



Intermediate/Advanced Choir Syllabus – 2026-2027

Instructor: Ross Cawthon, rcawthon@tlu.edu

Rehearsal Schedule and Location: See calendar posted at www.tlucma.org

Course Description: Intermediate/Advanced Choir is open to students with developing part-singing, vocal production, music reading, and ear training skills. The choir learns a range of age-appropriate secular and sacred choral literature that explores a wide variety of genres, which is performed at CMA and community concerts.

Choral music will be assigned and provided for ensemble performances. All music must be returned following a final performance. If damaged or lost, the student will be responsible for the cost of replacement music.

Course Objectives:

- To provide members the opportunity for musical expression through disciplined choral rehearsals, sight-reading, and public performances. (TLU IGG-Knowing & Doing)
- To represent the TLU Community Music Academy in a manner that embodies its mission statement and the rich choral tradition of the Lutheran Church.
- To participate in outreach activities and engage in active community service. For example, to perform in hospice facilities, nursing or retirement care facilities, community events etc. (TLU IGG-Becoming)
- To learn to respect, support, and depend on each other musically and personally. (TLU IGG-Becoming).
- To investigate, discover and perform the music from choral traditions around the world. (TLU IGG-Knowing & Doing)
- To gain performance skills through performance opportunities.
- To learn the basics of fundamental musicianship, including a basic understanding of rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, texture and form.

The course objectives will lead to the following student goals:

- Students will exhibit proper singing posture.
- Students will develop proper breathing technique and breath control
- Students will develop pitch matching skills and listen to intonation
- Students will develop good vocal/choral tone that is age-appropriate
- Students will sing with proper vowel shape and diction
- Students will sing in unison, with exposure to singing in canon, partner songs, or limited two part singing
- Students will develop aural skills, as well as introduction to reading music (notes, rhythm, and solfege with hand signs)
- Students will work together as a choral ensemble, while following the Director

Attendance Policy:

- Attendance at all performances is required.
- Attendance at all rehearsals (regular, sectional, and extra) is required. Acceptable reasons for a rehearsal absence:
 - important family event (e.g. wedding or death of relative)
 - school-sponsored event requiring student's attendance (e.g. UIL competition)
 - unexpected, serious medical problem
- Choir members are expected to notify the instructor in advance if they must miss a rehearsal.
- If a student cannot sing due to minor illness, the student is asked to still attend choir rehearsal in order to listen to and observe the rehearsal while following along with the music.
- Following three absences, the instructor reserves the right to ask the student not to perform in recitals or to drop the student from the choir.

Important Performance Dates:

December 10, 2026 - TLU Chapel, 7:00 p.m.

April 29, 2027 - TLU Chapel, 7:00 p.m.