

Course Outline: M.B.C.I. Chamber Singers 2014 -2015

Welcome to the Chamber Singers!

You are some of the most prominent choral singers in our school. This also means that you are charged with being some of the most prominent choral leaders in our school.

Being a leader means that you set an example for others to follow. Mr. Pauls is the principal of our school, but he will pick up a piece of garbage off the floor if he comes across it, because it is the right thing to do. He could leave it, because cleaning up is technically “someone else’s job”, but he chooses to lead by example. He knows Mrs. Bissell, and how hard she works to keep our school clean. By picking up that piece of garbage, he is not only helping to keep MBCI clean, he is also showing his care and respect for Mrs. Bissell. Leadership is about giving and serving others, not about status or achievements. Be a positive mentor to those who sing around you.

Being a Chamber Singer means that others look up to you. It means that you model for others what it means to be a good choral singer, through your rehearsal habits and through the positive attitude you communicate to other singers. Be positive about the repertoire we perform. Be aware that the criticism or affirmation coming out of your mouth sets the tone with others in rehearsal. Speak well of your Concert Choir colleagues; encourage them and the younger choirs in their pursuit of excellence. Find ways to help out before and after rehearsals. After the mass choir number at the choral concert give a younger choral student a “high five” and tell them they did well! One of the most wonderful stories I heard a few years ago was that some Grade 12 girls hosted a little hotel party for some new Grade 6 girls at the Brandon Jazz Festival – just think how affirmed they felt!

About half our repertoire is vocal jazz, with the balance being split between art songs and church music. We will have some opportunities to sing at performances that involve Concert Choir, such as the Senior Christmas Concert, but we will also have a few concerts that are our own. Be aware that each of you is extremely important to the success of the group, and if you are not present at a rehearsal or concert it is noticed **immediately**. The talent in this group is great! I look forward to us building a top ensemble with you!

It is expected that you work on your music outside of class. Please quickly commit to memory the pieces that we’ve been rehearsing. I would like to spend a considerable amount of time working on the delivery of the performance instead of basic musical mechanics. Never sacrifice sound for anything. Work to achieve a unified section. Lead with a serving, positive attitude. Promote choral music at M.B.C.I. Demonstrate what it means to be a dedicated and responsible chorister both in Chamber Singers and in Concert Choir.

Music has the ability to change hearts dramatically. God has given you that opportunity this year.

Your evaluation will be based on the following:

40% for in-class singing evaluations

- Knowledge of your music e.g. memory
- Ability to blend
- Ability to sing in various styles: jazz, concert

40% for performance outcomes

- Attendance
- Vocal techniques
- Leadership
- Delivery of performance

20% for assignments/quizzes

Concert dates, which are in addition to the Concert Choir's, will be discussed well in advance of a performance. Sometimes an outside organization will call us to sing. **You must make our concerts a priority.** If one of you is missing, the performance may be in jeopardy.

Here are the dates which you need to put on your family calendar:

Uniform Sizing	September TBA
Opening Program	Tuesday September 23 7:30 p.m. check in between 7:00 and 7:15
WSO's Musicians in the Making	Friday October 17 or Saturday October 18, to be determined
Between Friends Concert with Prairie Voices	Saturday November 15 (afternoon/evening)
Choralfest	November TBA (during class time)
Christmas Concert	Tuesday December 9 7:30 p.m. check in between 7:00 and 7:15
Chapel Performance	TBA
Church Visitation	TBA, January 25 or February 1
Jazz Evening	Tuesday March 3 7:30 p.m. check in between 7:00 and 7:15
Choral Concert	Tuesday March 17 7:30 p.m. check in between 7:00 and 7:15
Brandon Jazz Festival	Thurs. March 19-Sat. March 21
Spring Concert	Tuesday May 26 7:30 p.m. check in between 7:00 and 7:15
MBCI Graduation	Monday June 29 7:00 pm (rehearsal that day 5:45-6:15 pm)

**The approximate cost for Brandon Jazz Festival is \$310
Additional concerts will be discussed as a group.**

MBCI Dress Rehearsals Schedule 2014-2015 (for the major school concerts)

MBCI Jazz Evening: Tuesday March 3 day 2

Period 1: 8:30-9:20 Chamber Singers excused

MBCI Choral Concert: Tuesday March 17 day 5

Period 2: 10:10-11:08 Chamber Singers excused from class

Fundraising

MBCI organizes several fundraisers throughout the school year in order to help students offset the cost of school events. Money fundraised may be used toward activities that students participate in during their time at MBCI, excluding tuition. (For example, students may begin fundraising this year for trips in future years.) More information about the type and dates of these fundraisers will be announced in September.

Chamber Singers Commitment Form

Hand in this completed commitment form as soon as possible or before Monday September 15 day 2 for 5% of Term 1. Marks will be deducted after September 16.

I have read the course outline for Chamber Singers and I understand what is expected of me. I promise to follow and respect the rules and procedures of the class. I promise to model excellent choral discipline in Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. I understand that Chamber Singers travels to the Brandon Jazz Festival March 19-21, and that I will fundraise or pay the fee to attend. I understand how important my contribution is to this group, and will make our concerts my priority!

Student name (please print legibly)

parent acknowledgement