

BAA [Russian Concert Choir 10] Framework

District Name: Kootenay-Columbia

District Number: 20

Developed by: Andrew Davidoff

Date Developed: March 20, 2004

School Name: Stanley Humphries Secondary School

Principal's Name: Wayne Naka

Board/Authority Approval Date:

Board/Authority Signature:

Course Name: Russian Concert Choir

Grade Level of Course: 10

Number of Course Credits: 2

Number of Hours of Instruction: 75

Prerequisite(s): None

Special Training, Facilities or Equipment Required:

Access to practice facility. Performance and playback equipment(PA system, monitors, mixer, microphones, stereo system, headphones, VCR/DVD, projectors). Recording equipment(video cameras, computers, software, recording collection). Costuming. Props/sets. Portable risers. Transportation to performances. Teacher or resource person with experience in directing Russian *a cappella* choral singing.

Course Synopsis:

This course has been developed to support and encourage students to explore the richness and diversity of Russian *a cappella* choral singing, which has existed for almost a century in the local community. It will provide students with the opportunity to study and perform in a choral ensemble in a variety of Russian *a cappella* styles and help develop related Russian language skills. Students will meet outside of class time for this course throughout the school year at times and places to be determined by the teacher and resource person(s). The course will focus on developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes students require to perform in an *a cappella* choral ensemble.

Rationale:

This course has been developed to support and encourage students to explore the richness and diversity of Russian *a cappella* choral singing, which has existed for almost a century in the local community. The course will focus on developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes students require to perform in an *a cappella* choral ensemble. Students will have opportunities to develop the techniques required to sing in a variety of ensemble contexts; demonstrate technical competence and stylistic interpretation; develop an understanding of the aesthetic qualities of *a cappella* music; develop music literacy; perform diverse repertoire, exploring how Russian *a cappella* music has developed throughout history; examine the roles and purposes of choral music in society; and develop skills for imparting knowledge of this genre of music to future generations.

This is a performance-based course designed to give students the opportunity to derive educational experiences from participating in a choral music ensemble. Certain concepts and skills can be identified and experienced only in an ensemble setting. This group experience will allow students to develop an understanding of the aesthetic and technical qualities of an *a cappella* choral ensemble. Through ensemble performance, students will develop their abilities in the three areas common to all fine arts curricula: skills, expression/creation, and context. Through participation in the rehearsal and performance process, students will gain confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of commitment. Through this course students will acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to embrace this genre of music as a lifelong pursuit.

The prescribed learning outcomes for this course are grouped according to the same three curriculum organizers used in all K to 12 Music IRPs: Structure; Thoughts, Images and Feelings; and Context. A fourth organizer, Musicianship, identifies learning in relation to the applications of ensemble performance.

Program Model:

Topic	Title	Time
Topic 1	Technical Competence	25 hours
Topic 2	Performance Applications	25 hours
Topic 3	Music Literacy	25 hours
Total Hours		75 hours

Topic Descriptions:

Topic 1: Technical Competence Time: 25 hours

Students will develop singing techniques specific to individual voices: diction; tone quality as specific to repertoire; articulations, inflections, and ornamentations; intonation; breath control; development of range; singing over voice break; blend and balance.

Topic 2: Performance Applications Time: 25 hours

Students will develop performance skills and attitudes to a variety of concert choir performance contexts: fluency-synthesis of vocal techniques and aesthetic interpretation; role of the individual voice within the ensemble; stage presence and etiquette as appropriate to the performance context; posture; *a cappella* performance; memorization; responding to direction.

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Topic 3: Music Literacy

Time: 25 hours

Students will develop the ability to use appropriate music terminology, and understand the elements of choral music styles: music theory and terminology in relation to the structural elements of choral music (e.g. ear training); choral voicings; concert choir repertoire (e.g. chant; folk; gospel)

Curriculum Organizers and Learning Outcomes

Structure (*Elements of Rhythm*)

It is expected that students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between lyrics and rhythm in choral music
- perform complex rhythms in a variety of metres
- analyse and use rhythms reflective of a variety of cultures and styles
- apply skills in ear training and aural dictation to form rhythmic patterns in simple metres

Structure (*Elements of Melody*)

It is expected that students will:

- perform melodies with an understanding of phrasing
- apply skills in ear training and aural dictation to form melodies

Structure (*Elements of Expression*)

It is expected that students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the lyrics and the elements of expression in choral music
- maintain a part accurately within complex textures and harmonies
- apply an increasing range of tempos, dynamics, articulations, timbres and harmonic voicings in the performance of choral repertoire
- analyse how the elements of expression are combined to achieve specific effects
- describe the elements of expression in choral repertoire
- describe the elements of expression in terms of the physical properties of sound

Structure (*Form and Principles of Design*)

It is expected that students will:

- use appropriate terminology to describe form and principles of design in choral music
- relate the form of and principles of design in choral music to those in other arts
- compare and contrast forms of choral music compositions from a variety of historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts

Thoughts, Images, and Feelings

It is expected that students will:

- apply the elements of music to interpret and represent a broad range of thoughts, images, and feelings
- demonstrate a willingness to share personal insights from experiences with choral music
- analyse and communicate thoughts, images, and feelings about choral music that relate to social, historical and political issues
- defend personal music choices, demonstrating awareness of the thoughts, images, and feelings the music expresses

- demonstrate respect for and understanding of the diversity of thoughts, images, and feelings evident in culturally, historically, and stylistically diverse choral music

Context*(Self and Community)*

It is expected that students will:

- use skills and attitudes appropriate to a range of music experiences in a variety of venues, as a performer, participant, and audience, demonstrating:
 - an awareness of the sense of community
 - audience and performance etiquette
 - performance skills
 - respect for others' contributions
- demonstrate an ability to critique the work of self and others
- practise individual and group rights and responsibilities in music performance
- demonstrate willingness to share music with others
- demonstrate an understanding of issues related to vocal health and hearing safety
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of at least one music career

Context*(Historical and Cultural)*

It is expected that students will:

- compare and contrast choral music from a range of historical and cultural contexts including their interrelationships
- compare and contrast choral music created for a variety of purposes
- describe the purposes of vocal music in local traditional societies
- identify inter-relationships among historical and cultural choral styles
- perform choral music from a range of historical and cultural contexts

Musicianship

It is expected that students will:

- demonstrate competence in vocal technique
- demonstrate performance skills and attitudes appropriate to the performance context
- demonstrate an ability to respond to the direction of the conductor
- perform choral repertoire, demonstrating an understanding of its structural elements
- set personal goals for choral performance

Instructional Components:

- direct instruction
- indirect instruction
- interactive instruction
- independent instruction
- modeling
- practical creativity
- brainstorming
- group work
- audio tape/CD
- analysis of commercial audio works
- analysis of amateur/own and classmate's audio works

Assessment Component:

- Formative assessment will comprise fifty percent(50%) of students' grades and will be based on criterion-referenced evaluations of assignments, attendance, participation, attitude, teamwork, etc., conducted throughout the course.
- Summative assessment will comprise fifty percent (50%) of students' grades and will be based on criterion-references evaluation of students' concert performances.
- Teacher and student developed criterion-referenced evaluation rubrics will be utilized throughout the course for outcomes such as: course participation; technical competence; performance applications; music literacy.
- Student self-assessment will be utilized throughout the course.

Graduation Portfolios:

- This course will provide many opportunities for students to add to their graduation portfolios. Items might include photos, audio and video tapes, adjudication certificates from music festivals and other awards, *et al.*

Learning Resources:

- Performance and playback equipment manuals.
- Recording equipment manuals
- Russian and *a cappella* music

Additional Information:

This is a new course based on 2 years of a successful *a cappella* Russian Choral Music program carried out in the local community with over 75 participating students. Local community partners to date have donated all of the teachers/resource persons, specialized facilities/equipment and learning resources.