

# **Oakland School for the Arts, School of Vocal Music**

## **Course Outline, 2014-2015**

**Course Name: Select Ensemble**

**Instructor: Mr. Phillip Harris**

**Level: Middle School**

**Contact: [pharris@oakarts.org](mailto:pharris@oakarts.org)**

**Room: 221**

**Period: 4 (Tuesday/ Thursday)**

### **Course Description:**

Select Ensemble is the intermediate choir for middle school singers. This ensemble is dedicated to performing multiple genres of accompanied and unaccompanied music. A strong emphasis will be placed on music literacy and aural skills. A strong focus will be centered on developing good vocal health techniques as well as how their voice should function individually and as a choir. The ensemble will primarily sing three part harmony and four part harmony when applicable. Performances inside and outside of the classroom make up a majority of the overall grade. This is a choir that requires an audition. Finally, this ensemble is required to perform six performances outside of OSA.

Repertoire will include the following pieces and may be subject to change:

1. Bring Him Home from Les Miserables –arr John Leavitt
2. Una Familia- Jay Althouse
3. Seasons of Love from *Rent* – arr . Machuff
4. Wach auf! – J. Brahms
5. Bridge Over Troubled Water- arr. Kirby Shaw
6. For All We Know- Fred Karlin/Teena Chinn
7. Cantate Domino- Giuseppe Pitoni
8. Blue Moon – Roger Emerson
9. Benedictus – Dietrich/ Keylock
10. Agnus Dei -Ivo Antognini
11. Lullaby of Birdland George Shearing/arr. Hirokawa
12. On Christmas Night arr. James McCray

### **Course Objectives:**

Students will sing in tune without accompaniment (a capella) and will be able to sing their part successfully within a quartet. In addition, they will gain solid fundamental understanding of how their instrument works and how to use it properly to effectively communicate music.

### **Course Guidelines:**

- Daily Participation is fifteen (15) points
- Two (2) points off if tardy
- Five (5) points off for excessive talking, if he or she is asked three or more times to not be disruptive.
- In class performance checks are worth fifteen (15) points
- The six required performances are with 25 points each
- Large performances (Christmas Program) are worth 75 points.
- An unexcused absence results in a zero for the day, 0/15
- An excused absence will result in EX/15 after a note or email has been sent from either the parent/guardian or doctor.
- Make up assignments can be arranged if an outside performance has an excused absence.
- Students who do not have class materials are subject to losing points.
- Please, no cell phones in class. Inappropriate use of a cell phone will result in a loss of participation points.
- Any excused absence must be either confirmed by the main office or accompanied by a note from the doctor or parent/guardian no later than one week from the date of the absence.

### **Required Materials:**

- Positive Attitude
- Pencil(s)
- Black binder with music
- Water bottle- strongly preferred
- Handouts given by the instructor