will receive advance notice of all rehearsals. You are responsible for transportation to and from all rehearsals.

The only excuses that I will accept for missing a required rehearsal are the following:

- Illness (only with excused absence from the school day with a doctor's note)
- Death in the immediate family
- Recognized religious holidays

Absences will only be excused after the request is submitted in writing two weeks before the rehearsal or performance, signed by the parent or guardian. Note that doctor's appointments will not be excused for

rehearsals. Lack of transportation is also not an excuse. Please schedule these appointments around the rehearsal schedule. It is crucial to have the entire ensemble at all rehearsals.

If you work, be sure that your employer schedules you around your PCCA schedule and that you have sufficient time to get to work from rehearsal.

Each unexcused absence to a rehearsal will result in the quarter grade being lowered by one letter grade.

Since this course is a performance-based curriculum, performances are required for successful completion of the class. Concert dates are made available well in advance of the performance. The same attendance policy exists for concerts as it does for rehearsals, with one exception:

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for the quarter.

### **Attire for Women's Chorale and Symphonic Chorus**

The PCCA choirs will wear choir robes for all formal performances. These robes will remain at the school until the actual performance time and will be turned in immediately after the performance. You are responsible for the following clothing items:

*Men:* Black pants, black shoes, black socks, white t-shirt (short sleeve is fine)

*Women:* Black pants, black shoes, black socks or black stockings and black shoes; white t-shirt (short sleeve is fine)

Everyone's hair is to be a natural color (not blue or purple, etc.), neat, and styled away from your face. One set of stud-style earrings is permitted, but NO other jewelry. No perfume, cologne, or scented hairspray is not permitted on stage due to allergies. Please wear plenty of deodorant.

If you are not in compliance with any of these attire policies at a concert, you will be asked to immediately correct the problem or you will not perform, resulting in an unexcused absence.

### **Choir Robe Cleaning Money**

Singers in Women's Chorale and Symphonic Chorus will turn in \$10.00 at the beginning of the school year to cover the cost of robe dry cleaning.

### **Attire for Vox Nova**

Vox Nova students will be responsible for the following attire. Students will need to purchase a PCCA shirt as our "class B" uniform.

*Men:* Black, long-sleeved, button-up dress shirt; black dress slacks, black belt, black socks, black shoes

*Women:* Black dress (length to the knee) or black blouse and black slacks; black stockings; black dress shoes;

### **Student Leadership Positions for the PCCA Choirs**

The following positions are needed to maintain the administrative aspects and traditions of our choral program. If you are interested in one of these positions, please apply via the online application form.

#### Chorusmaster

Junior or Senior student. Responsibilities will include supervising all administrative activities of the chorus. Student must have outstanding leadership organization, and communication skills.

#### Librarians

Sophomore, Junior, or Senior student from each chorus. The librarian is in charge of distributing, collecting, and cataloging all choral music for that ensemble in both paper and digital formats (class iPads).

#### Section Leaders

Sophomore, Junior, or Senior students in each section, of each choir. Section leaders assist with attendance, formulating a seating chart, and leading small group rehearsals. Piano proficiency is recommended but not required.

**2024-2025 Choir Schedule**  
 (dates are subject to change-updated 8/1/24)

Friday, Aug. 23	All State Choir Registration Deadline	In Class
Friday, Aug. 30	Online Choir Handbook Agreement Form Due	In Class
Tuesday, Sept. 10	All State Musicianship Test-Largo HS	3:00pm
Friday, Oct. 4	After school Dress Rehearsal	2:00-4:00
<b>Monday, Oct. 7</b>	<b>Fall Choral Concert</b> with Middle Schools	<b>7:00 pm</b>
Tuesday, Oct. 8	All State Vocal Auditions-Largo HS	3:00 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 3	Choir Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, Dec. 4	Choir Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church	6:00-9:00pm
Thursday, Dec. 5	Dress Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church	6:00-9:00pm
<b>Friday, Dec. 6</b>	<b>Winter Music Department Concert</b> -First. Pres. St. Pete	7:00 pm
Jan. 9-11	All State Choir Rehearsals and Performance	All Day
February 7-8	Florida Vocal Association Solo and Ensemble	All Day
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Choral MPA Evaluation</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Monday, May. 5	Spring Concept Dress Rehearsal	2:00-4:30
<b>Tuesday, May 6</b>	<b>Music Department Prism Concert</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>

### **Vocal Major Juries**

- At the end of each semester, voice majors perform a jury for the voice faculty. You must pass your jury to be in good standing in the program. Students must dress professionally for their jury.
- Seniors in the vocal department do not complete performance juries in lieu of a recital preview.
- All voice majors must sing a technical jury in addition to their performance jury. The student must complete a sight-reading evaluation for two faculty members. The score for this is averaged in the overall jury score. This will be scheduled at a different time than the performance jury.

### **Vocal Major Senior Recital Preview**

At the end of the first semester, senior voice majors will perform a Senior Recital Preview and it will be evaluated in a similar manner to a jury, but with additional elements. You will have your recital fully prepared for this preview and the faculty will pick two selections from your repertoire list to hear. You will not know what these pieces will be until the time of your preview. Be sure to have all eight pieces in a notebook for your accompanist and a typed list of your eight selections for the panel. Seniors are exempt from the technical jury requirement.

You must pass this preview to obtain approval to perform your senior recital. If you do not pass, you must perform another preview in late January that will involve four selections by the voice faculty. If it is decided that the student is not prepared for the recital at that time, the recital will be cancelled and you will not receive a PCCA Certificate of Completion.

### **Student Recital Series**

Student recital attendance is mandatory for all music majors. Attendance is taken at recitals by turning in a written critique on a form provided at the recital. Everyone must hand in their own form to a faculty member. Failure to attend a student recital or hand in your form will result in the final quarter grade being lowered by one full letter grade for each recital missed.

All music majors are required to perform on a student recital once per semester beginning their sophomore year. At the end of the semester, if your applied teacher informs me that you did not perform on a recital and there are no extenuating circumstances, I will lower your final semester grade by one letter grade. Performing as a soloist is an integral part of this program. Freshmen are exempt from this rule unless their applied teacher assigns the student to sing on a recital. You must sign up with your applied teacher and obtain their signature to be added to the recital. It is your responsibility to schedule rehearsals with your accompanist.

### **Voice Studio Masterclass Series**

Vocal majors are required to attend their voice teacher's studio class on the assigned Thursday after school once a month. This is in addition to our recital requirement. Some studio classes will be combined with all teachers' studios and will feature special guests or discuss specific topics. If a voice student misses their teacher's voice studio, they should make up this time by attending another voice teacher's studio in the same month. Vocal Majors must perform twice a semester in vocal studio.

### **Free and Reduced Lunches, Solo and Ensemble, All State Musicianship Test**

The vocal department requires students to audition for events that involve extra expenses such as FVA *Solo and Ensemble*. Financial requirements for these activities can only be waived if families fill out the Gibbs High School Fee Reduction/Waiver Request Form for co-curricular fees.

### Daily Practice Outside of School

You must commit to a minimum of 30 minutes per day to practice your applied lesson music. Voice lessons provide you with the tools that you need to be successful. But these tools are useless if they are not practiced. Additional time may be required to practice assigned choral repertoire.

### Vocal Major Probation

Students who are on probation must improve the area(s) for which they are deficient. Mr. Clear will track all students who are on probation using the table below. Please find the indicated area(s) for which you are on probation and begin to follow these guidelines throughout the semester.

Reason for probation status	Required action for the semester
Artistic Growth/Arts GPA	The student will schedule a weekly 30 minute monitored practice time with Mr. Clear when the student must practice after school, before school, or during lunch in the choir room practice rooms. Mr. Clear will monitor the student's practice and digitally chart the student's progress. If the student's primary failing class is music theory, the student must attend tutoring with Mrs. Adair and document this time with Mrs. Adair's signature.
Academics-GPA	The student will attend homework club at least one time a week after school. The student will attend one weekly tutoring session of at least 30 minutes with his/her teacher for whom the lowest gradebook grade is given. Homework club and tutoring sessions will be documented on a table with the supervising teacher's signature.
Academics-Graduation Requirement(s)	The student will attend homework club at least once a week and one tutoring session per week for at least 30 minutes with the teacher(s) for whom failing grades have been given. Homework club and tutoring sessions will be documented on a table with the supervising teacher's signature.
Behavior	The student will be assigned a weekly essay writing prompt which should be at least one page typed double-spaced 12 pt. font per essay explaining selected passages chosen by Mr. Clear from the PCCA handbook. In addition, parents will email all affected teachers on a weekly basis to check in on their student's behavior.
Participation	The student will provide a list of performances he/she will attend that semester before the end of January or August of the given semester. If school attendance is the issue, parents will communicate with Mr. Clear on a weekly basis via email regarding the student's attendance and participation.