

**Marblehead High School  
Chamber Choir Syllabus**

Mr. Scoglio

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**Marblehead High School Core Values**

***Engage every person, every day.***

*Communicate clearly and with purpose.  
Analyze, organize, and evaluate information.  
Honor people, place, and time.*

***Navigate your opportunities; chart your future.***

Congratulations on your successful audition! As a member of the Jewel Tones or Luminescence, you are one of the most visible members of our choral program. As a result, you are held to high but attainable standards of musicality, professionalism, and leadership. I hope this will be a challenging and enjoyable experience for you.

**Communication:** Important updates will be posted in Google Classroom and sent via email to Marblehead Schools accounts and parent contacts. Remind will also be used to relay information quickly. You are not required to be a part of the closed facebook group- all communication that happens on Facebook is unofficial and does not come from Mr. Scoglio.

**Grading Policy:**

**Materials Needed** (to be brought every day)

- Black 1½” or 1”, three ring binder. (New this year). Binders can be stored in class or brought home for practice.
- A pencil- not a pen

**Grading Policy**

Because this is a performance-based course, the majority of your grade is derived from your individual performance; including performance and achievement in class and required concerts.

**50 % - Choral performances and evaluations**

- All students’ performance will be evaluated through regular vocal performance evaluations. (mp3 recordings, in class performances, quartets)
  - There will be at least one major performance evaluation each term.
  - Students will be graded based on individual progress using a vocal performance rubric.
  - New this year: I hear each student individually once per quarter for 10-15 minutes, this is graded for musical accuracy and expression.
  - Each piece assigned will have a due date. All pitches and rhythms must be learned by this date. A recording assignment is usually assigned.
- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is MANDATORY.
  - Each performance/dress rehearsal equals a major exam grade.

- If a student has an unexcused absence from a concert, the student will earn a zero for the concert which cannot be made-up.
- Make up assignments for missed concerts will be offered to students with excused absences only. Excused absences are determined on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of Mr. Scoglio.
- See the [attendance policy](#) you signed.

### 30 % - Participation

- The quality & success of any musical ensemble relies on the teamwork, cooperation, enthusiasm, mutual respect, and musical discipline/commitment of every member.
- This grade is comprised of daily participation, music reading, punctuality, preparation, behavior, and musical achievement. Using a pencil in rehearsal is required. Pencil & binder checks will occur.

### 10 %- Written Work

- All students will complete self-assessments, video reflections, concert reflections

### 10 % - Warm-up

- A warm-up order will be assigned. Keep track if you're next. If you're unprepared, you'll earn a zero with no possibility of a make-up. You'll be provided with all the information needed to prepare a vocal warm-up. A written plan is required and must be submitted.

**Timeliness:** There is a saying in the music business: "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is to be fired!" Do not arrive late.

**Attire:** It is as follows:

- Jewel Tones: Black dress pants, black button-down shirt, black shoes, black socks, jewel-tone tie. The casual variation is to replace the black pants with blue jeans.
- Luminescence: Silver shirts, solid black pants, black flats. No bare midriffs.
- Both groups should look unique, stylish, and uniform.
- Students will not be permitted to perform in attire that violates the school's dress code.
- I prefer flats, not heels. If you must wear heels, 2" or less. I have a tape measure.
- If you're not in dress code, you may be told not to perform - at the very least, your performance grade will be lowered by 50%.
- Neither group may make dress code decisions on their own. Mr. Scoglio must approve.

**Musical accuracy:** The performance should be an accurate reflection of your work in class. Please take your music seriously. Mistakes are expected. Mistakes are how we learn as humans. Work hard to fix them.

**Stage presence:** You should portray enthusiasm for the performance. Smile at and be supportive of your group mates, and acknowledge the audience's applause.

**Optimal representation of the group:** The Jewel Tones and Luminescence are known around town and throughout the high school a cappella world. Your behavior, on and off the stage, reflects on the whole group. You should be classy, friendly, and supportive of other groups.

**Approved Performances:** All performances must be approved by Mr. Scoglio. You are not permitted to create a smaller group, and perform a current Jewel Tones or Luminescence song. (Example: All the members of Luminescence may not perform a Lumi song at the Tri-M showcase) Every performance should include the entire group.

**Music Selection:** I plan to continue to allow the groups to select their own music to perform. All lyrics must be school appropriate. I reserve the right to veto any songs. The Jewel Tones and Luminescence represent the Music Department, MHS and the Town of Marblehead

There may be certain occasions where I will ask the two groups to rehearse and perform together as a choir (e.g. Vets Day, Winter Concert.) I will select this music.

**For those not in Choirs:** There will be occasions where you will be asked to rehearse choral music from Mixed or Women's Choir. I'll make time to review the music with you during Chamber Choir- although you will be ultimately responsible for polishing and memorizing it.

### **Rehearsal Skills/Class Participation:**

These are the basic skills that promote a positive, efficient rehearsal. If you intend to pursue music in college and beyond, you must master these. Even if you never sing again after high school, these are standards that any employer would hold you to. You are expected to ...

- Be on time: Rehearsal begins at exactly 2:45. If you are going to be late, bring a pass – no exceptions! On Thursdays if the board says to have a seat, please be in a seat by 2:45.
- Have your pencil and music: Keep an organized folder. It needs to be in your hands by 2:45.
- Be actively engaged in the rehearsal: This is not a time for private conversations, phone calls, homework, etc. You should be mentally, physically, and emotionally in the rehearsal at all times.
- Demonstrate positive and productive behavior: Our rehearsals must be a safe place where everyone can take risks and express themselves. Any negativity will hurt our creative potential. This is not the place for personal conflicts: work them out on your own time.
- Make adequate musical progress: You are expected to keep up with your music. If you're asked to practice your music at home, please do! You should be listening and singing with recordings when assigned. You're letting the group down if you don't. Repeatedly making the same mistake indicates that you are not putting in the time to fix it. If you have difficulty mastering a section of the music, schedule a 5- to 10- minute lesson with me.

### **Schedule:**

A complete schedule can be found on the Choral Website  
[www.tinyurl.com/marbleheadchoral](http://www.tinyurl.com/marbleheadchoral)

This calendar will be updated- it your responsibility to check it regularly. I suggest saving the calendar to your personal google account or at least bookmarking the page.

**A note about rehearsal attendance:**

Please remember that even though chamber choir meets after school, it is a class in which you are graded. You should also bear in mind, regardless of your grade, that your presence or absence has a huge impact on the group's rehearsal. Thus, it is essential that you are present for all rehearsals unless you are absent from school. Schedule appointments and extra help sessions on days when you do not have chamber choir rehearsal.

Sometimes, in the weeks leading up to a major event, the group elects to hold extra rehearsals. When such an alteration to the schedule occurs, it is always by consensus of the group and decided well in advance. Thus, such rehearsals are graded.

**Seniors:**

Seniors planning to do senior project should note that the chamber choir performs through June. Please plan your internships around the chamber choir schedule. If you will be unable to attend regular rehearsals during the fourth quarter, you will need to leave the group at the midyear point so that others may audition for your spot. Note that Acappellooza 2019 is in May.

Seniors are also advised that the performing schedule sometimes extends past graduation. These post-graduation performances are part of your grade, and any expected absences need to be cleared well in advance of the performance.

**Senior Show:**

If you are a senior and plan to be a part of senior show committee- you must communicate any rehearsal absences with me well ahead of time. You will not be permitted to miss more than one rehearsal due to Sr. Show. If I find you out were dismissed from school to work on Sr. Show, (and miss rehearsal) your term grade will decrease by 10%.

**Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices should be off or on silent mode during class time. Cell phones should be in the rack in C105 before 2:45. Electronic devices used without the direct permission of the instructor will be confiscated.

**List of Mr. Scoglio's pet peeves** (they are considered disrespectful in this room)

- talking while entering the room late
- calling out with inappropriate comments
- calling out answers before other students have the chance to process
- talking back to the teacher
- having work out for other classes
- using a cell phone during rehearsal
- making noises while others are singing
- making noises while the teacher is speaking
- refusing to stay on task (not standing up, not singing, etc)
- sitting in the wrong seat

- leaving the room without permission OR without following the proper bathroom procedure