

Cumberland High School
Unified Arts Department
2016-2017

Clef Singers

Instructor: Janita Ducharme
Room: CH 1
Website: www.cumberlandchorus.com

Grade(s): 10-12
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Clef Singers is a select class of highly trained and musically gifted singers. It is a performance-oriented course with extra-curricular participation mandatory. Clef Singers perform extensively throughout the state and New England area. Students must audition for the class. *Prerequisites: One full year in CHS Chorus. Membership to ensemble by audition.*

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:

Students will learn choral singing, vocal, and performance techniques through a variety of vocalises and choral and/or small ensemble arrangements developed for performance.

TEXT/STANDARDS:

A variety of choral arrangements by various composers and arrangers chosen by the conductor.

RI Music GSEs: M1 (9-12)-1, M3 (9-12)-1, M4 (9-12)-2
ELA GSEs: W-10

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

- Choral folder or 3-ring binder to organize music.
- A pre-sharpened or mechanical pencil (with plenty of replacement lead).
- Concert attire is:
 - Males: Black dress pants, white dress shirt, black dress shoes, black socks, black bow tie, black vest (optional).
 - Females: Clef Singers gowns, black nylons, black shoes (minimal heel), minimal jewelry

MAJOR ASSESSMENTS:

- Common Tasks
 - Written critiques of the chorus's concert performances.
 - Audio Recording Assignment – Performance based assessment held once per quarter.
 - Quartets – Performance based assessment held once per quarter.
 - Spot checks – Performance based assessment held various times per quarter.
- Common Course Assessment
 - Written critiques of the chorus's concert performances.
 - Audio Recording Assignment – Performance based assessment held once per quarter.
 - Quartets – Performance based assessment held once per quarter.
 - Spot checks – Performance based assessment held various times per quarter.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

<u>Quarter/Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
	Developing good vocal habits and techniques	Vocalises that focus on techniques, specifically diaphragmatic breathing, vertical space, and using the breath through the musical phrase.
Quarter 1	Learning to harmonize Sight Sing Notation	Choral warm-ups Students learn to read notation by following the contour of their melodic or harmonic lines while the teacher/accompanist plays parts.

Quarter 2	Preparation of holiday concert program	Students rehearse parts, both in sections and as a full chorus, of the music being prepared for concert performance.
	Following the cues of the conductor	Students follow the hand motions of the conductor to learn cut offs, phrasing, dynamics, etc. This is done through choral warm-ups and the songs being prepared for concert.
	Developing more in depth vocal technique with more challenging vocalises.	Vocalises that stress vocal line, learning to use the breath to better form the musical phrase and learning to use the breath to sing wider intervals.
	Developing the student's ability to harmonize.	More challenging choral warm-ups and the addition of the do-do-re-do warm-up.
	Continuing to develop the ability to read notation.	Students learn to read notation by following the contour of their melodic or harmonic lines while the teacher/accompanist plays parts.
	Continue progress on the pieces for the holiday concert program.	Learning parts, musical expression of the text through dynamics and articulation.
	Continue development in following the conductor.	Students follow the hand motions of the conductor to learn cut offs, phrasing, dynamics, etc. This is done through choral warm-ups and the songs being prepared for concert.

Quarters 3 and 4 continue to develop the techniques described above, through more challenging exercises and new music that is being prepared for the spring performances. Spring music is usually more challenging to accommodate the development of the singers in Clef.

Common Syllabus – Shared Expectations for all CHS Courses

CORE VALUES AND BELIEF STATEMENT

The Cumberland High School Community promotes development of a culture in which students are respectful, responsible, and ready to succeed. We guide our students to be actively involved in the learning process that combines academic depth of understanding with higher order thinking, problem-solving, risk-taking, and creativity. We offer opportunities for students, as members of a 21st century world society, to become life-long learners and informed, productive citizens.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students will:

- Communicate effectively and critically through reading, writing, and speaking.
- Exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills related to information media and technology.
- Apply effective problem solving skills independently and collaboratively.
- Analyze and evaluate a variety of sources for reliability and credibility.
- Act with respect, tolerance, courtesy and compassion.
- Act responsibly and display good citizenship and leadership.

- Attend weekly Wednesday night rehearsals and all dress rehearsals
 - Dress rehearsals: December 13th (Tuesday), March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th
- Attend and perform at all Clef Singers performances. (Available on website.)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

All members of the classroom will:

- Bring all their music and a pencil to rehearsals (Amateurs use their memories; Professionals use pencils.)
- Bring a water bottle to rehearsal
- Respect the abilities, views and rights of others
- Show respect for the speaker
- Use appropriate language
- Show consideration for emotional and physical space
- Consider remarks that are positive and/or constructive
- Be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn
- Display leadership within ensemble, sectionals, and performances
- Any Clef Singer who misses more than 3 evening rehearsals may be asked to re-audition or asked to leave the ensemble.

FORMAL EVALUATION:

A+	96.5-100
A	93.5-96.4
A-	89.5-93.4
B+	86.5-89.4
B	83.5-86.4
B-	79.5-83.4
C+	76.5-79.4
C	73.5-76.4
C-	69.5-73.4
F	50-69.4
I	Indicates missing work or evidence
NC	No Credit – used for Semester Grades only

See CHS Grading Guidelines for 2016-2017 for further explanation of the grading system.

Clef – EVENING REHEARSALS

Clef Singers are expected to attend and participate in weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals from 7:00pm – 8:30pm in the Chorus Room. Everyone's attendance is expected and encouraged to ensure the quality of our performances. Carpooling to rehearsals and performances is encouraged. Please see the dates below, mark your calendars, and plan accordingly. Performance dates may change. Extra performances may be added throughout the school year. **If you must miss a rehearsal, you must provide me with a notice (email, note, parent contact, etc.) at least 7 days beforehand.** Emergencies will be taken into consideration. Missed performances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Semester 1

Wednesday, September 21 – Chorus Event – International Day of Peace – [AVoice4Peace](#)

Saturday, September 24 – Senior All-State Prep Day at Providence College – 9:00-3:30

Wednesday, October 5 – Chorus Rehearsal

Thursday, October 6 – Chowder Fundraiser, 6PM

Wednesday, October 12 – NO REHEARSALS (Spirit Week)

Friday, October 14 – Homecoming Game, CHS

*Friday, October 28 – ECET, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI

Wednesday, October 19 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 2 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 16 – Chorus & Clef Singers Pictures (Auditorium)

Saturday, November 19 – Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 19 – All-State Auditions

Wednesday, November 23 – NO REHEARSALS (Thanksgiving Break)

*Friday, December 2 – State House Performance, 9AM

Tuesday, December 6 – Open House, 6PM-8PM

Wednesday, December 7 – Masons Performance, 6:30PM, Lafayette Lodge

Tuesday, December 13 – Chorus & Clef Singers Dress Rehearsal (Auditorium) 5:30PM

Thursday, December 15 – Holiday Concert, 6PM Concert Call

Wednesday, December 21 – Clef Singers Monastery Concert, 6PM Concert Call

Semester 2

Wednesday, January 4 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 18 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 1 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 8 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 15 – NO REHEARSALS (Parent Teacher Conferences)

Wednesday, February 22 – NO REHEARSALS (February Break)

Wednesday, March 8 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 15 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 22 – Chorus & Clef Singers Dress Rehearsal (Auditorium) 5:30PM

Thursday, March 23 – Festival Concert, 6PM Concert Call

*Tuesday, March 28-Thursday, March 30 – RIACDA Choral Festival

Wednesday, April 12 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 26 – Chorus & Clef Singers Dress Rehearsal (Auditorium) 5:30PM

Thursday, April 27 – All-Chorus Night, McCourt MS

Wednesday, May 3 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 10 – Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 17 – Fine Arts Showcase (Select Ensembles)

Wednesday, May 24 – Chorus & Clef Singers Dress Rehearsal (Auditorium) 5:30PM

Thursday, May 25 – Spring Concert, 6PM Concert Call

Thursday, June 1 – Clef Singers Senior Showcase, 6PM Concert Call (Foyer)

*Tuesday, June 6 – Distinguished Scholars, 8AM, (Clef Singers)

Tuesday, June 6 – Clef Singers Banquet, 6PM

Wednesday, June 7 – Final Clef Singers Rehearsal, 6PM

Monday, June 12 – Graduation (Clef Singers – All Day)

*During School Day