

**John Jay High School  
Choral Studies Program**



2016-2017  
Student/Parent Handbook

# JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL

## PERFORMING ARTS DATES 2016-2017

### PERFORMING ARTS OFFICE – 914-763-7463

William Friedman – Introduction to Theatre, Acting, Advanced Acting, Actor's Studio

Amy M. Geiger – Concert Choir, Music History and Theory, Music Technology

Steven Morse – String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Chorale

Jeffrey Richardson – Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Studies

#### December

|           |               |                  |
|-----------|---------------|------------------|
| 8 (Thur)  | Fall Drama    | 7:00 P. M.       |
| 9 (Fri)   | Fall Drama    | 7:00 P. M.       |
| 10 (Sat)  | Fall Drama    | 1:00 & 7:00 P.M. |
| 21 (Wed)  | Freshman Play | 7:00 P. M.       |
| 22 (Thur) | Freshman Play | 7:00 P. M.       |

#### January

|           |                            |            |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------|
| 9 (Mon)   | Winter Concert - Choral    | 7:00 P. M. |
| 24 (Tue)  | Winter Concert - Orchestra | 7:00 P. M. |
| 26 (Thur) | Winter Concert - Band      | 7:00 P. M. |
| 30 (Mon)  | Winter Concert - Jazz      | 7:00 P. M. |

#### February

|              |  |     |
|--------------|--|-----|
| 10,11 and 12 | Berklee Jazz Festival (Vocal Jazz/Jazz Band) | TBD |
|--------------|--|-----|

#### March

|           |                |            |
|-----------|----------------|------------|
| 30 (Thur) | Spring Musical | 7:00 P. M. |
| 31 (Fri)  | Spring Musical | 7:00 P. M. |

#### April

|         |                |                   |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 (Sat) | Spring Musical | 1:00 & 7:00 P. M. |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|

#### May

|          |                               |            |
|----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| 4 (Thur) | Student One Act Play Festival | 7:00 P. M. |
| 5 (Fri)  | Student One Act Play Festival | 7:00 P. M. |
| 10 (Wed) | Spring Concert - Jazz         |            |
| 22 (Mon) | Spring Concert - Choral       | 7:00 P. M. |
| 24 (Wed) | Spring Concert - Band         | 7:00 P. M. |
| 31 (Wed) | Spring Concert - Orchestra    | 7:00 P. M. |

#### June

|          |              |            |
|----------|--------------|------------|
| 9 (Fri)  | Variety Show | 7:00 P. M. |
| 10 (Sat) | Variety Show | 7:00 P. M. |

# John Jay High School

## Performing Arts Department Choral Studies Program

*Steven Morse, Conductor, John Jay Chorale*  
*Amy M. Geiger, Conductor, Concert Choir*

September 2016

### **Welcome Back to School!**

We both hope you had a great summer and are ready to dig in and make music. As your choral directors, we will do everything in our power to make your singing experience fun and rewarding. There is a wealth of great music out there and with your cooperation and hard work, we can continue developing a first rate program here at John Jay High School. Last year saw many great moments for our choral studies program and together we will continue to excel. The John Jay Concert Choir has 25 members and this year Chorale has expanded to over 45 students. Both groups will focus on standard choral literature and strive to make the high school choral experience one you will always cherish.

Audience attendance at our Spring Concert was the highest in years as we continue reaching out to the community with our music. We're very happy you have chosen to become part of the John Jay musical experience!

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

This first week will be mostly voice testing, section placement, and other logistics. In all choral rehearsals we will focus on developing musicianship skills as well as preparing for performances. We expect everyone to read music and make every effort, in both rehearsal and performance, one based in musicality. We also expect full cooperation and attention in all rehearsals and performances and will not tolerate any behavior that has the potential to detract from the musical experience of others. We know what you are capable of and our expectations remain very high. We anticipate that we will continue to achieve great things this year, but as always, it's up to you!

We can always use more people in our choral ensembles. Recruiting new members is a constant and ongoing process that involves the director, parents, guidance personnel and **especially YOU!!!** **GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED!!!** Talk to your friends, ask them to come to a rehearsal and see what it's like. As always seems to be the case, we especially need male singers in our group. The more students involved the better the experience for all. Please help us continue to build the "John Jay Choral Studies Program" into the best high school choral program in the state!

In this handbook you will find useful information on the choral program. On the following page there is also a letter to your parents. Please take this handbook home to share with them. We're very excited about 2016-2017 in the John Jay Choral Studies Program and hope you are too! Please be sure all your forms are filled out and returned to us as soon as possible.

**Let's all work together and have a GREAT YEAR!!!**

# John Jay High School

## Performing Arts Department

### Choral Studies Program

*Steven Morse, Conductor, John Jay Chorale*

*Amy M. Geiger, Conductor, Concert Choir*

September 2016

Dear Parents,

Greetings! Welcome to the 2016-2017 John Jay Choral Studies program. We will do everything in our power to make the choral music experience fun and rewarding. Our expectations are very high and we demand a lot from the students. The program is based upon achieving a solid understanding of quality choral literature through the performance of great music. The students will be learning to sing in a variety of styles and languages and will experience music from all historical periods. There is a wealth of great music out there and with the students cooperation and hard work, we know we can continue to develop a first rate program here at John Jay High School. Students will also receive training in music reading and sight singing as part of the basic curriculum. The process of developing an exceptional program also depends on you as parents to support our efforts. There are bound to be many hurdles, but together we can achieve great things and create an experience that you and your children will always remember. We're excited about meeting the many new students and parents of the John Jay High School Choral Music program as well as saying hello to those of you with children returning from previous years. We hope you can all stop by during the annual "Campus Night" this fall.

The packet you have in your hand outlines the various aspects of the Choral Studies program and is designed to assist you and your child. Please look it over and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Our voice mail numbers are: Mr. Morse 763-7200 (x9494) and Mrs. Geiger 763-7200 (x9354). Email is often the best way to get in touch with us: [smorse@klschools.org](mailto:smorse@klschools.org) and [ageiger@klschools.org](mailto:ageiger@klschools.org).

We are very excited about the possibilities before us this year and look forward to meeting you all soon. Thank you for your support of the John Jay High School Performing Arts programs!!!

Sincerely,

Steven Morse & Amy M. Geiger

# **BASIC GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAMS 2016-2017**

## **RULES FOR THE MUSIC REHEARSAL AREA(S)**

-No gum chewing while in the rehearsal area. DEPOSIT IT IN A WASTE BASKET AS YOU ENTER!

-Do Not operate stereo or any other electronic equipment without the permission of the teacher.

-Please do not leave books, coats, etc. in the rehearsal area. **THERE IS NEVER A GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE ANY ITEMS IF YOU LEAVE THEM LYING AROUND.**

-Use folder cabinets for folder storage. Check these folder cabinets daily for any distributed music or hand-outs. Use your folder cabinet slots to return any music. Yes, you may take your music home to practice, BUT it is your responsibility to have your own music for each rehearsal. It is considered to be part of your class preparation to have your own folder for rehearsals. If you do not have or use your own folder, points may be deducted from your class grade. You are responsible for your music. Should you lose your folder, you will be expected to pay for the music and folder. The value will be determined by the music in the folder at the time it is lost.

## **REHEARSAL PROCEDURES**

-You are expected to be at rehearsal on time. (Points will be deducted from your grade for lateness.)

-Get out your music and prepare to begin rehearsal.

-Perform stretches (where applicable) and warm-ups. Sing slow comfortable low tones. Do not yell or scream pitches. This is not musical and counter-productive.

-When the director is ready, become silent and prepare for instructions to begin rehearsal.

-When in doubt. . . ASK QUESTIONS! No one understands everything. When you do not understand what has been reviewed in class, whether it be requirements, musical parts or theory, ask questions. **THE ONLY DUMB QUESTION IS THE ONE THAT ISN'T ASKED!!!**

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

-Take care of your voice. It is your instrument and your responsibility.

-Bring a **PENCIL** to class or keep one in your folder! This is imperative for marking music parts and scores.

-Rehearsal attendance is and ever shall be mandatory. This is the primary method of assessment by the director and each individual has a responsibility to the group to know their music and be prepared for performance.

-Performances are a requirement of this course and you are expected to be in attendance.

## GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS - PAGE 2

**Homework.** It is your responsibility to know your part. This may require you to take some music home with you. Each and every one of you is considered an important and integral portion of the ensemble. If you are “fudging” a part, you are not only wasting your time, but you are wasting mine and the group’s as well. You will be assessed on how well you learn your parts. . . be an aggressive participant!

### **Folders and Music**

A Music folder and copies of all the music will be provided for you. This is school property and you are fully responsible for it. A FOLDER CABINET is located in the rehearsal area with dedicated slots for each folder. You must keep your folder in it’s correct slot as there will often be music, announcements, and other communications distributed there. **It is your responsibility to have your own music for each rehearsal.** It is considered part of your class preparation to have your own folder for rehearsals. If you do not have or use your own folder, points may be deducted from your class grade. You will also be responsible for the cost of replacing any lost or damaged folders or music. You should keep a pencil in your folder at all times to mark your music – NOT INK!

**LESSON ATTENDANCE** is not required, but highly encouraged. We get a lot of work done during these small rehearsals and your presence is requested. Attendance at lesson periods can add as much as 5% to your grade.

### **PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED!** This is a **PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE CLASS.**

Please be responsible and check the schedule. Each and every one of you is important to the performance. If you are not in attendance, **YOU ARE MISSED!** There are a few acceptable reasons for not attending a performance. All absences pre-approved or otherwise must be explained by parent or guardian in writing. In the event a student cannot attend a performance, he/she may be asked to complete an alternative assignment or performance. This assignment/performance will be given grading weight equivalent to a similar portion of the performance rating had he/she attended.

### **Each student is required to provide their own concert attire as follows:**

CONCERT CHOIR -

Ladies: **LONG** black skirt (black pants are acceptable), white blouse, black shoes

Gentlemen: White shirt, Black tie, Black pants (NO JEANS!), Black shoes (NO SNEAKERS!)

CHORALE –

We are moving to formal concert attire this year. Information on dresses and tuxedo measuring and purchase will be handed out the beginning of the year in class.

*Extra credit for music-related activities outside the school curriculum may be considered by the Director on an individual basis.*

## GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS - PAGE 3

### **GRADING POLICY**

There are several factors considered when formulating a grade for the student. These are as follows:

#### **CONCERT CHOIR**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Student classroom participation (includes attendance) | 50%          |
| Student performances                                  | 30%          |
| Sight Singing and Rhythm Reading                      | 10%          |
| General music symbol understanding                    | 10%          |
| Lesson attendance (not required)                      | (+ up to 5%) |

#### **CHORALE**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Student classroom participation (includes attendance) | 50%          |
| Student performances                                  | 30%          |
| Sight Singing and Rhythm Reading                      | 10%          |
| General music symbol understanding                    | 10%          |
| Lesson attendance (not required)                      | (+ up to 5%) |

Some important musical factors in all aspects of grading are:

**Punctuality** (being at rehearsal and set up on time)

**Posture** (sitting in a correct singing position that supports good tone)

**Attention** (not talking and listening to the Conductor to receive feedback and instruction) **Musicality** (making each effort one based on achieving the most musical of results)

***Commitment, responsibility, preparation, and behavior are all factors considered with some or all of the above grading components.***

#### **OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

The program offers many other small ensemble performance opportunities for students enrolled in Concert Choir and Chorale. Below are outlined some of those ensembles.

**NYSSMA Ensemble** - This group is formed by invitation for the primary purpose of performing at the NYSSMA Small Ensemble Festival in the Spring. There are usually 12-16 members and the group meets for six to eight weeks outside the regular curriculum.

**NYSSMA Solo Festival** - This Festival is held each spring and is the audition vehicle for students desiring to participate in the New York All State Chorus. It can also be a valuable learning experience for all singers in the adjudication provided by the judges. The solos are taken from a required list provided by the Choral Studies Director. It is the student's responsibility to select a solo, secure the music, prepare the solo, secure an accompanist, schedule rehearsals and provide transportation to and from the festival site. There is a fee involved, which is due at the time of registration. **YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL CHORAL STUDIES PROGRAM IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY NYSSMA EVENT.**

## GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS - PAGE 4

**John Jay Vocal Jazz** - This ensemble is formed at the beginning of the year with scheduled rehearsals determined by the director. The group meets outside the regular ensemble periods, performs in school concerts, and is available to all students enrolled in John Jay HS. Tehearsals are scheduled by the director and are mandatory. This group participates in school concerts and completes each year in the Berklee High School Jazz Festival in Boston, MA.

**Noteables** - This is an all female, student-run ensemble that meets outside the regular school day. While the group is not part of the music program, they do occasionally perform at school concerts. It is available to all female students enrolled in John Jay High School and is auditioned in late spring for the following year.

**The Rolling Tones** – This is an all male a cappella that meets out side of the school day. Like the Noteables, it is student run and they do perform at various school functions. This group is open to all students enrolled at JJHS. Auditions are usually held in the late spring for the following year.

**The TrebleMakers**– This is a mixed voice, student –run ensemble that meets out side of the school day. They perform at various school functions and auditions are usually held in the late spring for the following year. This group is open to all students enrolled at JJHS.

**Any questions regarding the Choral Studies Program should be directed to Mr. Morse for the John Jay Chorale or Mrs. Geiger for Concert Choir. They can be reached at 763-7463 (Performing Arts Offices) or 763-7200( x9494) (Mr. Morse Voice Mail) and 763-7200( x9354) (Mrs. Geiger Voice Mail).**

*Our email addresses are: [smorse@klschools.org](mailto:smorse@klschools.org) and [ageiger@klschools.org](mailto:ageiger@klschools.org).*



# John Jay H.S. Choral Studies Program

## Student Information Sheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS/GUARDIAN NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN SINGING?    1       2       3       4 or more

VOICE PART (if known) : \_\_\_\_\_

FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION (if interested for this year):

NYSSMA MUSIC FESTIVAL (All State Solo Audition)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT TRIP

ENSEMBLES/CLASSES/ PA ACTIVITIES: (check all that apply)

|                     |                          |                             |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| CHORALE             | <input type="checkbox"/> | CONCERT CHOIR               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAND                | <input type="checkbox"/> | ORCHESTRA                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| JAZZ ENSEMBLE       | <input type="checkbox"/> | VOCAL JAZZ (13-14)          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| THEATRE PRODUCTIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> | THEATRE CLASS (level _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NOTEABLES           | <input type="checkbox"/> | ROLLING TONES               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| TREBLE MAKERS       | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |                          |

WHAT INSTRUMENT/VOICE PART? \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ACTIVITIES (SPORTS, CLUBS, ETC...)

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I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of John Jay High School as outlined in the John Jay High School parent/student handbook. I have also read and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the John Jay High School Choral Studies Program as outlined in this handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

