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Jazz Choir (Estetica) **and** **Jazz Singers** (VocalEase) **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

PURPOSE

To provide an atmosphere for each student to successfully participate in a fulfilling musical experience, on both a personal and ensemble level, while learning and performing representative choral literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Sing using correct vocal technique
2. Read, write, interpret, and execute basic musical notation.
3. Perform ensemble and solo literature within the jazz idiom.
4. Identify representative compositions within the jazz idiom.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

The following is expected of every student:

1. Regular attendance and positive, active participation in rehearsals, as well as ALL dress rehearsals and performances.
2. Individual practicing and mastery of assigned music.
3. Work to develop skills in musical interpretation.
4. Diligence in keeping good vocal habits.
5. Respect for other singers, as well as student leaders.
6. Completion of all written assignments.
7. Participation in music program fund-raisers as needed to raise monies for outfits, group activities, festivals and/or trips.

MATERIALS

Each student will be expected to have the following materials daily in class:

1. Pencil(s)
2. Music (provided)
3. Musical Handouts
4. 3-ring black 1" binder
5. Composition book (for class journal)

In addition, students will be expected to purchase the following (fundraising opportunities will be forthcoming):

1. There are two performance outfits (jazz and classical).
Jazz: \$50-75 in previous years; more information will be forthcoming. Classical: Women--approx. \$80-\$100 (includes hemming); Men--approx. \$50 (tuxedos; rental information online or see handout).
2. Ensemble shirt (Cost to be determined; past years' shirts have ranged from approximately \$15-35, depending on type of shirt).

DISCIPLINE POLICY

1. No food, chewing gum, or drinks other than water are allowed during class.
2. Students who persist in disturbing the study of others will be disciplined appropriately per the SJUSD student handbook.
3. Profanity, name-calling, hitting, throwing objects, destroying classroom property or provoking others is unacceptable behavior and will result in OCS or referral immediately.
4. Any student suspected of substance abuse will be referred immediately to Student Services. A teacher-parent conference will be requested, and the student may be asked to leave the ensemble.
5. If the student receives three or more OCS referrals per semester, a parent-teacher conference will be requested, and the student may be asked to leave the group.
6. Students are expected to remain quiet during class time, unless they are singing. When not actively involved in singing (i.e. if another section is rehearsing), students are expected to study their music quietly.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be calculated using the following criteria:

- PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE—40%**
Points will be awarded to students for daily attendance (5 pts. per day). Tardiness and/or absences from rehearsals and performances will affect scores. Students who do not bring music scores to class will lose all points for the day.
- MUSIC HISTORY/THEORY/QUIZZES—20%**
All students will complete a weekly theory or music history assignment, and will take a weekly written quiz in class on Thursdays. Most assignments are available online and/or will be completed in-class.
- IN-CLASS JOURNAL/REVIEW—20%**
Students will be keeping an in-class journal which will involve writing about listening examples twice weekly in class. In addition, students must attend one live music performance and write one review per semester (form online at www.amkmusic.com). These can be professional, community, or high school performances of classical, musical theatre or jazz idioms; no popular music performances will be accepted. Students are encouraged to attend performances at other local schools. Reviews must be completed by Monday, December 5 (Fall semester) and Monday, May 21 (Spring semester).
- PERFORMANCES/TESTING—20%**
Students will be tested regularly for mastery of ensemble repertoire. In addition, students will also receive points for punctuality and participation in all ensemble performances.

Most performances are listed on the calendar distributed with this syllabus; please note that others will be added as the year progresses. Concerts are in the evenings and may include weekend times/dates; please plan accordingly.

NOTE: Students who are absent from performances will not receive any points; points may be made up in emergency situations or for absences which were pre-arranged by the student and Miss Katemopoulos a minimum of two weeks in advance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- This course is a year-long commitment and will consist of a combination of the following activities: full group rehearsals, sectionals, lectures, demonstrations, guest clinicians, guest artist performances, singing tests, written assignments and quizzes, and public as well as school performances.
- All vocal jazz students will sing as part of Men's Choir, Women's Choir or Chamber Chorale, with one mandatory extra 4-hour rehearsal per month dedicated exclusively to classical literature/study.
- Because this is a performance-based class, it will be necessary at times for the students to miss classes in the school day. Every consideration will be given for students to have adequate time to make up other class-work as needed, including going to other teachers during our class period for make-up work.
- Each student will be expected to participate in all performances. A calendar listing all performances is online at www.lincolnperformingarts.com as well as on www.amkmusic.com; please add these dates to your calendars now to avoid future conflicts. Additional performance dates/times or changes in the schedule will be announced a minimum of 14 days in advance.
- Each student will be checked out and is responsible for his/her own folder of music, and is expected to study music OUTSIDE OF CLASS TIME. Students will be expected to pay for lost or defaced music.
- The Choral Department Spring Tour in April 2012 is an optional activity for all students enrolled in these ensembles. In addition, we have been invited to travel to London during July, 2012 for a tour involving performances as part of the 2012 Olympic Games venues. More information will be forthcoming.
- All students are expected to adhere to terms set forth in the student contract, to be signed by both student and parent at the beginning of the school year.
- Miss Katemopoulos' website, www.amkmusic.com, is the primary means by which information for the class will be disseminated. This will include any and all details for this class as well as for the Lincoln Choral Department. The weekly announcements are updated each Sunday in preparation for the upcoming week. Please make sure that you and your parent are reading these weekly.

Parents should also join the Music Boosters google group:
<http://www.groups.google.com/group/LHSMusic>.