

**Vocal Music Syllabus
&
Performance Schedule**

2024-2025

Mr. Ian Heetland – Director of Choral Activities

ian.Heetland@kcsd.k12.ia.us

Attendance

Students are expected to be at rehearsal and actively participating every day. This means you are in the room when the bell rings and in your spot when rehearsal begins. This may seem to be a strict expectation, but we must utilize all of the rehearsal time that we have together. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each rehearsal period. Students will receive a tardy if they are not present.

Lessons

As the Vocal Music Department has transitioned to Standards based learning, Lessons will be entered into the grade book in 2 different ways: Practice and Assessments. Lessons will occur on a weekly basis, with the purpose of both introducing new material with sight-reading while reinforcing pitch knowledge in the literature that we are learning. Every 3 weeks we will have a “Vocal Check”. This check will simply evaluate the progress that you have made in the 3-week time period. Those “Vocal Checks” will be going into the grade book as assessments, while the other lessons will be entered in as practice. This means that the Vocal Checks will be your primary grade for the year. While the other lessons won’t be entered in for grades, they are still required to attend to ensure that you will do well on the “Vocal Checks”. Lesson Rubrics will be show to students at their first vocal lesson of the semester, and then at every Vocal Check to ensure the student knows what they are being assessed on.

Vocal development and progress in musicianship will be greatly benefited by one-on-one work with the instructor. Small group lessons will only be allowed if the students ask for Mr. Heetland’s permission ahead of time. Lessons will be 15 minutes long. If a student shows up to his/her lesson more than 7 minutes late, the lesson will need to be rescheduled as more than 50% of the lesson time has passed. Please be to your lesson on time! If you miss a regular voice lesson, contact me when you’d like to make it up. If you miss a “Vocal Check Lesson” rescheduling will be a top priority.

I realize all of this information might be a lot to digest. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this lesson policy. Choir is a very unique class in which proper development of the voice can only occur with consistent practice and lesson attendance, which explains the above mentioned policies and procedures. Lessons may seem daunting, but the emphasis is simply on students making music and making progress as a singer and performer. As long as a student shows up to their voice lessons, and makes progress from lesson to lesson, then they will excel in choir.

Grading

Focus for both ensembles is still on making progress in the music making process, but more information will be given out on the first week of class. Rubrics will be utilized during each of the voice lessons, and progress checks will occur throughout the semester. Those check-for-understandings will go over the music that we are learning in class, as well as individual music progress. Concepts such as basic musicianship, musical reading, and vocal technique will also be evaluated.

All performances are currently scheduled, but outside factors could cause some re-schedules/cancelations. The required performances for Concert Choir members are the following:

- Fall Concert
- Winter Concert
- Annual "Pops" Show
- State Large Group Contest
- Spring Concert

Other performance opportunities:

- Iowa All State Chorus Auditions
- Solo/Small Ensemble Contest
- Honor Choirs

The Required performances for Chamber Singers are the following:

- Conference Choral Festival
- Fall Concert
- Knoxville Community Chorus Holliday Collaboration Concert
- Winter Concert
- Annual "Pops" Show
- IHSMA Solo/Small Ensemble Contest
- Heart of Iowa Composer Showcase and Concert
- Spring Concert (New this Year)
- KHS Graduation

Other performance opportunities:

- Living Windows/Caroling at SPIRE
- Solo/Small Ensemble Contest, Individual/Small Group Performances
- Iowa All State Chorus Auditions
- Honor Choirs
- National Anthem Performances at KHS Athletic Events

Classroom Expectations

As a choir, we are a community. We must all be active in pursuing our goals. There can be no coat-tail riders. In rehearsals, active and engaged participation is key. Students should follow along with the rehearsal and be ready to jump in if asked. (Even though your section might not be singing, there is still plenty of learning to be done by listening to what your classmates are working on.) We are here to make beautiful music!

To be successful as a group, a choir needs to be a place of trust and safety. Singers should come to class knowing they have the support of the other students surrounding them and without the fear of being ridiculed. As a choir, we will work together to achieve our very best. There will be moments in choir where you will be put outside of your comfort zone. Whether that be performing in front of your peers, or providing said peers with feedback, it is my goal to teach you more than music in choir. These experiences will not only make you better musicians but will also give you added senses of responsibility, respect and collaboration.

No food and drink is allowed in the choir room outside of water. Reusable water bottles are always acceptable. Cell phones are not allowed at any portion of the rehearsals in accordance with school policy; this includes earbuds or headphones of any kind and smart-watches. If these expectation cannot be met consistently, actions will be taken.

Concert Attire

Each high school student will be assigned a Choir Robe prior to the first concert. Students are expected to take good care of their robes! Please, as a member of the Knoxville choir(s), take pride not only in the way you sound, but also in your professional, uniform appearance as a choir.

Beneath robes, students are expected to cover all skin with black dress clothing. All students must wear black closed toe dress shoes or closed toe heels/flats. Please, no collared shirts under robes unless needed for a later part of the concert, as the collars can interfere with uniformity in the neckline of the robes. Please be sure hair is pulled away from the eyes.

In the instance where “informal” performances are being held, this attire might be subject to change at Mr. Heetland’s discretion. If you anticipate having difficulty finding appropriate concert clothing, please speak with Mr. Heetland beforehand so he can help find and secure you the necessary items.

Folders and Music

While Knoxville has a 1-1 program with iPads, students will still be using paper copies of all of the music that we are performing, as to be in accordance with Copyright Laws for Contest performances. Each student will be assigned a folder at the beginning of the year. It will be the student responsibility to take care of the folders. Should any damage happen to the folder/music that makes them unusable, the student will be responsible for replacing said items. Some music may be borrowed from other Schools/Institutions; if damage occurs to said music/it is lost, further fees may apply.

Chamber Singers

Chamber Singers is the new name for the top Choral Ensemble at KHS. Auditions for this ensemble will take place at the end of every year and are open to any incoming 10-12th grade choir student under the stipulation that they have completed **at least one year** of Concert Choir instruction (This rule is subject to change and is at the discretion of the director) Audition results will be determined by Mr. Heetland. This ensemble provides students with more opportunities to perform at a wider variety of venues as well as exposes students to more styles of music, ranging from renaissance polyphonic works to vocal jazz as well as others. Chamber Singers, like Concert Choir, has daily rehearsals, and spots are limited up to 5/6 students per section. Once a student becomes a Chamber Singer, that student does not need to re-audition; A re-audition will only need to take place should the student leave the ensemble. Students involved in Chamber Singers will **not** rehearse daily with Concert Choir, but will still be required to perform at all required performances as a Concert Choir member. Private voice lessons outside of KHS are **highly** encouraged for all Chamber Singers. If you are interested in private lessons, contact Mr. Heetland for details about additional instructors.

Extra-curricular Activities

Students will have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities outside of the normally scheduled choir concerts/performances. While details surrounding these activities are still TBD pending outside factors, some of those opportunities could be in house (such as national anthems at sporting events) while others may be festivals away from school (Honor choirs, Performances in Des Moines, etc) Mr. Heetland will follow up with you after he learns more about these opportunities, and how they best fit in with the current performing schedule.

When performance opportunities arise, it is the expectation of the student to communicate with Mr. Heetland about scheduling. Because these opportunities can arise shortly, communication is key in whether or not the performance/practice is required.

Important Dates

As we have all learned from years past, things surrounding the school year and performances can change drastically, so all of the currently scheduled performances can and will be subject to change if the Knoxville administration, Federal/State Government, etc updates or changes guidelines and expectations. The Performance schedule is always flexible when opportunities arise. In the instance a performance comes up in the future that is not on the current schedule, Mr. Heetland will be send out that information. The required performances for both the Concert Choir and the Chamber Singers are listed above.

Any absences from required dates must be cleared with Mr. Heetland well in advance. Excused absences will be offered a make-up assignment to evaluate the appropriate standards from the performance. With the exception of illness from school, school conflict, or emergency, a pre-planned vacation or other conflict must be communicated with Mr. Heetland at least **one month** before the performance in question to be considered excused. Less than one month's notice will result in an unexcused absence. In the case of an unexcused absence for performances, there will be NO opportunity for a make-up assignment.

Knoxville High School

Concert Choir/Chamber Singers

Performance Schedule

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Who</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|---|---|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| SCICDA All State Chorus Clinic | September 6th | All-State Auditioners | DCG High School | All Day |
| Simpson College Honor Choir | October 3rd | All-State Auditioners | Simpson - Indianola | All Day |
| Central College 8-9th Grade Singfest | October 8th | Accepted Singers | Central - Pella | All Day |
| Digging For a Cure National Anthem | October 8th | Chamber Singers | KHS Gym | 7:00 PM |
| SCC Conference Vocal Festival | October 10th | Chamber Singers | Albia High School | All Day |
| Iowa All-State Chorus Auditions | October 26th | All-State Auditioners | Indianola HS | All Day |
| 9-12 Fall Concert | October 28th | Both Choirs | KPAC | 7:00 PM |
| Living Windows Comm. Performance | November 21st | Chamber Singers | Town Square | Evening |
| Iowa OPUS & All State Festival | November 21-23rd | Accepted Singers | Iowa State – Ames | All Day |
| Coffee & Carols @ Spire | TBD | Chamber Singers | Spire Coffee | TBD |
| Knoxville Community Choir Winter Concert | November 29th & December 1st | Chamber Singers | UMC | TBD |
| 9-12 Winter Concert | December 9th | Both Choirs | KPAC | 7:00 PM |
| ICDA 9-10 Honor Choir | January 10th, 2025 | Accepted Singers | Perry High School | All Day |
| Dorian Vocal Festival | January 12-13th, 2025 | Individuals | Luther - Decorah | All Day |
| Panthers Vs Cancer National Anthem | January 24th | Chamber Singers | KHS Gym | 7:00 PM |
| Meistersinger Vocal Festival | January 26-27th | Individuals | Wartburg - Waverly | All Day |
| Hall of Fame Game National Anthem | February 7th | Chamber Singers | KHS Gym | 7:00 PM |

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| “Pops” Show | February 21st | Both Choirs | KPAC | 7:00 PM |
| Central College 10-12th Singfest | February 25th | Individuals | Central - Pella | All Day |
| KHS Musical | March 7th - 9th | Individuals | KPAC | TBD |
| IHSMA Solo/Small Ensemble Contest | March 29th | Individuals/ Chamber Singers | TBD | All Day |
| Heart of Iowa Composer Showcase | TBD | Chamber Singers | TBD | All Day |
| Chamber Singers Spring Mini-Tour | TBD | Chamber Singers | NC Iowa | All Day |
| Large Group Contest | May 9th | Concert Choir | TBD | TBD |
| 9-12 Spring Concert | May 13th | Both Choirs | 7:00 PM | KPAC |
| Graduation Services | May 18th | Chamber Singers/ Concert Choir Seniors | KHS Gym | 2:00 PM |