



Solon High School

Choral Activities

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A Cappella Choir Concert Choir Men's Chorus Women's Chorus Music in Motion Madrigals Comettes Troubadours Quartets

August 27, 2009

Dear Choir members and parents,

We would like to welcome you to the Vocal Music Department at Solon High School. There will be over 250 students participating in the thirteen performance groups this year. We are offering A Cappella Choir for juniors and seniors, Concert Choir for sophomores, juniors and seniors, Women's Chorus for freshman ladies and Men's Chorus for freshman men.

All students will have the opportunity to audition for the eight select groups, which meet after or before school. The Show Choir, "Music In Motion" was selected last May and is rehearsing on Monday evenings under the direction of myself, Mr. Ed Kline and Ms. Sha'Ran Marshall. The Troubadours will meet Tuesdays from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. and membership is open to any male student by audition. The Comettes will rehearse on Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:00 and membership is open to any female student by audition. The Madrigals will rehearse from 3:00 to 4:30 on Thursdays and membership is limited to choir members in grades 10-12 by audition.

Auditions for Madrigals will be held in the Choir Room after school every day during the first week of school. Students who were in Troubadours and Comettes last year do not need to re-audition. All students interested in Comettes and Troubadours should attend the first rehearsal for audition/rehearsal. Comettes first rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, September 2nd from 3-4. Troubadours first rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, September 1st from 3-3:45. Madrigals cast list will be posted on Friday, August 28. Cast lists, Calendar Information, Learning Tracks, and other valuable information can be found on the Solon City Schools website. Just visit solonschools.com and follow the links to Solon High School. Then click on my name to find the choir web page.

Also, coming home with this letter you will find a copy of the Choral Patron Drive handout. We urge you to consider becoming a Patron this year. During the past seventeen years this fund raising effort has enabled us to purchase outfits for the A Cappella Choir, Concert Choir, Madrigals, Troubadours and Comettes. It has also helped defray the cost of our trips to Florida, Chicago, Virginia Beach, Nashville and Atlanta as well as covering the cost of our participation in District Adjudicated Events and providing accompanists for our concerts throughout the year. This year the funds will be used to build capital for future garment purchases.

One new way we will be raising money this year is with a benefit concert. On Friday November 6, Max Q will be in concert with the Solon Quartets, Madrigals, and Music in Motion. Money raised from this event will go directly into our activity accounts to help offset the costs of trips and performance attire. Mr. Lewis is the baritone of Max Q. Max Q is the 2007 International Quartet Champions of the Barbershop Harmony Society. To learn more about Max Q, visit www.maxquartet.com

We want to thank you for your support in the past, and we look forward to your continued support as we make great musical memories together. We're looking forward to seeing many "old" friends and meeting many new ones at our concerts. Please do not hesitate to email or call with any questions!

Sincerely,

Gary Lewis, Stephanie Bettinger
Vocal Music Teachers

CHOIR GRADING PROCEDURES 2009-10

A student's grade in choir is dependent upon attendance, effort, and talent shown in rehearsals and concerts. Each grading period will include at least one evening performance. All students are expected to attend these performances in their entirety. If a student needs to leave the concert before its conclusion permission must be obtained with a note prior to the day of the concert. In the event of a scheduling conflict with a school sponsored athletic event (game, not practice) the student will be able to choose which event to attend without penalty. Formative Assessments (Daily Grades, Participation) are worth 40% of the total grade. Each student will receive a daily grade worth 3 points. Infractions such as tardiness, gum, and behavior will reduce the daily grade. Common Assessments (Concerts, Final Exams) are also worth 40% of the total grade. Concerts are worth 30 points. 5 points will be deducted for each infraction (tardiness, costuming issues, behavior). Practical Application (Homework, Worksheets, Memorization Tests) are worth 20% of the overall grade.

If a student misses a performance they may be able to make-up some of the missed work by scheduling a 15 minute session with Mr. Lewis or Mrs. Bettinger the week following the performance. At this session the student will "perform" the concert selections by themselves for a grade. The session must be scheduled for the week following the concert and at a time convenient to Mr. Lewis or Mrs. Bettinger. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the make-up session.

Any schedule conflict, which is known ahead of time, should be brought to the attention of Mr. Lewis or Mrs. Bettinger when the problem is first encountered. Illness, deaths in the family and "special events" which have been scheduled prior to this handout would be good excuses. All excuses except illness must be approved one week prior to the performance. If you know of a conflict during the year now, please send a note with the Choir Participation Sheet.

A Cappella Choir, Men's Chorus, and Women's Chorus will be participating in the District VII Large Group Adjudicated Event sponsored by the Ohio Music Education Association on either Friday, March 12th from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. or on Saturday, March 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Members of these groups are asked to keep these dates and times open. The make-up for missing this event will be to attend another district or state event and report on it.

A student's work or job is NEVER a good excuse for missing a performance. Students who miss a performance because of work will not be allowed a make-up. Lack of transportation, non-SHS athletic events, family dinners, events scheduled after this handout and "I forgot" are other examples of unacceptable excuses for which a make-up will not be allowed.

2009-10 Activity Dates for the Choral Program

Saturday October 17 th	-SHS Show Choir Cabaret Night (Select Students)
Thursday October 22 nd	-Twinsburg Invitational, A Cappella Choir & Show Choir 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday October 27 th	- SHS Orchestra Fall Concert (A Cappella Choir)
Thursday October 29 th	- <u>The Fall Choral Concert 7:30 p.m. All Students</u>
Friday November 6 th	- Solon Benefit Concert featuring Max Q (Quartets, Madrigals, Music in Motion)
Thursday Dec. 17 th	- <u>The Holiday Choral Concert 7:30 p.m. All Students</u>
Thursday March 11 th	- <u>SHS Winter Choral Concert 7:30 p.m. All Students</u>
Fri. or Sat. March 12 th or 13 th	-District VII Large Group Adjudicated Events (A Cappella Choir, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus)
April 15 th to 18 th	-SHS Spring Musical (Select Students) Music and Drama Dept.
Tuesday April 20 th	-Show Choir Audition meeting for 2010-11, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
May 11 th , 12 th , 13 th	-Show Choir Auditions for 2010-11
Thursday May 20 th	- <u>SHS Spring Choral Concert 7:30 p.m. All Students</u>
Wednesday June 2	- Quartet Auditions for 2010-11

Please sign and return the Choir Participation Sheet by **Friday, September 11th**.