

SOLI DEO

UPPER SCHOOL VOCAL ENSEMBLE HANDBOOK 2020-2021



Mrs. Eileen Swanson
Instrumental Music (4-8)
Choral Music (4-12)
eswanson@christianheritage.org
847-446-5252



**CHRISTIAN HERITAGE
ACADEMY**
315 WAUKEGAN ROAD, NORTHFIELD, IL
847-446-5252 FAX: 847-446-5267
CHRISTIANHERITAGE.ORG



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SOLI DEO

Upper School Vocal Ensemble Handbook

Our Purpose

*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory,
for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!*

Psalm 115:1

The choral program of Christian Heritage Academy seeks to teach and equip students with musical skills and knowledge as tools for a lifetime of worship and praise to the LORD.

Course Description

The Upper School Vocal Ensemble, *Soli Deo*, is a performance-based class designed to develop the student's faith, knowledge and skills through the purposeful experience of singing together. Students are given the opportunity to grow in character and positive relationships as they experience community in a choral ensemble, a microcosmic image of the church – many unified into one body, accomplishing what no single person could.

Expectations

- Respect and humility
- Individual effort and teamwork focused on excellence
- Faithful, punctual class attendance

Music

- Each student is responsible for a numbered folder and music.
- The student is responsible for keeping a sharpened pencil in the folder. (Ink pen is not to be used on music.)
- All music is to be kept in the corresponding numbered folder, which is returned to its numbered cabinet slot at the end of each class.
- Folders/music may be taken home for individual study, but returned for class use.
- The student will be charged the current replacement cost of lost/damaged materials.

Evaluation

This is a performance-based class that meets during the school day, throughout the school year. Knowledge and skill are demonstrated in performance; therefore all performance dates listed below as "required" are included in quarter grading. Every effort is made to communicate performance dates well in advance.

Assignments, performances and grades are posted on Veracross as follows:

- Performances = “Tests” on Veracross (30%)
- Class Participation = “Class Participation” on Veracross (35%)
- Skill Tests = “Quizzes” on Veracross (20%)
- Written work = “Writing” on Veracross (15%)

Performances

- Performances are the culmination of learning, and are tests of knowledge, skill and poise on and off the stage, and are included in the quarter grade.
- Please note that students may not have a cell phone on their person during a performance event.
- Students are expected to participate in all required performances and scheduled warm-ups, in performance dress, unless otherwise communicated.
- Student illness or family emergency only, with prior parent communication, may be considered valid excuses for missing a required performance. Vacation or travel does not excuse a required performance.
- Non-required performances are designated on the calendar as “opportunities.”
- Every effort is made to schedule and communicate performance dates well in advance.

Please record the dates in the Soli Deo Performance Calendar (below) in your personal/family calendar.

Class Participation – Each class is worth 10 class participation points.

This includes:

- respect for all - persons, materials, facilities, resources
- focus on learning and excellence
- positive work ethic: receiving instruction, individual effort and teamwork
- consistent attendance and punctuality

Tardies

Each unexcused tardy = 1 point off the class participation grade

The tardy policy in the student handbook is standard for this class.

Please bring a pass from the previous class instructor for an excused tardy.

No pass = an unexcused tardy

Late Work

- Any assignment will be accepted within one week of the due date, with 5 points off for each day late.
- Assignments or class work not submitted within 7 (seven) full days past the due date will be recorded as a grade of zero.
- Please talk with me if there are circumstances preventing the timely completion of your assignments. Together we can work toward a solution.

Absences from Class

- The student is expected to take timely initiative for all work missed.
- Guidelines for late work apply to make-up work due dates.
- Each unexcused absence from class = 10 points off the class participation grade and a grade of zero for any work due that day.
- Vacation or travel is considered an unexcused absence.

Class Procedures

- Please use the restroom before coming to class on time.
- Bring a covered bottle of water to class.
- Please, no food in the room unless it is a donut day. The ants love our room.
- Silence and put your cell phone into the pocket holder.
- Pick up your numbered folder plus any handouts on the table.
- Check the board for today's plans and arrange your music in order. If there are issues with music, please tell the choir's librarian.
- Do your part to make transitions seamless.
- End of class – all music in folders, folders in numbered slots.
- The instructor, not the bell, dismisses class.

Performance Dress

The purpose of performance dress is to present a unified, professional appearance. This is expected dress for every performance (including ACSI festival), unless otherwise communicated. The cost for performance dress will be placed on the student account.

Women:

- Floor-length black dress (charged to account)
- Black dress flats (no heels)
- Jewelry: small gold or silver post earrings only
- No necklaces, bracelets or visible tattoos

Men:

- Black pants, black dress shirt, black vest, necktie (charged to account)
- Black dress shoes, black socks, black dress belt
- No earrings, necklaces or visible tattoos

Students not in performance dress appropriate to the particular event can expect a deduction of 10 points from their performance grade.

Please note: Students may not have a cell phone on their person during performance events.



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**SOLI DEO PERFORMANCE CALENDAR
2020-2021**

This schedule is subject to change

Bolded entries are required performances.

Non-bolded are encouraged opportunities.

September	Chapel date TBA
Tuesday-Thursday, October 6-8	All ILMEA high school auditions will be via video recording ILMEA Senior High Chorus, Jazz, Band, Strings
Thursday, October 22	CHA Fall Association Meeting, 6:45 PM
Friday, October 30	Reformation Chapel
Saturday, November 7	All ILMEA festival dates subject to change ILMEA District Junior & Elementary Festivals
Friday, November 13	Veterans Day Chapel Evening in the Fall, 7-9 PM
Saturday, November 14	ILMEA District Senior Festival
Wednesday, November 18	Thanksgiving Chapel
Saturday, November 21	ILMEA District Jazz Festival
Friday, December 4	Advent Chapel
Friday, December 11	Christmas All-Instrumental Concert 6:00-7:00 PM Christmas All-Choral Concert 7:15-8:15 PM
Friday, December 18	Christmas Chapel, 2:00 PM
February 26, 2021	PK-2, Gr. 3-5 General Music Winter Concerts PK-Gr. 2: 6:00-7:00 PM / Gr 3-5: 7:15-8:15 PM
March 12-13, 2021	ACSI Music Festival
Thursday, April 1, 2021	Holy Week Chapel, 2:00 PM
Friday, April 23, 2021	Spring All-Instrumental Concert 6:00-7:00 PM Spring All-Choral Concert 7:15-8:15 PM
Friday, April 30	Honors Awards Chapel
Friday, May 7	US Coffeehouse, 7-9 PM
May (TBA)	US Boys' Volleyball Senior Night - national anthem
Thursday, May 27	All School Praise Chapel, 10:30-11:30 AM
Friday, May 28	Commencement - Soli Deo and Ambassadors



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SOLI DEO CLASS CONTRACT

I have read and understand all information in the US Vocal Ensemble handbook. I hold myself accountable for knowing and abiding by it.

I have entered all performance dates (required or not) in my personal calendar, and have communicated these dates to my parents and family.

I am committed to the community of our choir, and will pursue humble excellence, encouraging others to the same, so that we as a choir can bring honor and glory to God.

Student signature _____

_____ Cell Phone #

_____ Mentor

I am interested in the following:

____ singing a solo

____ singing in a small group

____ reading

____ dramatic role

____ playing an instrument

which instruments: _____

____ leading in prayer

____ serving as a music librarian

____ serving as a section leader

____ ILMEA auditions

____ ACSI

Please bring this completed form to our first meeting on Wednesday, August 19.