



CHOIR DEPARTMENT

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

MRS. MEGAN FRANKE, DIRECTOR

MRS. ROSSANA COTA, DIRECTOR

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CHOIR DEPARTMENT CLASSES

Cantare

Instructor: Mrs. Cota

It is a mixed chorale. Concentration is on the fundamentals of healthy singing, sight singing, and music theory in addition to a variety of music repertoire. This group performs a variety of choral music. They perform at all school concerts & district festivals.

Cantare meets during regular school hours for majors and non-majors, currently during 3rd & 4th block. Extra rehearsals may be called prior to performance time. Members are required to attend all of those rehearsals.

Requirements for acceptance into this ensemble include, but are not limited to:

- Vocal Technique
- Music theory skills
- Sight-reading ability (melodic & rhythmic)
- Part Independence
- Pitch retention
- Teamwork/Positive Attitude
- Professionalism

Les Chanteuses

Instructor: Mrs. Cota

This ensemble is for women at the Las Vegas Academy. In this ensemble, we work to develop the female voice. We concentrate on the fundamentals of healthy singing, sight singing, and music theory in addition to a variety of music repertoire. This group performs a variety of choral music. They perform at all school concerts & district festivals.

Les Chanteuses meets during regular school hours, currently during the 1st & 2nd block. Extra rehearsals may be called prior to performance time. Members are required to attend all of those rehearsals.

Requirements for acceptance into this ensemble include, but are not limited to:

- Vocal Technique
- Music theory skills
- Sight-reading ability (melodic & rhythmic)
- Part Independence
- Pitch retention
- Teamwork/Positive Attitude
- Professionalism

Laudate (Elective, half-credit)

Instructors: Mrs. Cota & Mrs. Franke

This ensemble is an elective men's choir at the Las Vegas Academy. In this choir, we work to develop the male voice. We concentrate on the fundamentals of healthy singing, sight-singing and music theory, in addition to a variety of music repertoire. This group performs a variety of choral music – they perform at all school concerts and possible district festivals.

Laudate will meet as a late-bird class on Tuesdays from 2:15-3:45 pm. This class is open to vocal majors and all non-majors. Non-majors must audition to join. In addition, prior to performance times there may be extra rehearsals. Members are required to attend all of those rehearsals and concerts.

Requirements for acceptance into this ensemble include, but are not limited to:

- Vocal Technique
- Music theory skills
- Sight-reading ability (melodic & rhythmic)
- Part Independence
- Pitch retention
- Teamwork/Positive Attitude
- Professionalism

Konzert Chorale

Instructor: Mrs. Cota

This is Las Vegas Academy's select concert choir. It is a group that performs a variety of choral literature. They perform at choral district festivals as well as school concerts, community events and masterwork concerts with the top choral ensembles.

Konzert Chorale meets during regular school hours, currently during 5th & 6th block. In addition, prior to performance times there may be extra rehearsals. Members are required to attend all of those rehearsals. Members of Konzert Chorale will be required to participate in LVA Solo and Ensemble Festival.

It is intended that Konzert Chorale will participate in one out-of-state tour annually. All members are required to travel.

Requirements for acceptance into this ensemble include, but are not limited to:

- Advanced Vocal Technique
- Advanced Music theory skills
- Sight-reading ability (melodic & rhythmic)
- Part Independence
- Pitch retention
- Teamwork/Positive Attitude
- Professionalism

Bella Voz

Instructor: Mrs. Franke

This is LVA's most select women's vocal ensemble. They perform a variety of musical genres. This group performs around the community and receives advanced vocal & musical training. They also perform in all district festivals and contests.

Bella Voz is for choir majors who have participated in several years of choral music and/or private vocal training. In addition to strong and competent vocal technique, good general musicianship is essential. This class is usually for upper classmen.

Requirements for acceptance are based upon, but not limited to the following categories:

- Advanced Vocal Technique
- Advanced music theory knowledge
- Sight-reading (melodic & rhythmic)
- Part independence
- Pitch retention
- Leadership
- Teamwork/Positive Attitude
- Professionalism

Bella Voz meets during regular school hours, currently 5th & 6th Block. In addition, they may be required to attend morning and evening rehearsals when necessary as well as all choral department performances and extra 'gigs' around the community. They are also required to participate in LVA Solo and Ensemble Festival. It is intended that Bella Voz will participate in one or more major out of state/country tour each school year. Travel is required for every member. This is a very demanding class that requires great commitment, punctuality, and flexibility.

Las Vegas Academy Singers

Instructor: Mrs. Franke

This is LVA's top vocal ensemble. They perform a variety of musical genres. This group performs at the majority of the community, and school events and all district festivals.

The Academy Singers is a select group of students chosen for their high level of music ability and their ability to blend in the ensemble. Any choir major who has participated in several years of choral music and/or private vocal training is eligible TO AUDITION for membership. There are several factors that

contribute to the acceptance to this prestigious class. Because this is the premier ensemble at the Las Vegas Academy, another very critical part of the audition process for this ensemble is a professional attitude. Things such as tardies, classroom attitude, grades, and discipline will weigh strongly on the decision in the selection of this ensemble. In addition to strong and competent vocal technique, good general musicianship is essential. Although there are no grade or age criteria, this class is usually for upper classmen.

The following are requirements that make you eligible for acceptance to this ensemble. Acceptance is based upon, but not limited to the following categories:

- Advanced Vocal Technique
- Advanced music theory knowledge
- Sight-reading (melodic & rhythmic)
- Part Independence
- Pitch retention
- Leadership
- Teamwork/Positive Attitude
- Professionalism

The Academy Singers meet during regular school hours—currently during 7th and 8th block. In addition, they will be required to attend morning and evening rehearsals when necessary as well as all choral department performances and extra ‘gigs’ around the community. These gigs are mandatory and essential to the learning experience. Members of Academy Singers will be required to participate in the LVA Solo and Ensemble Festival. It is intended that the Academy Singers will participate in one or more major out of state/country tour each school year. Travel for each member is mandatory. This is a very demanding class that requires great commitment, punctuality, and flexibility. Students who accept their position in this ensemble accept the Academy Singers as priority one.

GRADING

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be determined by a percentage of points earned during the nine-week grading period in relation to the total points possible. Letter grades will be given based on the following scale:

A	90-100% of the total points possible
B	80-89% of the total points possible
C	70-79% of the total points possible
D	60-69% of the total points possible
F	0-59% of the total points possible

100% of the student’s quarter grade will be based on the following:

30% FORMATIVE	70% SUMMATIVE
Daily Participation – 10%	Weekly Preparation – 10%
Written Assignments – 10%	Summative Part Tests – 10%
Formative Part Checks – 10%	Dress Rehearsals/Sectionals – 20%
	Concerts/Performances – 20%
	Peer Review – 10%

Semester Grade

Quarter grades will be averaged with the final exam grade according to the following percentages to obtain semester grades:

- Quarter 1 or 3 = 40%
- Quarter 2 or 4 = 40%
- Final Exam/Solo Jury = 20%

Explanation of Grading Policy

1. **Participation** – Each student will be given a weekly grade based upon attendance and active participation. Those who come to class on time and regularly participate are eligible to earn ten points for the day. These points do not belong to the student until the end of the day. Some or all of the points can be lost at the discretion of the director for the following reasons:
 - Chewing gum, drinking or eating food in the classroom (only water is allowed)
 - Misbehaving-being disrespectful to the director/para-professional/guest conductor/classmate, excessive talking at inappropriate times, or insubordination – improper conduct will result in lowered participation grade, detention and/or behavior referral
 - Tardiness-arriving late to class with no pass
 - Unpreparedness-not being where you need to be when you need to be there, and not having the items you need (music, pencil, folder, etc...)
 - Absence/Lack of Participation-missing school, rehearsal, or a performance for any reason (see make-up work directions)
 - Illness - There will be times when you are ailing and unable to sing. While it should be every singers #1 goal to protect their instrument, prolonged vocal rest or the inability to sing must be accompanied by a doctor's excuse. Simple illnesses such as a cold do not excuse you from rehearsal. If students are unable to sing in rehearsal they will sit out and complete a rehearsal review sheet to be turned in at the end of class – if the student actively participates, this will fulfill their daily participation points. Students who do this more than two consecutive days must provide a doctor's note explaining the inability to sing.

2. **After School Rehearsals, Sectionals and Performances** – Attendance at after school rehearsals, sectionals and performances affect both ensemble grade and eligibility. Performance grades are based on:
 - **Proper Concert Attire** – Students who fail to wear complete concert attire will have their grade for that concert lowered by one letter and at the discretion of the director, may not be allowed to perform (see Concert Attire Section)
 - **Punctuality** – Students are expected to be on time. Students who are late for a rehearsal or performance will lose points. Students must sign in with chaperones or student leaders by call time. Also, students must be picked up directly following a performance – at least 15 minutes following the conclusion of an event (usually no later than 9:00 pm)
 - **Attendance** – Students who have missed several days of class may not be allowed to perform – a successful music check with the director will be required and it will be up to the director's discretion if they are able to perform. If students do not pass, they will be given an alternative assignment. Students who have an unapproved absence to a dress rehearsal may not be allowed to perform in the following concert.
 - **Adherence to the Code of Conduct for Rehearsal or Performance Etiquette** (See Music Department Handbook)
 - **Concert Tear Down/Clean-Up** – Choirs will receive set-up/strike assignments throughout the year for each concert. All students are required to stay until the stage is cleared, the house and lobby are cleaned and left better than we found it.

3. **Peer Reviews** - All choir students will be required to attend one **LVA MUSIC DEPARTMENT** Performance that they are NOT participating in, each quarter.
 - This could be a Handbells, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Vocal Jazz, Opera, Piano, Guitar, Band, or Mariachi concert. Performances must be at least 60 minutes long.
 - All Peer reviews should be submitted with a stamped peer review form, concert program and event ticket. NO reviews will be accepted after the last day of the quarter.

4. **Tests/Quizzes/Misc. Assignments/Written Work/Part Tests** – Late work will not be accepted after a week from the last day of the absence.

5. Final Exam/Jury/Internal Auditions -

- **Written Final Exam** – each semester students will be evaluated over fundamental musical concepts, terminology and repertoire
- **Jury Examination** – Students are required to perform a jury examination at the end of the 1st semester. The jury should demonstrate mastery of a significant solo piece. Piece should be appropriate to each student’s level of musical development and must be approved by the instructor prior to the performance. In addition to the singing component of their jury, students are required to submit a written evaluation of the other juries in their class.
- **Internal Auditions** - Every Choir major will participate in an internal audition at the end of every school year (seniors are exempt). These are mandatory for placement into the choir for the next school year. These will serve as a graded jury to assess to the students’ progress throughout the year in sight-reading, vocal quality and professionalism. If students refuse to audition they will be placed in the lowest ensemble possible and they will receive a ‘0’ on their jury grade, which is half of their final exam grade for second semester. If a student knows that they are not returning to LVA may also be exempt after signing a form stating that fact.

Citizenship

Students conduct while representing the Las Vegas Academy Choirs should be of the highest standard. The conduct of each student reflects directly upon the entire school and community. Tardies, unapproved absences, missing materials, class disruptions, disrespect, electronic devices, and non-participation will adversely affect students’ citizenship marks. Students will sign in for each offense in the citizenship log, per class.

Make-Up Work

Students with an approved absence are required to do make-up work in order to receive a grade for the event. To receive an approved absence, parents must submit an absence request via email at least two weeks in advance. Once approved, it is the students’ responsibility to request make-up work for an absence. All make-up work must be turned in within one week of returning to school. Failure to complete make-up work will result in a zero.

We realize “day of” emergencies arise where a student may have to miss an event. If an emergency should arise, the student is responsible to notify the director during that school day. In addition, the student must provide a written note from the parent/guardian within 3 days of returning to school both to the attendance office and to the director. Make-up work will only be given for excused absences.

Approved absences will not be granted when there is a matter of choice. Excuses such as no ride, having to work or baby-sit, and/or no uniform are not acceptable excuses for missing a rehearsal or performance. Students may only be excused from a performance because of illness or other emergencies over which they and the parent have no control. If the student has a choice between attending a music performance and going to another event, his/her responsibility to the ensemble should come first.

Expectations

Concert Expectations

- To verify concert attendance, students must sign-in upon arrival and at the conclusion of the event. All students are required to stay in their assigned seats for the entire concert.
- Students will not be allowed to stay at school after school ends and before the concert. There will NOT be supervision and proper arrangements should be made.
- Students wishing to leave early must submit a written note from parents two weeks prior to the event explaining their request for early dismissal. This will be given at the directors’ discretion.
- Students will have assigned seating in the audience or backstage.
- At the conclusion of the concert (after all students tear-down the set/stage), students must be picked up within 15 minutes after the concert. For the safety of the students, failure to be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of the concert will result in contacting CCSD police.
- Students are expected to remain in appropriate concert attire throughout the entire duration of the event.

Concert Attire

- Gentlemen – Black Tuxedo – Coat, Pants, Bow Tie, Black Vest, White Shirt, Black Leather or Leather-looking dress shoes, Black Socks
 - Ties for Cantare
 - Sneakers, boots, tennis shoes are not acceptable
- Ladies – Black Dress, Black Character Shoes, Nude Hose, Hair and Make-up must be appropriate for a formal performance – styles and colors should be traditional. NO unnatural hair color or styles that would be a distraction on stage. No extra jewelry or piercings.
 - Sneakers, boots, tennis shoes are not acceptable.
 - Head bands for Cantare
 - Necklace for Les Chanteuses
 - Jeweled pins for Konzert Chorale
 - Pearl Earrings and Necklace for Bella Voz
 - Earrings and Brooch for Academy Singers

Students must pay for their formal concert uniform IN FULL by Tuesday, August, 28

Choir Placement

- Ensemble placement is based upon the evaluation of musical skills and concepts in Internal Auditions. In addition, students are required to meet specific ensemble eligibility requirements. Eligibility for Konzert Chorale, Bella Voz and Academy Singers is determined as follows:
 - Daily Attendance – students should demonstrate good daily attendance throughout the school year.
 - Participation – students must be active participants in class every day.
 - Honor Choir, All-State, Solo & Ensemble, Leadership, All Nations - participation in these events is viewed as very important in regard to placement.
 - Concert Attendance – students must be present for every concert. Failure to attend a concert will result in a formal review of eligibility.
 - Citizenship – to establish eligibility students must receive an ‘S’ or an ‘O’ in both semesters.
 - Grades – to establish eligibility students must receive an ‘A’ or a ‘B’ in choir class for both semesters
 - Academics – because of the increased performance expectation and travel commitment for the higher ensembles, students must maintain good academic standing to be eligible for Konzert Chorale, Bella Voz and Academy Singers. Good academic standing is defined as receiving no failing grades in any quarter. Students receiving a failing grade may submit a formal petition to restore eligibility before internal auditions.

****Students who fail to meet eligibility requirements may be given alternate assignments or removed from the ensemble****

Attendance/Tardy Policy

- If a student is late, they will sign in to the Citizenship log. Three tardies will result in the citizenship a lowered citizenship grade and parent contact.
- Please review Music Department Handbook for general attendance policies.

UNIFORM COSTS

Uniforms

Each class will have a formal and informal uniform that they will be required to purchase from the Choir Department. Fittings will be done during class time.

- Cantare —
 - Men – Tux Package includes: tux jacket, pants, vest, white button-down shirt, tie (\$164).
 - Women - Black dresses (\$70). Black character shoes (\$25), Alterations (\$15), Jewelry (\$10).

- Rental options (ELECTIVE STUDENTS ONLY)
 - Women – Dress rental (\$35). Need to purchase black character shoes (\$25) and jewelry (\$10).
 - Men – Tux rental (\$80). Responsible for black socks and black dress shoes.
- Les Chanteuses —
 - Black dress (\$70). Alterations (\$15), Black character shoes (\$25), Jewelry (\$10).
- Konzert Chorale –
 - Men – Tux Package includes: tux jacket, pants, vest, white tux shirt, bow tie (\$164).
 - Women - Black dress (\$70). Alterations (\$15), Black character shoes (\$25), Jewelry (\$10) .
- Bella Voz —
 - Black dress (\$70), Alterations (\$15), Black character shoes (\$25), Jewelry (\$10).
- Academy Singers —
 - Men – Tux Package includes: tux jacket, pants, vest, white tux shirt, bow tie (\$164). AS Embroidered Duffle Bag (\$18). AS Embroidered Jacket (\$55).
 - Women- black dresses (\$90), Alterations (\$15), Black character shoes (\$25), Jewelry (\$10).. AS Embroidered Duffle Bag (\$18). AS Embroidered Jacket (\$55).

Caroling Costumes

- Students are requested not to launder any items except the shirt. Do NOT wash the skirts or capes, muffs,
- Students will be required to pay the cost to replace a damaged or lost item. The cost of replacement will be determined per item. Many of these items (i.e. Skirts & Capes) are irreplaceable if lost or damaged!

Fundraising

Fundraising opportunities will be provided throughout the school year – Including but not limited to:

- Program Advertisements, Gigs, Concert Concessions
 - Smith Center Concert Ticket Sales & All Nations (Mandatory for Symphonic Chorus)
- *Upon graduation or withdrawal from LVA, all funds in the student's account are absorbed into the general choir account. **

Concert/Festival Tours

- Academy Singers, Bella Voz, and Konzert Chorale receive many invitations to perform at national festivals/conventions/universities. Students in these ensembles are expected to attend all scheduled out of town trips. Students who cannot commit to travel will be assigned to another ensemble. Estimated cost will vary depending on the location and length of the trip. It is expected that each student will pay their own way. Students that meet the qualifications may apply for limited financial assistance from the LVA choir department (see Fundraising). Scholarship applications will be available to students at least 3 months prior to the trip.
- It is our desire that every student be able to participate in all choir activities. Students receiving an F or U at the end of a 9-week grading period are placed on academic probation through the student achievement office. These students will be ineligible to travel but may be able to appeal their ineligibility. Students and parents are reminded to meet all deadlines for paperwork, eligibility forms, and payments so that the trip deposits are not jeopardized. Students who are suspended from school or ineligible, and thus are not allowed to travel, forfeit all fees and are responsible for any unpaid balance. **Please refer to the Music Department Handbook for the trip deposit and refund policy.**

Music—Storing & Marking

- Each student will be assigned a binder. This binder will be unique and only used by them for the entire school year.
- Each student is expected to have their music, a pencil, and a notebook at all times.
- **There will be a minimum fine of \$5.00 for EVERY piece of music that is lost or damaged beyond use.**

- Each student will be assigned a shared iPad to be used in class only. They must use only their assigned iPad in any given class. iPads are never to leave the classroom. They are school devices, and their use will be monitored. Students must follow the CCSD policy on electronic devices.
- If a student doesn't follow these expectations, they will lose iPad privileges at the teacher's discretion.
- **Students will be responsible for any damage to their iPad, charging cord, and/or case due to negligence, including the cost of repairs and replacement if necessary.**

Objectives

The Clark County School District Music Content Standards

"Just as there can be no music without learning, no education is complete without music!"

The school district has set standards within the realm of your high school music education program based on the M.E.N.C. National Content Standards

1. Singing—alone and with others—a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments—alone and with others—a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Goals

We want to ...

- Provide you, our students, with a well-rounded music education you can value.
- Provide you with many opportunities for musical success so you will gain the motivation to make music a part of your life.
- Provide you with the opportunity to share your musical experiences and expertise with others at concerts, festivals, competitions, community functions, etc.
- Introduce you to great choral literature in a variety of genres of the past and present.
- Develop a choral program that sets the standard of excellence not only in our community and district, but internationally.
- Continue to increase our musical knowledge and abilities as a teacher and musician by attending conferences, taking classes, and participating in performing groups.
- Promote EXCELLENCE by maintaining the highest EXPECTATIONS!

We want you to ...

- Be literate musicians!
- Have the opportunity to participate in music as a performer, a listener, and composer.
- To understand music—know the terms and how to read and communicate them to others.
- Experience that 'choral high' that you'll never forget and try all of your life to explain.
- Be a better person in all ways (emotionally, mentally, socially, physically, and spiritually) because you took this class!
- EXPECT EXCELLENCE! From yourself and your director, it is our tradition.

Music Selecting

It is our goal at the Las Vegas academy to give your child the best possible education. We will study a variety of styles of music. The U.S. Supreme Court states that public school choirs may study sacred music as long as it does not advance or inhibit religion:

"Sacred music. . . may be included in the curriculum, as long as it is presented in a prudent and objective manner. For instance, the study of art history would be incomplete without the study of the Sistine Chapel, and the study of architecture requires the examination of Renaissance Cathedrals. If it is possible to study Communism without indoctrination, then it must be possible to study sacred music without parochialistic attitudes and sectarian points of view."

The handbook is a living document and subject to change. Students will be given ample notice of any change in policy or rehearsal/performance dates.



LVA CHOIR HANDBOOK RECEIPT FORM

TO BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 2018

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received an electronic copy of the LVA Choir Handbook. I have read it and understand the contents. I agree to abide by the rules and procedures stated in the Handbook.

STUDENT NAME _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

MAJOR CHOIR _____

DATE ___/___/___

PARENT AGREEMENT

I have read my child's electronic copy of the LVA choral handbook and understand the contents. I agree to abide by the rules and procedures stated in the Handbook.

PARENT NAME _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE ___/___/___