

MVHS CHOIR AUDITIONS

for the 2019 - 2020 school year



WE WANT YOU!

When I go to a new restaurant, I want something iconic. I want whatever item they are famous for – what they really do well. Whatever makes them unique, that’s what I want to experience. Personally, I invite you to do the same here at Mountain View High School: participate in what makes MVHS great. The MVHS Choir Program has been unique and extraordinary for years and it’s high time you hopped on board to see what all the hype is about. I am confident that you will have a life-changing experience as you grow as a singer, musician and person.

The audition is a simple process of placing you in the ensemble that will be the best fit for you. I encourage all to audition, regardless of previous musical experience.

Here is what to expect in your vocal audition:

- I will guide you through a simple exercise to determine your **vocal range**: how low and high you can sing.
- I will play multiple notes on the piano in succession and have you sing them back to me. This is called **pitch memory**. I’m checking for how accurate you can sing the notes I play.
- I will teach you a brief vocal exercise and have you sing it alone while I play something different on the piano. This is called **part independence**. I’m checking to see if you can sing harmony.
- You will sing 16 bars (or 30 seconds) of a **prepared piece** of your choice. I will be listening for balanced phonation, breath support, pure vowels and keen musicality. Keep in mind that you are auditioning for a choir and not American Idol. Your song choice and vocal style should showcase your best classical, choral voice. I recommend preparing a folk song, hymn, or classical music theater piece.
- You will **sight-read** excerpts of notated music of varying difficulty. I’m checking to see how well you read notated music.

I look forward to hearing you!

Fondly,
Mr. Taylor

ABOUT THE CHOIRS

Chamber Choir

A2 – Seniors only. As the most advanced vocal ensemble at MVHS, Chamber Choir consists of 32 dedicated musicians who embrace the difficulty and satisfaction of a rigorous rehearsal and performance schedule. As an enrichment ensemble, students are expected to be enrolled in another advanced level music class (A Cappella, Wind Symphony, AP Music Theory) simultaneously. Members are expected to fund and participate in the annual spring choir tour. **Audition and call-back required.** Full year commitment expected.

A CAPPELLA

B2 – Juniors and Seniors only. This is the largest choir at MVHS and usually contains around 100 vocal athletes. The sheer size of A Cappella allows opportunity to explore challenging and ambitious repertoire at a very high performance level. Members are expected to fund and participate in the annual spring choir tour. **Audition required.** Full year commitment expected.

Con Brio

A3 – Any grade level welcome. The name means “with joy”, “with light” or “with life”, which embodies the personality traits of successful participants. Con Brio is the advanced women’s chorus at MVHS. Members are expected to fund and participate in the annual spring choir tour. **Audition required.** Full year commitment expected.

MAN CHOIR

A4 – Any grade level welcome. Man Choir <grunt> is the entry level auditioned choir for changing and changed male voices at MVHS. Specific attention is given to male register negotiation and vocal development. **Audition or recommendation (from junior high music director) required.** Full year commitment expected.

Symphonic Voices

B4 – Any grade level welcome. Symphonic Voices is the entry level auditioned choir for developing female voices at MVHS. Specific attention is given to developing a rich and full tone throughout the vocal range. **Audition or recommendation (from junior high music director) required.** Full year commitment expected.

CONCERT CHOIR

B3 (semester 1 only) – Any grade level welcome. Concert Choir serves as the stomping ground for a wide variety of students. Basic musical skills are taught, such as notational literacy, healthy vocal production, and listening skills. Concert Choir performs at all MVHS choir concerts. **No audition required.**

Motive A Cappella

Any grade level welcome. Motive is a unique group, specializing in pop acapella music. This small ensemble is extra-curricular, rehearsing exclusively outside of school hours. As part of the vocal music program at MVHS, Motive still performs regularly at all choir concerts. **Audition and call-back required.** Full year commitment expected.

MVHS CHOIR AUDITION SHEET

Please bring this form filled out to your audition time. Please plan to arrive early or stay late in order to complete the Music Knowledge evaluation.

Name _____ Current grade level (circle one) 9 10 11 12

List any previous choirs you have sung in:

Have you ever taken private voice lessons? Y N How long? _____ Teacher _____

If you play an instrument, list which and indicate how many years of experience:

What do you think is your voice part? *Soprano* *Alto* *Tenor* *Bass* *I don't know*

In a sentence or two, describe why you want to be in choir:

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