

Northwest Girlchoir – ENSEMBLE – 2022-2023 Goals and Expectations

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MUSIC EDUCATION

At the Amore and Ensemble level, choristers perform sophisticated repertoire for treble voices. The independence and skills necessary to learn difficult 3- and 4-part music (a cappella and with various instruments) and complex poetic texts (in English and various world languages) appear in all aspects of the choirs' artistic musical approach. Regular, at-home practice solidifies and supports the learning that takes place during weekly rehearsals.

Amore and Ensemble increase the demands for consistent, healthy, and embodied vocal tone and a mastery of high school-level music reading skills. While voices are still maturing and changing throughout the high school ages, responsible and engaged singing (physiological and psychological) is expected from Ensemble choristers at all times. Expanding upon musical skills, melodic-based, rhythmic-based, and rote learning styles are employed, combined, and perfected. An Ensemble chorister will be fully prepared to excel in collegiate and adult choral ensembles upon completion of high school.

In addition, Ensemble take a liberal arts approach to musical learning. At this level, singers are ready to make connections between art forms, deepen their understanding of historical or cultural experiences that directly relate to the music and its performance, deeply explore texts and translations, and more intentionally study the architecture of the music they perform.

Ensemble is a separate, smaller grouping of singers who are deeply committed to the study and performance of advanced repertoire for treble voices. Their repertoire includes a wider range of music, requires solid preparation and practice, and necessitates regular rehearsal attendance.

PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

Ensemble choristers share their love of singing with communities near and far as Northwest Girlchoir's premiere small ensemble; they will be tasked with representing Northwest Girlchoir in a variety of performance venues. Participation in performances is expected and regular rehearsal attendance is required from each chorister. At this level of musicianship, singers commit to one another that they will arrive prepared to each rehearsal and maintain focus and discipline throughout the season. Excessive absences will lead to disqualification from performances.

While concerts are exhilarating, it's important to note that they are not the sole reason to explore and learn musical repertoire. The process of learning and singing together is a fundamental focus of Northwest Girlchoir at every level; the concert is a time to share what we have learned and to present ourselves professionally in a public space.

COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP

Being part of Northwest Girlchoir requires a commitment from both the singer and their family. Regular attendance at rehearsals and performances are crucial elements in building a community of musicians and performers. Singers and artistic staff are co-creators in the weekly process, and regular practice is essential. When a singer commits to Northwest Girlchoir, the singer and family join a legacy of choral excellence and commit to the "team" of singers in that choir. Each voice matters, and each rehearsal is filled with learning opportunities that cannot be replicated or easily "made up" when absent.

Ensemble singers achieve a high level of independence and interdependence, which are markers of musical maturity. Within the choir, singers build connection and community by bringing their unique strengths and challenges to rehearsals that build toward a common goal. Ensemble graduates represent Northwest Girlchoir's strong history and enter their adult lives as leaders, artists, and socially responsible, kind-hearted citizens of the world.