

**Hilliard Darby High
School
Choral Department
Handbook
2009-2010**

*Michael G. Martin
Director of Choral Activities*

*Michael S. Snyder
Assistant Director of Choral Activities*

HILLIARD DARBY HIGH SCHOOL
VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
Michael G. Martin - Director

Welcome!

Welcome to the Hilliard Darby High School Choral Music Program. This handbook is provided for your convenience throughout the 2009-2010 school year, and includes everything that participating students need to know to achieve success in their vocal studies. The high school choral department hosts eight choral groups which include Concert Choir, Symphonic Choir, Women's Chorale, Men's Chorus, Chorale, Women in White, Women's Chorus and Men in Black.

You are now a valued member of what has been recognized as one of the finest high school choral programs in the country. We sincerely hope you will enjoy being a part of this organization, which continues to build a tradition of superior musical performance and artistic excellence. The choral department calendar listing all mandatory concerts is provided for your convenience. Parents and students should read all items in the handbook, sign, detach, and return the *parent volunteer, survey, calendar contract, and uniform agreement* by **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st**. Students will receive full credit for forms turned in by this date. Parents are encouraged to consider and fill out the volunteer sheet and return as well.

Philosophy

We believe that our choral program offers many things to the individual student; an opportunity to develop leadership skills, a sense of responsibility, to meet and make new friends and to grow as a musician with concentration on all aspects of a music education. Each student will also act as a representative of Hilliard Darby High School; and an opportunity to discover the unique thrill of performance.

History

In our thirteen years of existence, the Hilliard Darby Choral program has established an excellent local reputation in the Hilliard community. With performances at both our yearly OMEA contests at district and state events, and a national level of performances at ACDA, the choir program is recognized as one of the finest in the nation. It is my goal to continue to build on that reputation. We cannot do that without great students and families and a goal for excellence in all things. Superior music groups are a result of many hours of hard work as well as a strong dedication and commitment from each member.

I am looking forward to working with each of you. Your talent and hard work can make this year at Hilliard Darby very exciting, fun-filled, and musically rewarding for all of us.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Martin
Director of Choral Activities

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop correct vocal techniques
2. To develop fundamental skills in singing, notation and sight reading
3. To recognize musical elements and demonstrate expressive qualities in varying styles of choral music.
4. To contribute to blend, balance and the quality of the ensemble by the ability to sing a part securely.
5. To develop confidence in performing.
6. To enjoy music through active participation
7. To develop self-discipline by functioning as a responsible member of the choir
8. To experience successful achievement and pleasure through group involvement.
9. To develop personal character traits of leadership, poise, and dependability as well as provide an avenue for self expression.
10. To develop a desire to continue musical experiences.

About the Director

Michael G. Martin is Director of Choral Activities at Hilliard Darby High School where he conducts Concert Choir, Symphonic Choir, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorale, Men In Black, Women In White and also teaches music theory. He also serves as an adjunct professor at local colleges and clinician for the state of Ohio and Great Lakes region.

Martin pursued a college career at The Ohio State University, earning both a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a master of the Choral Arts in Conducting, studying with James Gallagher, Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt and Maurice Casey. This pathway provided an opportunity to study with and serve as accompanist for the late Robert Shaw, as well as an invitation to study at the Robert Shaw Chorale Festival Chorus in France in 1994. He has also performed and conducted major concerts throughout Germany, Austria, Switzerland, England, France and also on the BBC network. Martin also conducted the Hilliard Darby Symphonic Choir on a tour of England, which included a performance at St. Paul's Cathedral and at Carnegie Hall, New York for the performance of Durufle's Requiem.

In addition, Martin performed and conducted his own arrangements for men's voices with the OSU Men's Glee Club of such notable works as Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," and Stephen Sondheim's "Send in the Clowns," two of many arrangements included on the groups recordings. His compositions are published with Alliance Music, Houston, Texas, Lawson Gould and he is also a staff writer and arranger for Warner Brothers Publications, Miami, Florida. He has also prepared choirs for such notable conductors as Dr. Craig Jessop (the Mormon Tabernacle Choir), Rene Clausen, Dr. Eph Ely, Dr. Keith Hampton, Dr. Donald Neuen, Dr. Ann Howard Jones and Eric Whitacre. He has also performed with artists such as Marvin Hamlisch, Lauren Bacall, Jerry Seinfeld, and Robert Klein and has played for former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

Martin started the choral program at Darby High School in 1997 and it continues to be ranked as one of the top choral programs in the country. Mr. Martin is also Director of Music at Karl Road Baptist Church and resides in Pickerington, Ohio with his wife and son.

About the Assistant Director

Michael S. Snyder is currently in his first year as the Assistant Choral Director at Hilliard Darby High School and first year in Hilliard City Schools. In addition to his responsibilities at Darby, Michael also teaches choir and general music at Hilliard Heritage Middle School. Before coming to Hilliard, Michael taught for 5 years at Whitehall Yearling High School as the Director of Choral Activities. While in Whitehall, he doubled the participation, reorganized, and built a successful program that consistently achieved Superior ratings at numerous Solo & Ensemble, District, and State OMEA events. Professionally, Michael currently serves as an OMEA District XV Choral Adjudicated Events Chair, a position he has held since 2007. Prior to Michael's teaching career he served a variety of churches as a Director of Music and Organist throughout North Eastern and Central Ohio for nearly 10 years. These positions allowed Snyder to collaborate with notable musicians: Donald Busarow, Robert Hobby, The Paragon Brass, North Carolina Boys Choir, and the Coshocton Community Chorus. Michael continues his performance career as Church Organist and Choral Accompanist at Bexley UMC, Bexley, Ohio. Mr. Snyder attended Kent State University studying piano performance with Fredrich Schoettler, Lois Rova Ozanich, and received his BM degree in Organ Performance from the University of Akron where he studied piano with Phillip Thompson and Organ with Barbara MacGreggor. Michael received his Music Education Certification at The Ohio State University. Mr. Snyder will begin the Master of Music Education program at The Ohio State University in the summer of 2010.

GRADING

Choir seldom requires homework or written assignments as in other classes. Your work is done in class by participating and being a responsible member of the ensemble.

The effort you put forth in this class is very important. Each time you enter this room and follow the classroom procedures you will receive **20 points** (that is 100 points a week); all you need to do to keep these twenty points is to do **YOUR BEST** for 50 minutes each day.

An explanation of the daily grading system follows:

- Enter class quietly, get folder, go to assigned place and participate in class: +20 points
- Tardy to class (unexcused): -10 points
- No music or folder: -20 points
- Gum, candy, etc. in class: -10 points
- Disrupting class: -20 points
- Official absence from school: +20 points
- Excused absence from school: +10 points
- Unexcused absence from school: +0 points
- Performance at concert: +200 points
- Performance at festival or contest: +400 points
- Unexcused absence from performance: +0 points
- Part checks (scheduled & “pop”): +50 points
- Extra rehearsals: +200 points
- Unexcused absence from rehearsals: +0 points

The explanation of the above is simply there to make you aware of what will happen in case of any inappropriate behavior. Since this class is an elective and we all have a common interest, MUSIC, there is no reason why we should have to be concerned with the removal of daily points.

Your daily points will be totaled with any points earned on written or oral tests as well as performance points. The total points earned will then be fit into the grading scale.

Extra credit: Opportunities for extra credit are available for those students who have completed and turned in all assignments on the date due. Extra credit will not be awarded to those students who are unexcused for daily rehearsal and concerts.

Attendance, Extra Rehearsals, Performances, Student Activity Conflicts, Travel, Guidelines, Awards

Daily Attendance

Daily attendance is crucial for every choir member! Due to the nature of the course, when a student is absent he/she misses rehearsal and explanations that cannot be made up. In addition, the entire choir suffers because that student was not in school to learn his/her part along with the rest of the choir. Excessive absences before a concert may result in the student being asked not to sing for that performance. In addition, the student will need to make up the lost points.

Extra Rehearsals

Many times the difference between a superior and a poor musical performance is determined by the amount of rehearsal time spent in preparation. Extra rehearsals allow for many things: individual and small group work, help from visiting clinicians, and more time for that “extra polishing.” They are vital for any good performing organizations.

ALL EXTRA REHEARSALS ARE REQUIRED and they will not be scheduled unless **absolutely necessary.** You will always be notified of an extra rehearsal well enough in advance in order to make arrangements to attend. If students are late or have to leave early, they must have a written note or email from their parents or guardian. Excuses will be accepted for missing an extra rehearsal only if notification is received *prior* to the rehearsal. The director will determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

Excused absence

Students who are excused from a rehearsal and/or performance will have the opportunity to do an alternate assignment to make up the points. The make-up assignment may be in the form of a performance test or a written test. This assignment is at the sole discretion of the director. Failure to make up the points within the desired time frame (approved by the director) will result in a “0” for that assignment.

Unexcused absence

An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or concert will result in a “0” performance grade for that particular event. An unexcused absence from a performance still needs to be made up.

If excused, it is the students’ responsibility to get make up work. If unexcused, the student will not be given the privilege of making up the points lost due to his/her absence.

No points will be taken away from a student who cannot attend a performance due to religious observations. Make note of conflict on the student contract to assure opportunity to make up the concert or rehearsal.

Students who are not attending **ALL PERFORMANCES and REHEARSALS** will be subject to removal from the Hilliard Darby performing choirs.

Sports and Music

Should a conflict arise between a sporting event and a music event, the following table outlines a compromise that is workable for students, parents, coaches, administration and directors.

Student choice* is encouraged within the guidelines as outlined below.

SPORTS	MUSIC	RESOLUTION
Practice	Rehearsal	Student choice
Game	Rehearsal	Game takes precedence
Game	Concert	Student choice
Practice	Concert	Concert takes precedence
District/Regional		
State Tournament	District Contest	Student choice
State Tournament	State Contest	Student choice

***Student choice** - students may choose within proper notification guidelines outlined in this music handbook and in the rules and regulations as distributed by the coach.

Choral Music Requirement Involving Sports Conflicts

Students should make their choice known to the music director and coach in ample time for music literature to be changed and rehearsed. In particular, student choice can prevent or greatly hinder successful participation in district or state contests. Therefore, for district and state contest, if you must miss district or state contest, that decision should be made one month prior to the performance date

AWARDS

Peers vote on these awards, and each honored student will receive a plaque. A “Spirit Award” will also be presented and is chosen by the director.

ALL students who participate will receive an award for each year of membership in the choral program at Hilliard Darby High School. These awards are as follows:

Year One: Certificate

Year Two: Varsity Letter

Year Three: Three bar Chevron Patch

Year Four: Senior Plaque

This List of Potential Schedule Conflicts to be turned into the Director

**Hilliard Darby High School
Choir Student Contract**

RETURN BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 2009

CONFLICT REQUESTS TURNED IN AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE HONORED.

*Please list all potential conflicts in writing below or by email
Mike_Martin@hboe.org*

Student signature _____ date signed _____ Printed name _____

Parent signature _____ date signed _____ Printed name _____

SCHOOL UNIFORM RENTAL INFORMATION AND CONTRACT

Due Tuesday, September 1 2009

Checks for choir uniform fees should be made payable to Hilliard Music Boosters.

_____ Concert Choir - \$85.00 – for tuxedo outfit purchase for both boys and girls.
Families can re-sell it to incoming freshmen after the completion and advancement into higher choirs. .

_____ Women’s Chorale - \$50.00 dress and robe usage – Rental only.

_____ Symphonic Choir - \$35.00 – Rental only

_____ MIB, Women in White - \$50.00 for Tuxedo and Gown usage..

By signing below, I assume full responsibility for the school owned uniform which will be left in my care. I understand that I will purchase the concert choir uniform and have the option to sell it to incoming Concert Choir members. I understand that I am responsible for keeping this uniform (formal dress and choir robe) clean, neat and in good condition for the duration of the school year. I understand that I am also responsible for the replacement of the robe and dress should it be lost or damaged and be charged the full amount of the uniform for replacement.

Please return payment to the choir office by September 1st along with the signed uniform rental agreement below..

Student signature _____ date signed _____ Printed name _____

Parent signature _____ date signed _____ Printed name _____

Alternative Assignments for Missed Concerts or Events

The alternative assignment worth an equivalent amount of points is discussed with the student and assigned in the event of an excused absence. Students must complete this make up assignment within two weeks of the missed event or the grade will revert to a "0"

Guidelines for Success

Attend school and rehearsal regularly.

Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.

Become responsible for actions and assume the consequences.

Have proper respect for those in authority.

Follow classroom expectations, school regulations, and travel instructions.

Be respectful of school property.

Cooperate with fellow choir members and share responsibilities and privileges.

Contribute positively to music education.

Gain understanding of music and develop good listening skills.

Private Voice Lessons

In the month of September, area vocal coaches will perform a mini recital in class. Students will be given the chance to sign up for individual lessons that will take place either during the choir class period, a study hall or lunch periods.

We want only the best teachers working with our students. Private instructors are endorsed who exhibit a compatible teaching philosophy with the choral department. Please check with Mr. Martin in the choir office if you should have another name or vocal coach in mind. Private lessons are invaluable to each student and will certainly increase their success for solo and ensemble preparation, musical preparation and college auditions.

How Parents Can help:

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child.
2. Encourage your child to perform for others when the opportunity arises, whether at home, school church, or in the community.
3. Keep a record of the student's activities.
4. Notify the director if your child is to be absent or tardy at rehearsals or concerts.
5. Teach your child to be punctual at rehearsals and performance.
6. See to it that your child keeps up with classroom studies and makes up missed work.
7. Attend concerts and other events involving your child. Show your support!
8. Be a parent volunteer.

Please check areas of interest if you are interested and willing to help the choral department in any of the following areas. Please return by September 1, 2009.

Uniform Assistance

Interested in Parent Choir Yes ____ No ____

Symphonic Choir ____

Women's Chorale ____

Concert Choir ____

Name _____

Vocal Part _____

Field Trip Chaperone _____

Awards Ceremony _____

Camp Chaperone _____ (Symphonic Choir Only)

Office Help _____

Social Events _____

Fund Raising _____

Trips _____ (Applies to all groups)

Name _____

Address _____

Email or contact information _____

Phone Number _____

Hilliard Darby High School Choral Department 2009-2010 Rehearsal and Concert Schedule

All dates listed in bold type are mandatory for members of Concert Choir, Women's Chorale, Men's Chorus and Symphonic Choir. All dates listed in italic type are additional concerts or events that are mandatory for Symphonic Choir only. All dates underlined are opportunities for further student enrichment. Additional performances will be held mainly in December, April and May.

The italicized dates are for Symphonic Choir only!!

September 2	Open House
<i>September 11, 12, 13 Friday – Sunday</i>	<i>Choir Camp – Great Wolf Lodge – Sandusky Ohio</i>
September 26	All Choir Department Picnic – Homestead Park Families invited. Concert Choir, Women's Chorale, Symphonic Choir
Monday/Tuesday October 5/6	Der Dutchman Dinner Fundraiser – <u>All Groups</u> Time TBA
November 4	OCC Choral festival at Capital University – Selected Students
November 19	Parent Teacher conference Night
December 8	All choirs – After School Dress Rehearsal 3-6 p.m.
December 9/10	Celebration Concerts 7:00 p.m. – <u>All Groups</u>
December 21	Holiday Break
February 11	Parent Teacher Conference Night
February 13	OMEA Solo and Ensemble

<i>February 28</i>	<i>Symphonic Choir Only –Requiem Rehearsal 3-5 Off campus</i>
<i>March 7</i>	<i>Symphonic Choir Only –Requiem Rehearsal 3-5 Off campus</i>
March 9	After School Rehearsals for OMEA Contest
<i>March 11th</i>	<i>Requiem Dress Rehearsal with Orchestra – 6-9 p.m.off site</i>
March 11 th	After School Rehearsals for OMEA Contest
March 12/13	OMEA District Choir Contest – Held at Darby high School
<i>March 14th</i>	<i>Requiem Performance – 1:30 p.m. Concert at 3:00 p.m.</i>
March 22-26	Spring Break
<i>Sunday March 28th</i>	<i>Requiem Performance II 1:30 p.m. Call Concert at 3:00 p.m.</i>
April 23/24	State OMEA Contest
April 26	Music Awards
May 7/8	Musical
May 13	Spring Concert – <u>All Groups</u>
<i>May 17th</i>	<i>Farewell Concert and Robing Ceremony</i>
<i>May 28th</i>	<i>Graduation</i>
June 4 th	Last day of school.