

Intermediate Chorus

Syllabus



musicfirst

Intermediate Chorus (Middle School)

by Dr. Andrea Maas

This course is intended for use in-class with students, for integrating technology into your choral program in a comprehensive manner, providing a broad scope of learning activities toward creating, performing, responding and connecting. There are combinations of automated grading as well as assessments which require review, response and possible re-submission. Intermediate content is more broad in design, while secondary /advanced content will need more depth of performance. Feel free to customize as you desire. The

PracticeFirst contains an ever-expanding library of repertoire to meet the needs of deeper performance literature. The library includes a broad selection of works for unison, two-part, and three-part choirs, as well as technical exercises, rounds, canons, and partner songs in addition to standard SATB literature.

Before assigning lessons, tasks or assessments, please preview in both the teacher view and in the student view.

- If there are issues, glitches or errors, please report to support@musicfirst.com.
- Many lessons contain links outside of MusicFirst, the links have been tested but cannot be guaranteed over time to function as originally designed.
- Please use the "reuse" tab to copy and customize the lessons for your needs and appropriate for your situation.
- Some lessons were designed with alternatives to PracticeFirst, Noteflight, and Sight Reading Factory, and some lessons are designed to not require additional software.
- The PracticeFirst assessments in this lesson were created in Noteflight and the data was transferred as XML files. Should you need to modify the lesson to make it easier or more challenging, please feel free to use the existing ideas as a guideline and share your content within the MusicFirst community.

Course Contents:

Music Theory
Scales & Technique
Sight Reading
Ear Training
General Knowledge
Improvisation
Performance
Critique
Composition
Vocal Health

Intermediate Chorus

Detailed Outline

Getting Started with MusicFirst for Choral Students

Includes non-graded activities for students to learn to navigate MusicFirst and available software.

Vocal Music Fundamentals (includes content from Empower the Choir by Donald Neuen)

Postures

Breathing for Singers

Phonation!

Practicing Diction

Section Characteristics for Sopranos and Altos

Section Characteristics for Tenors and Basses

Scale & Vocalise Assessments

Vocal Health for Singers

General Knowledge (includes content from Empower the Choir by Donald Neuen)

Lesson 1: Characteristics of Fine Singing

Lesson 2: Marking your Music and Identifying Challenges

Lesson 3: Singing in Latin, Italian & Spanish

Lesson 4: Historical Contexts

Lesson 5: Creating an Expressive Performance

Music Theory

Pitch

Rhythm

Terms & Symbols

Key Signatures

Ear Training

Intervals 1 - Unison, Octave, Seconds

Intervals 2 - Major & minor 3rds

Intervals 3 - 4ths & 5ths; Interval Inversion

Intervals 4 - Sixths

Intervals 5 - Sevenths and Tritones

Practice with Intervals

Intervals Final Project

Scale Quality

More Scales: Chromatic, Whole Tone, and Pentatonic Scales

Chord Quality

Performance Assessments

Solo Assessment
Quarterly Performance Assessment
Practice With Sight Reading Factory

Critique - Respond

Concert Reflections
Responding to Performances
Critique of a Musical Performance
Star Spangled Banner - Compare & Contrast

Beginning Sight Reading: Sight-Reading & Festival Preparation

Getting Started with Sight Reading Factory
Lesson 1: Scale Degrees 1-2-3-4-5
Lesson 2: Adding the 6th Scale Degree
Lesson 3: Perfect 5th using Scale Degrees 1-5-1
Lesson 4: Major Triads using Scale Degrees 1-3-5-3-1
Lesson 5: Adding the Upper Octave
Lesson 6: Leading Tones 2 and 7
Lesson 7: Scale Degrees 4-2-1
Lesson 8: Scale Degrees 8-6-4
Sight Singing Exam - Level 4

Intermediate Sight Reading: Sight-Reading & Festival Preparation

Intermediate Sight Reading Assessment: Reading Rhythms
Intermediate Sight Reading Assessment: Reading Melodies
Intermediate Sight Reading Assessment: Scales and Arpeggios-Intermediate

Advanced Sight Reading: Sight-Reading & Festival Preparation

Advanced Sight Reading Assessment: Scales and Arpeggios - Advanced
Advanced Sight Reading Assessment: Reading Melodies, Level I & II - Advanced
Advanced Sight Reading Assessment: Reading Rhythms, Level I & II
Advanced Sight Reading Assessment: Reading Melodies, Level III & IV - Advanced
Advanced Sight Reading Assessment: Reading Rhythms, Level III & IV
Advanced Sight Reading Assessment: Reading Melodies, Level V & VI - Advanced
Advanced Sight Reading Assessment: Reading Rhythms, Level V & VI

Composition - Create

Compose with Intervals
Create Your Own Karaoke Back-Track with Soundtrap
Composing for Choir
Create Your Own Karaoke Back-Track with O-Generator

Weekly Assignments (generic activities to reuse)

Weekly Practice Journal

Weekly Video Recording

Weekly Audio Recording

Improvisation (Lessons 1-7 by Erik Lawrence, 8-10 by Shane Bordeaux)

Lesson 1: Call and Response with 1 – b3 – 4

Lesson 2: Call and Response with 1 – 5 – 6 – b7

Lesson 3: Call and Response with 1- b3 – 4 – 5 – b7

Lesson 4: Call and Response with 1- b3 – 4 – b5 – 5 – b7

Lesson 5: Call and Response with 1- b3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – b7

Lesson 6: Call and Response with 1- b3 – 4 – b5 – 5 – 6 – b7

Lesson 7: Solo

Lesson 8: Blue Notes, the Blues Scale, and Improvising in the Blues Genre

Lesson 9: Improvising Using Range, Dynamics, Articulation, and Melodic Contour

Lesson 10: Using Improvisation as a Means to Express Emotion