

2011-2012 West Potomac High School Choirs Course Descriptions and Uniform Requirement

Advanced Women's Chorus #928916-01 (Pd 4) and 928916-02 (Pd 3)

This ensemble gives each singer an opportunity to transition smoothly and successfully to the high school choral experience.

Entrance requirements:

- an informal interview /hearing by the director, or recommendation from previous choral director
- must be able to sing on pitch
- able to attend all required after school rehearsals and concerts
- purchase the choral uniform. Free /reduced lunch singers given assistance.

Singers will

- Rehearse and perform variety of music in English and other languages, in 2-4 parts.
- Develop and enhance rehearsal and performance skills
- Develop music reading skills, including using solfege syllables to identify and sing pitches correctly, and movement and count-singing to develop rhythmic literacy and precision.
- Become familiar with musical terminology so that all aspects of a choral score are understood.
- Combine with other ensembles in occasional after school rehearsals and concerts.

Students are expected to refer to the published choral calendar on blackboard and the choral website and attend all rehearsals and concerts.

Required Uniform

WPHS concert attire is purchased and owned by the student. The student pays the fee to the choral department, and the director makes a group order with the uniform company for the gown, shoes, and pearls.

- Black "Serena" concert gown, pearls, and shoes. Singers must provide BLACK hose
- **FEE: \$100**, payable to West Potomac HS*
*Those singers who qualify for free/reduced lunch may be subsidized by the WPHS choral boosters, but singers must return the uniform at the end of the year and participate in fundraising activities to offset the cost of the uniform.

Symphonic Mixed Chorus #926015 (Period 1) Women, Gr. 11-12; Men, Gr. 9-12

This is an outstanding **intermediate** choral ensemble in which each singer is dedicated to the choral art. Singers will study and perform a variety of music for SATB chorus, including larger masterworks. This ensemble is the “CORE” of the West Potomac High School choral department!

Entrance to this ensemble is by permission of the instructor. ***Singers not previously enrolled in the WPHS choral program must*** interview with the director, and pass a simple audition; Music reading skills are necessary; however those who have not had sufficient training will be expected to learn the basic sight-reading skills in the first quarter.

The class is intended for returning WP choral students, or new singers who meet the following criteria.

- Understanding of and commitment to the rehearsal process: a team effort which requires self discipline and home practice.
- Ability to read music and/or have solfege experience ; **OR** make every effort to improve upon little or no music reading experience, showing improvement by being tested on regular intervals.
- Commitment to attend all required after school rehearsals and concerts as indicated on the choral calendar ;
- Purchase the choral uniform; Free /reduced lunch singers given assistance.

Required Uniform

WPHS concert attire is purchased and owned by the student. The student pays the fee to the choral department, and the director makes a group order with the uniform company for the gown, shoes, pearls, and full tuxedo outfit for the men, excluding socks and shoes.

- **Women:** Black “Serena” concert gown, pearls, and shoes. Singers must provide BLACK hose
- **Men:** Black Tuxedo jacket, pants, cummerbund, white wing-tip tux shirt, black bow tie; Singers must provide Black dress shoes and black socks
- **FEE: \$100,** payable to West Potomac HS*

*Those singers who qualify for free/reduced lunch may be subsidized by the WPHS choral boosters, but singers must return the uniform at the end of the year and participate in fundraising activities to offset the cost of the uniform.

Advanced Vocal Ensembles

The *Chamber Singers* and *Bella Voce* select ensembles are intended for the highly motivated, disciplined and musically talented student. They are also the representative outreach ensembles of West Potomac HS, and perform many concerts throughout the year, both during and after school, during the week and on weekends, at community functions, elementary schools, and private business venues. Students who audition for these ensembles **must**

- Have a strong commitment to choral excellence.
 - Have strong organizational and management skills
 - Be at least a rising sophomore at the time of the audition
 - Show evidence of past successful musical experience in a previous choral ensemble at West Potomac, including excellent rehearsal discipline, attendance, and ability to work with peers
 - Have strong sight-reading skills
 - Be able to sing a vocal part alone in a quartet (SSAA or SATB)
 - Practice at home regularly and come prepared for each rehearsal with pitches and rhythms learned.
- **Intensive two-day auditions for the upcoming year are held each May. After singers have been selected through this process, the class is closed;** however, new students to WP may see the director prior to the close of school in June or over the summer to determine eligibility for an audition.
- An ENSEMBLE INTENSIVE CHORAL RETREAT of 3-4 days is held each year by the director for singers in these groups. Place and dates are given out at auditions or at the beginning of the school year. Attendance at retreat is required!

Bella Voce #928015 (listed on schedule as *Vocal Ensemble*) Gr. 10 - 12

- Study and perform a variety of challenging music written for treble voices.
- Combine with other WP choirs in performances of major works and other selections.
- Occasional outreach performances during the school day, after school, and on weekends.

Uniform

- Black "Avelle" gown, black character shoes; must provide own black hose.
- **FEE:** \$100,

Chamber Singers #928915 (Listed on schedule as *Advanced Mixed Chorus*) Gr. 10-12

- Study and perform a wide repertoire of popular, folk, classical, and contemporary music. Emphasis is placed on *a capella* arrangements (without instruments) but will perform with a variety of instruments as well, including piano.
- Many outreach performances throughout the year, especially in December.

Uniform

- **Women:** "Solo" midnight blue concert gown, black shoes, black hose:
FEE: \$110
- **Men:** Tux Jacket, pants; "Bentley" midnight blue vest; blue satin tie; Long-sleeve white dress shirt with plain collar (not button down) black dress shoes, socks.
FEE: \$50, if own tuxedo outfit, for tie and vest. If no tux - **\$160** for full ensemble.
Male singers must provide their own black dress shoes and black socks.