

2012 – 2013
Choral Booster Handbook



Pantheon Choir

Clarion Choir

Women's Choir

Men's Ensemble

Chanteclairs

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A Message from our Choral Director

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to choir 2012-2013! I look forward to working with you and your children this year. A year filled with incredible opportunities has been planned for the choirs, in particular, the Pantheon Choir. Please read on further for details and mark your calendars for the concert dates in this handbook. Be certain to check my teacher page for updates.

Thanks to the Pantheon Choir Officers, Maureen McDonough, Wendy Sembrat and the choral boosters for putting together the annual “welcome to choir” pool party at Dominion pool that took place September 1. In spite of the rain, the students and parents in attendance had a wonderful time.

Now, down to business! On October 18 at 7pm, the Pantheon Choir will host the annual **Pops Concert**, this year featuring the music of Rodgers & Hammerstein. Since there were many students who had never heard the music from last year’s musical, *South Pacific*, before the auditions, I thought it was time they experience additional musical theatre classics by two of the greatest American musical theatre collaborators, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein. You’ll hear music from *Carousel*, *Oklahoma*, *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, and many others. All of the choirs will participate in this concert. As is tradition, we ask a donation of \$5 at the door for this choir fundraiser.

Speaking of collaboration, **Pantheon Choir** will be performing in four joint concerts this year. The first, taking place over Thanksgiving weekend, will be an exciting one with the North Allegheny High School Chamber Choir and Gioria Fumanti, a singer from Tuscany, Italy, who was the opening act for singer Patrizio (you may have seen his PBS specials) at his concert at Heinz Hall last year. The choirs and Ms. Fumanti will be performing everything from opera to popular to holiday music, some arranged just for this concert, and will be accompanied by professional musicians. The first performance, here in the USCHS Theatre, will be on Friday, November 23, and the second will be at North Allegheny HS on Sunday, November 25, both at 7pm. I’m certain you won’t want to miss this one. If anyone feels inclined to ask your company to underwrite any part of putting a concert such as this together (program and ticket printing, feeding the students between rehearsal and performance, lights, sound, musicians, flying Ms. Fumanti here from Italy...), please contact me. We will give free advertising in the program book. We are hoping to sell enough tickets between the two schools to pay for everything and still donate some money back to the choral boosters from each school. More details to come....

Collaboration number two: **Pantheon Choir** will be the guests of the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra on December 15 at the USCHS Theatre in a program of holiday music. The PCO is a wonderful community orchestra, conducted by Dr. Warren Davidson. This marks our second performance with the group.

In the third collaboration, the **Pantheon Choir**, the Moon Area High School Choir and the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing Carl Orff’s rousing, classical cantata, *Carmina Burana*. I

am sure you will recognize the opening and closing movements of “O Fortuna.” This exciting program will take place at Moon Area High School on February 2.

The final collaboration for the **Pantheon Choir** is called “Singing City.” The event will have 2,000 singers from the Mendelssohn Choir, high schools, universities, churches, synagogues, community choirs, etc. singing at the Petersen Events Center with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Manfred Honeck. The students will not only have the opportunity to sing under the baton of Maestro Honeck, but to rehearse with Pittsburgh’s own choral music legend, Robert Page in rehearsals at Heinz Hall. “Singing City” will be the evening of Saturday, April 20.....another event not to miss!

If that isn’t enough, **Pantheon** will also be travelling with the Marching Band to the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in Washington, D.C. for our Spring Trip, April 11-14. We are still in the process of finalizing the itinerary for that, but we are looking into some wonderful performance opportunities.

Don’t forget the **Pantheon Choir Annual Spring Banquet**, May 19, at which the seniors will be honored.

All of the USCHS choirs will participate in the aforementioned Pops Concert, as well as the Holiday Concert on December 18, and the Spring Concert, May 16.

The **Chanteclairs** will kick off its concert season on November 13 with a Chamber Choir Festival with high school choirs from Mt. Lebanon, Bethel Park, and Cannon-MacMillan, along with the Westminster Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir. Two years ago, this concert was such a huge success that it is back by popular demand. The concert will begin at 7pm in the Sanctuary of Westminster Church. The **Madrigal Dinner**, hosted by the **Chanteclairs**, will be held at the **Westminster Church Feasting & Fellowship Hall** on Saturday, December 3. The Ladies of the **Clarion Choir** and the Lords of the **Men’s Ensemble**, along with the Lords and Ladies of yonder Ft. Couch, under the direction of Sir Thomas of Hunsberger, will participate in a jolly evening of song and feasting. The event is a fundraiser for the Choral Boosters, so invite your friends, neighbors and family to celebrate with us! Wes hale!

Please take note of the choir festival options available to the students this year. **Honors Choir** is open to students, grades 9-12, and the auditions will be held at Norwin HS on September 24. This year’s festival will take place at the beautiful Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center on November 2-3. The event will have a Women’s Choir and a Men’s Choir, with both groups combining for two songs. Dr. Lynn Drafall from Penn State will conduct the women’s choir, and Dr. Stephen Barr from Slippery Rock University, will conduct the men. If interested, students should get music and rehearsal track information from Miss Milovac ASAP!

ACDA Mucho Macho Young Men’s Choir Festival, for boys, grades, 6-9, will be held at North Hills Jr. High School on Tuesday, November 6. Guest conductor is Dr. Jason Bishop. The Mucho Macho Festival began seven years ago as a way to promote and encourage young men to sing during their most uncertain time of vocal change. The Men’s Choir from Westminster College will sing with the boys and serve as the vocal models.

Upper St. Clair HS will be hosting the ACDA Sweet Harmony Festival, for girls, grades 6-9 on Friday, November 16. The women’s choir from Westminster College will be singing along with the girls this year during the rehearsal for added reinforcement and modeling. Guest conducting will be Joy Hirokawa, choral director at Moravian College in eastern PA.

PMEA District Chorus auditions will be on Monday, November 19 at Belle Vernon HS at 4pm. Interested students, grades 10-12, should see Miss Milovac for music. District Chorus will be held at Quaker Valley HS February 6-8. The **Region-State Festival** will be March 20-22 at Moon Area HS, and the **All-State Conference** this year will be in Erie, April 17-20. The **PMEA Junior High District Chorus Festival** for students in grades 7-9 will be April 12-13, at **Upper St. Clair High School**. Yes, Mr. Hunsberger and I are co-hosting two festivals this year, so we could use a little help!

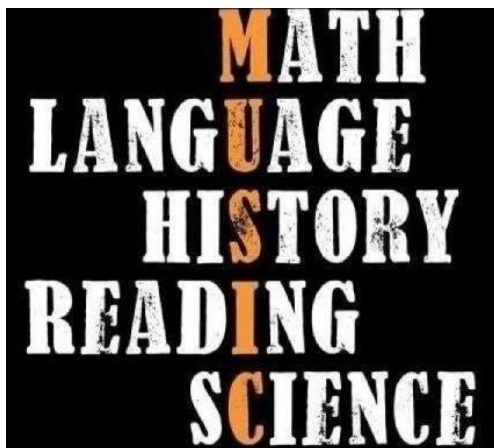
If that isn't enough, the year will start with the **Thespian Club Cabaret** on Saturday evening, October 13, and end with the **Senior Recital** date, TBA.

In 07-08, a Chapter of the **Tri-M Music Honor Society** at USCHS was formed. "Tri-M" stands for Masters of Modern Music. Open to all Music Department students, grades 9-12, who meet certain criteria; the primary goal of the Tri-M is to foster enthusiasm for music participation through various performances, service projects & other activities aimed at promoting leadership. Students will learn more about this Honor Society for music students in the coming weeks.

The **Choral Boosters** do an incredible job of supporting the choir and me by coordinating fundraising activities, measuring, ordering, fitting, maintaining and distributing performance wear, organizing events such as the Madrigal Dinner and the Musical Baskets, putting together this handbook, and doing everything the organization can to provide whatever the choral program needs to be successful. I am very fortunate to know that I have a group of dedicated parents working with me who share my vision of giving our students our best in all we do. I encourage each of you to join the Choral Boosters this year. Many thanks!

It is very reassuring to know that the Upper St. Clair School District supports the arts in our schools by seeing it as an important and vital part of its curriculum. Take a look at the poster below. Every subject is a part of music. Add to it the way that music enriches one's soul and well-being, and no other subject can come close to fulfilling the needs of the whole child the way that music can. I am blessed to work with the wonderful students, administration and parents at Upper St. Clair. Hope to see you at our performances.

Ms. Lorraine Milovac
USCHS Choral Director



Welcome to Choral Boosters!

The 2012-2013 School Year is sure to be an exciting and busy year for all of us. As the returning President of the USCHS Choral Boosters, I'd like to officially welcome each of you. The Choral Boosters' Mission is to promote and support the efforts of Ms. Milovac and each student in our High School Choir ensembles. Their talents and dedication amaze me, and I am thrilled to lead this group of parents in their support! Please remember that whatever your talents or availability, every volunteer effort is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with comments or questions. Your ideas and input are always welcome! Thanks in advance for joining the USCHS Choral Boosters. I look forward to seeing you at each of our 2012 – 2013 meetings!

Wendy Sebrat
Choral Booster President

Choral Booster Mission & Membership

We invite you to join the USC Choral Boosters!

USC Choral Boosters promote and support the efforts of Ms. Milovac and each student in our High School Choirs.

Annual dues are \$10 per family. Pantheon Choir members only pay an additional mandatory \$25 wardrobe maintenance fee. Pantheon Choir gowns/tuxedos will be distributed only if the student has paid the 2012-2013 wardrobe maintenance fee.

If you did not join during the September 18th Registration Event, please contact membership chair, Chris Aloe, at xmasaloe@aol.com or 412-833-8085. Chris will e-mail or mail a membership form to your home.

Membership dues should be made payable to USC Choral Boosters, then returned to:
Chris Aloe, Membership Chair, 2505 Heartwood Dr., USC, PA 15241

Thank you for joining Choral Boosters!

Benefits to Joining

- ❖ We work to communicate effectively with our Choral Booster families who will receive e-mail reminders regarding upcoming choral opportunities/events.
- ❖ We raise money to benefit our Singers and Director - for choral trips, projects, performances, recognition events, and more.
- ❖ We annually distribute a portion of the money that we raise into individual student incentive accounts. These funds are used by the student to help pay for choral trips. A student must be a member of Choral Boosters to receive this subsidy.
- ❖ We support the talents and enthusiasm of our singers, and enjoy the music they provide to our entire community. Join us as we help our students shine!

Telephone numbers of the 2012-2013 Choral Booster leadership team can be found in the USC Student Directory, distributed annually by the USC PTA/PTSO.

Executive Board

High School Choral Director	Lorraine Milovac	lmilovac@uscscd.k12.pa.us
Ft. Couch Choral Director	Tom Hunsberger	thunsberger@uscscd.k12.pa.us
President	Wendy Sembrat	wsembrat@verizon.net
Vice President	Christy Lane Woynar	christywoynar@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Sembrat	wsembrat@verizon.net
Secretary	Tracy Wang	tracy.wang@highmark.com
Parent Advisor	Cherie Dixon	cheriedixon@comcast.net
Faculty Advisor	Paul Fox	pfox@uscscd.k12.pa.us

Committees

Chairperson/s

Membership	Kim Frenette	paramillie515@gmail.com
Wardrobe Manager	Regina Zelik Wendy Sembrat	reginazelik@gmail.com wsembrat@verizon.net
Publicity	OPEN	
Madrigal Dinner	Lauren Trocano Deb Pieka	laurentro@verizon.net dpieka@gmail.com
Backstage Greetings	OPEN	
Musical Basket Auction	Maureen Mc Donough	mmmcd@aol.com
Magazine Sale	Michelle Turnwald	mturnwald@verizon.net
Joe Corbi Sale	Carissa Gans	svcmjg@aol.com
Sarris Candy Sale	Becky DeGregorio Co-chair OPEN	degreg@live.com
Reception & Recognition	Cherie Dixon Maureen Mc Donough	cheriedixon@comcast.net mmmcd@aol.com
Trip Chair	OPEN	
Ft. Couch Parent Liason & Membership	Marilyn Rubino	pittfans5@aol.com

Mod Schedule for Choir Classes

Mods	Choir
1-2	Men's Ensemble
7-8	Clarion
11-12	Pantheon
15-16	Women's

Concert Attire

Women's Chorus

- ❖ Black dress pants
- ❖ Black dress shoes, heel no more than 2", no open toes
- ❖ White cotton/lycra shirt with long sleeves and a jewel neck
(shirts available through Choral Boosters at a cost of \$10 each-see Cherie Dixon)

Clarion Choir

- ❖ Black dress pants
- ❖ Black dress shoes, heel no more than 2", no open toes
- ❖ Black cotton/lycra shirt with long sleeves and a jewel neck
(shirts available through Choral Boosters at a cost of \$10 each-see Cherie Dixon)

Pantheon Choir Women

*****When Wearing Black Choir Gown *****

- ❖ Black dress shoes, no more than 2" heel, no open toes, natural shade hose

To Be Worn Under Choir Robe

- ❖ Dress or skirt of your choice
- ❖ Black dress shoes, 2" heel, no open toes, natural shade hose

Men's Ensemble & Pantheon Choir Men

*****When Wearing Choir Tuxedo Ensemble *****

- ❖ Black (or very dark) dress shoes with dark socks

To Be Worn Under Choir Robe

- ❖ Black (or very dark) dress slacks
- ❖ Black (or very dark) dress shoes with dark socks
- ❖ White collared dress shirt with tie of your choice

***** Pantheon Choir Gown/Tuxedo Note *****

Pantheon Choir gowns/tuxedos will be distributed to your student only if:

1. His/her \$25 wardrobe maintenance fee for 2012-2013 is paid - AND –
2. He/she signs a student contract indicating he/she is aware of his/her responsibility to care for the apparel reserved for his/her use during the 2012-2013 choral season.

Calendar of Events

All dates are accurate as of 9/12/12, but subject to change. Updates will be sent via Choral Booster e-mail communications, or check the Music Dept. Calendar at www.uscsd.k12.pa.us

2012	August	8/8	Chanteclair Rehearsal (6:00 -8:00pm)
	September	9/1	Choir Welcome Pool Party – Dominion
		9/15, 9/19	Choral Booster Registration; Pantheon/Men’s Ensemble Wardrobe Pickup Choir Room (9/15 8:00am – 1pm; 9/19 6:00-10:00pm)
		9/18	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)
		9/24	PMEA Honors Choir Auditions (4:00pm Norwin High School)
	October	10/9	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)
		10/18	Pops Concert (USCHC Theatre, 7:00 pm)
		10/31	Fall Play performances (USCHS Theater)
	November	11/1, 3, 4	Fall Play performances (USCHS Theater)
		11/2-3	PMEA Honors Choir (Seton Hills University Performing Arts Center)
		11/6	ACDA Mucho Macho Men’s Choir Festival (Boys Grades 6-9, North Hills Jr. HS)
		11/13	Chamber Choir Festival at Westminster Church - Chanteclairs
		11/13	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)
		11/16	ACDA Sweet Harmony Festival (USCHS Theater, Girls Grades 6-9)
		11/19	PMEA District Chorus Auditions (Belle Vernon HS, 4:00pm)
	December	12/1	Madrigal Dinner Event (Westminster Presbyterian Church, 5 pm)
		12/8	Chanteclairs (St. Clair Country Club 12:00)
		12/15	Spring Musical Final Casting Auditions
		12/18	Holiday Choral Concert (All Choirs, USCHS Theater, 7:00 pm)
		TBA	Pantheon Choir - Courthouse
2013	January	1/8	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)
		TBA	Pantheon Choir – Carmina Burana with Moon HS and PYPO
	February	2/6 – 2/8	PMEA District SHS Choral Festival – Quaker Valley HS
		2/12	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)
	March	3/1-3, 3/7-9	Spring Musical Performances (HS Theater)
		3/12	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)
		3/20-22	PMEA Region State Chorus Festival
	April	4/4-4/7	NAfME (formerly MENC) All-Eastern Division Conference – Hartford, CT
		4/9	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)
		4/11-4/14	Marching Band/Pantheon Choir Trip to Washington, DC
		4/12-4/13	PMEA Jr. District Chorus - USCHS
		4/17-4/20	PMEA All-State Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Festival – Erie, PA
		4/20	“Singing City” – Pittsburgh Symphony/Pantheon Choir (and 3,000 -4,000 voices) – Petersen Event Center
	May	5/14	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)

		5/16	Spring Choral Concert & Reception (USCHS Theater, 7:00 pm)
		5/19	Pantheon Banquet
	June	6/1	Senior Recital (Tentative Date)
		6/11	Choral Boosters Meeting (Choral Room, 7:00 – 8:30pm)

Fundraising Opportunities

The Choral Boosters provide various opportunities throughout the school year for students to raise funds for their individual Student Incentive Account, and for parents to help strengthen the Choral Booster General Account. With the exception of the Joe Corbi Fundraiser (which is sponsored by the Band Association) all profits from Choral Booster Fundraising funnel into either the individual student's incentive account or the Choral Booster general fund. The Student Incentive Account is funded to pay for both choral department and music department trips. All choral students have the opportunity to participate in planned trips. It is important to note that your singer will not be eligible to apply incentive account balances to trip expenses unless his/her family is a member of Choral Boosters.

Annually, a portion of the General Fund dollars will be equitably distributed into Student Incentive Accounts in the form of a subsidy. Again, the student is eligible for this subsidy only if his/her family is a member of Choral Boosters.

2012-2013 Fundraising Schedule

All dates subject to change

Date	Fundraiser	Chair(s)	Seller	% Profit	Student Incentive Acct.	Gen. Fund
All Year	Giant Eagle Gift Cards	Wendy Sembrat	Students Parents	5%	4.5%	0.5%
October TBA	Readers Digest Magazines	Michelle Turnwald	Students	40%	75%	25%
November TBA	Sarris Candy Fall	Becky DeGregorio	Students	25% +	75%	25%
TBA	Sarris Candy Spring	Becky DeGregorio	Students	25% +	75%	25%
Nov or Early Dec	Luminaria Distribution	Band Parent	Students Work	Hourly Wage	100%	0%
12/1	Madrigal Dinner	Lauren Trocano	Parents	TBD	+	100%
Late Jan or Early Feb	Joe Corbi Pizza & Cookie Dough	TBA	Students	TBD	TBA By Band Assoc.	Band Assoc
3/1 - 3/9	Backstage Greetings	TBA	Parents		+	100%
3/1 - 3/19	Musical Topiary	Maureen McDonough Paula Hogenmiller	Parents		+	100%

Choral Booster Incentive Program

General Fund Account

- ❖ The General Fund is created through the fundraising efforts of the Choral Booster Organization. At the close of each budget year, the Executive Board will allocate a specific amount of funds from its operating budget, after all expenses have been paid, to the General Fund.
- ❖ The General Fund Account will be distributed to Student Incentive Accounts every 4th year for the major Music Department Trip (historically the Disney Trip). Only those students who are paid Choral Booster members will be eligible to receive these funds.
- ❖ General Account Funds will be distributed to all eligible students equally.
- ❖ The fundraisers that currently fund the General Fund Account are:
 - Musical Backstage Greetings
 - Musical Basket Auction

Student Incentive Accounts

- ❖ A student incentive account is comprised of the monies raised by each student through fundraising events offered throughout the year. These funds are available to use for any choral trip taken during a student's four years at USC High School.
- ❖ When a student registers for chorus, a student incentive account is opened for them through the Choral Boosters Organization. This account will remain open as long as the student is a member of Chorus and until the student graduates.
- ❖ Upon graduation the student's incentive account funds will be transferred to a sibling's account in the USC HS Choral Program. If there is no sibling in the Choral Program, the funds will be transferred in to the Choral Boosters General Fund Account. Choral Booster Incentive Account Funds can only be transferred to other siblings within the Choral Department. Funds cannot be transferred to siblings in other music departments.
- ❖ Fundraisers that currently fund the Student Incentive Accounts are:
 - Sarris Candy
 - Joe Corbi Pizza
 - Reader's Digest Magazine Sales
 - Luminaria
 - Giant Eagle Gift Cards

You May Want To Know . . .

PMEA: The Pennsylvania Music Education Association exists to help Pennsylvania music educators. They offer opportunities for students to perform in festivals, both honorary and adjudicated, for which a school can earn credit toward certification. They encourage excellence in the profession, across the state. The PMEA is affiliated with MENC, the National Association for Music Education.

MENC: The Music Educator's National Conference is the world's largest arts education organization & the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. 130,000+ members represent all levels of teaching (preschool - graduate school). Since 1907, MENC has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, & high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers.

ACDA: The American Choral Directors Association is a non-profit music education organization whose central purpose is to promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research, and teaching. This organization sponsors Mucho Macho Music and Sweet Harmony Festival, grade 6-9.

National Standards for Music Education:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
7. Evaluating music and music performances
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Honors Choir: Pennsylvania schools are clustered into Districts. USC High School is in District 1. Choral students audition to perform at their District's Annual PMEA Honors Choir Festival. This year the auditions will be held at Franklin-Regional HS on September 19. This year's festival will take place at the Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center on November 4, 5. Participation by all USCHS choral students is highly encouraged.

Seats/Chairs: A concertmaster in an orchestra is called the "first chair". At an auditioned festival, students are ranked by seating or by "chairs." The "first chair" would have the highest total points, "second chair" the second highest points, etc.

You May Want To Know . . .

Adjudication: A formal music performance assessment. For choral music, typical adjudication categories are quality of sound (tone, intonation, vowel uniformity, blend/balance), technique (rhythm/precision, diction/articulation), and musicality (interpretation/style, phrasing, expression, sensitivity, dynamics).

Commissioned Piece: The Choral Boosters commissioned Chicago composer, Paul Carey, to compose a piece for the Pantheon Choir. His set of “Three Spirituals” premiered and was well received at the Spring 2008 Choral Concert.

Madrigal Dinner: Chanteclairs present the evening’s musical entertainment for Choral Booster’s historic annual dinner and fundraiser. Pageantry, costumes, feasting! Don’t miss this most delightful celebration typically held in early December.

Backstage Greetings: This Choral Booster fundraiser provides families the opportunity to send a backstage greeting card & congratulatory star cookie to any student involved in the spring musical. This program is a long- standing tradition at USC.

Theater Angels: The Music Department asks that the parents of all students participating in the spring musical (cast, orchestra, costumes, makeup, ushers, stage crew, etc.) volunteer as Theater Angels during the musical season. This year’s Theater Angel meeting will be held in January 2012. Theater Angels have an opportunity to pre-order musical tickets! It’s a win-win opportunity. Consider being a Theater Angel.

Drama Director: The director for the Fall Play & Spring Musical is Mr. JR Hall.

Music Theory Self Study: A fundamentals of music course, offered each fall/spring, intended for students who are giving serious consideration to having a major or minor in music in college. The course may include elements of music theory, composition, ear training, & jazz improvisation. Each student, with the aid of his/her teacher, develops a course of study. Students meet weekly with the instructor.

Music Theory Advanced Placement (AP): A full year course providing students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college course in music theory. The course develops a student’s ability to recognize, understand, describe, & analyze the basic materials & processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The course emphasizes integrated approaches to the student’s development of aural, sight-singing, written, compositional, & analytical skills through listening, performance, written, creative, and analytical exercises.

Our Choirs

Men's Ensemble: An elective course open to male students in grades 9 - 12. The Men's Ensemble is designed to accommodate students new to the Upper St. Clair Choral Department. Members study basic singing techniques and the basic elements of music. The music is of a varied nature including classic pieces, barbershop, and popular styles of music. All coursework is completed in class during rehearsal, except for the occasional evening rehearsals (if necessary), and two annual concerts, which are mandatory. The Men's Ensemble always provides an entertaining addition to USC's Choral Concerts, and occasionally performs in the community on field trips. Students receive regular grades as in academic subjects. No audition is necessary.

Women's Chorus: An elective course open to female students in Grade 9 interested in participating in a performing choral group. Members study basic singing techniques and basic elements of music. The music is of a varied nature including sacred, secular, Broadway, and popular songs. All coursework is completed in class, except for occasional evening rehearsals (if necessary), and two mandatory annual concerts. The Women's Chorus occasionally takes performance field trips. Students receive grades as in academic subjects. No audition necessary.

Clarion Choir: Open to all female students grades 10-12 interested in participating in a performing choral group. Members study singing techniques and intermediate elements of music. The music is varied in nature, including sacred, secular, Broadway, and popular songs. All coursework is completed in class, except for occasional evening rehearsals (if necessary), and two mandatory annual concerts. The Clarion Choir performs challenging music. Occasional performance field trips are taken. Students receive regular grades as in academic subjects. No audition is necessary.

Pantheon Choir: A mixed choir of female students grades 11-12 and male students grades 10-12. Auditions, required for this ensemble, are held the week before course selection sheets are due. An audition sheet will be posted outside the choir room. Members study vocal techniques and advanced elements of music. The Pantheon Choir has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony and The River City Brass Band. A favorite tradition is the performance in December on the steps of the Allegheny County Courthouse. All coursework is completed in class except for occasional evening rehearsals (if necessary), and three mandatory annual concerts. Students receive regular grades as in academic subjects. Prerequisite: Director's recommendation through an audition; participation in a choral group the preceding year.

Chanteclairs: A co-curricular choir that specializes in *a cappella* music. Only students who are enrolled in Pantheon Choir may audition for this ensemble and students must continue as members of Pantheon Choir. Students in other choirs may also be invited by the director to audition. Chanteclairs rehearse on Tuesdays from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.