

## **Northwest Girlchoir – VIVACE – 2022-2023 Goals and Expectations**

Charity Rasmussen, teacher-conductor – [charity@northwestgirlchoir.org](mailto:charity@northwestgirlchoir.org)

### **MUSIC EDUCATION**

In Vivace, choristers will perform high quality treble repertoire. Singers will be building upon their skills in sight singing, rhythmic dictation, harmonic independence, and stylistic singing. Singers will transfer their knowledge of solfege to more music reading and be introduced to counting rhythms by the numbered beats per measure, as well as continuing using a Kodaly-based rhythmic dictation system. Before moving on to Amore, singers are expected to sight read basic rhythms, sight sing moderately difficult melodies, identify notes by letter name and identify key signatures in major keys.

This age is a time of rich vocal development. Vivace repertoire encourages use of the whole vocal range, rather than pigeon-holing singers into only one area of the voice. The goal is well-supported singing that is free of tension, to help singers move from their child voice toward their mature, embodied, and healthy adult voice. Vivace singers are challenged with more difficult repertoire and singing in more parts than they generally did in Amabile. Singers continue to gain understanding and empathy by exploring the work of poets and composers from different times, places and cultures.

### **PERFORMANCE PREPARATION**

Northwest Girlchoir educates young music professionals. We strive for the highest level of musicianship, vocal production and polish as possible in each level. Vivace singers are expected to learn their music accurately and at the pace of the group. Each singer is responsible to memorize the music thoroughly and to perform with confidence, beauty and expression.

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 for 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.

Northwest Girlchoir is a place where generations of singers have developed life-long friendships. Vivace does some social activities such as games, small group work, and parties, and many singers deepen friendships in the shared experiences of concerts and tours.

Northwest Girlchoir is also a place where singers have gained life skills beyond music. Singers learn the value of incremental work toward a major goal such as a concert or a tour. They learn that giving of oneself for the good of the group can yield a great return and that our whole is greater than the sum of our parts. Singers bring different gifts to the group. Some have a great voice or great musicianship. Others are expressive performers. Some are leaders in their rehearsal behavior or impact others with their positive attitude. Some excel at kindness, encouragement, and inclusion. All of these gifts are needed and are valued. No one is expected to excel at everything; everyone is expected to give their best.