

Fairfield
CHORAL *F* MUSIC

2020-2021 School Year
Member Handbook_{ND-}

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Choral Music. Fairfield Style.

The Fairfield choirs are ensembles dedicated to achieving excellence in the professional, musical, and performance aspects of an ensemble. Members will be devoted to learning professionalism (attendance, attitude and cooperation), musicianship (music reading and practice, vocal production, and ensemble participation) and performance practice (showmanship, style, and choreography execution). Each member will demonstrate an attitude of positive cooperation, teamwork and effort.

In addition, Fairfield choirs are to be exceptional public ambassadors and representatives of Fairfield City Schools. The reputation of the Fairfield Choral Program is determined by the behavior of its members. Great expectations of maturity and behavior extend beyond the rehearsal room and beyond the school day.

The choral music offerings at Fairfield High School are both inclusive and exclusive in nature: any student who wishes to participate in a choir may do so but is assigned to the group where they fit best in terms of experience and talent. Such a structure contributes significantly to the efficiency of a multiple choir program. It enables one to group the most experienced singers for maximum musical achievement while serving the needs of the less experienced in choirs whose achievement level closely approximates their needs.

Our Mission. Your Opportunity.

“Where Tradition and Excellence Meets Innovation and Opportunity.”

The goal of the Fairfield High School Choral Music Department is to provide each student with a unique and valuable experience in the world of choral singing. The skills of following directions, rational thinking, responsibility, self-improvement (both as a musician and as a person), group teamwork skills and high-end public performance are all taught, reinforced, and practiced daily.

We are proud of the choral tradition of excellence and are dedicated to preserving the hard work and dedication that has earned us success. To achieve our goals, it is necessary that we all work **together** and maintain our willingness and dedication to be knowledgeable musicians. The choirs here in Fairfield are a family. Working as a collaborative team effort is the only route to success!

Our Choirs. Our Pride.

- **Acapocalypse (9th-12th grade, audition only, mixed a capella choir)**
 - Acapocalypse is made of a small select group of students, who focus on creating music without instrumental accompaniment. These students are selected on their sight-reading ability and sense of musicality. Covering many styles of music, the group rehearses once a week after school as an extracurricular. Acapocalypse often performs at sport events and for school choral concerts.
- **Choraliers (10th-12th grade, audition only, adv. mixed show choir)**
 - Choraliers was created in 1967 by former director Paul Thoms. They are considered the flagship show choir ensemble of the district. The Choraliers have traveled throughout the U.S. and perform at local, regional, and national events. They have earned countless Grand Champion honors and national awards. Choraliers meets daily as a class and has some after school commitments.
- **FortissiBROS (9th-12th grade, audition only, adv. men's show choir)**
 - FortissiBROS was established in 2017 by director Mark Mercer to further enhance the growing choral program. They have earned the title of Grand Champion and have consistently placed in the top of the single-gender division. A select group of men, this group performs at regional show choir competitions as well as at a national level and rehearse weekly after school.
- **Little Elegance (6th-9th grade, audition only, int. ladies' show choir)**
 - Little Elegance was created in 2018 by director Mark Mercer to provide more opportunities to our middle school girls that audition for show choir. This group is an extra-curricular performance group that learns the beginnings of show choir and helps prepare them for their future within the program. They perform at select competitions and local community events.
- **Pure Elegance (10th-12th grade, audition only, adv. ladies' show choir)**
 - Pure Elegance was created in 2007 by former director Jeff Clark. A select group of women, this show choir has consistently been a top ensemble of accomplished singers who have been named Grand Champion several times in the unisex division, including a National Grand Champion Unisex Show Choir title in 2012 and 2018. They have also won many caption awards throughout the years. They perform at regionally and nationally and rehearse daily as a class.

Our Choirs. Our Pride. (Continued)

- **Rhythm Express (6th-9th grade, audition only, int. mixed show choir)**
 - Rhythm Express was established in 1983 by former director Daniel Prior. The group has won several awards including National Grand Champion Jr. High School Choir in 2010 and 2018 and have had undefeated seasons in 2013 through 2019. They perform at local and civic events and compete regionally in show choir competitions.
- **Sound Check (9th grade, no-audition, int. mixed concert choir)**
 - Sound Check is our Freshman Choir that meets daily throughout the school year to refine vocal technique, sight-reading skills, essential musicianship, and the performance of a varied repertoire of music. One concert is performed each nine weeks with opportunities for solos and small ensembles.
- **Tone Down For What (10th-12th grade, no-audition, mixed concert choir)**
 - Tone Down For What, FHS's Mixed choir was established in 2020 by director Mark Mercer. Tone Down For What meets daily throughout the school year to refine vocal technique, sight-reading skills, essential musicianship, and the performance of a varied repertoire of music. One concert is performed each nine weeks with opportunities for solos and small ensembles. Performance in OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) will also occur in the spring.
- **Vocal Impact (10th-12th grade, audition only, adv. Chamber concert choir)**
 - Vocal Impact, FHS's advanced chamber choir was established in 2018 by director Mark Mercer. This group is a selective auditioned group that is open to males and females. They refine vocal technique, sight-reading skills, and essential musicianship throughout the year. Music consists of a variety of vocal works spanning several centuries, including current contemporary musical works. Performances in OMEA state contests will also occur during the spring of each year as well as the possibility of competing. Students will perform in mandatory concerts a minimum of twice per semester. Prior vocal experience is helpful but not required for the course. Upper classmen will be expected to assume leadership positions and responsibilities during the year. In addition, this class can be taken for honors credit.

Communication. Stay Connected.

The best methods of communication are via technology. We ask that an **E-MAIL** address be provided for each family that is checked on a daily basis. There will be a weekly e-mail that is distributed to help keep families in the loop of information. The e-mail will include upcoming detailed information about events and needs along with reminders and updates within the program at that given time. It is **critical** that both the student and parent see these updates. Please make sure any e-mail changes you make are **clear** and **legible**. Here are some of the other great ways to stay in the loop:

Website: <http://www.fairfieldchoirs.com/>

Weekly E-Mail: Each week, you will receive a weekly update with all that is going on within our department. This will be a great go-to for information, questions, and updates. The e-mail that you provide on the audition form will be the one used for the weekly e-mail. If you are not receiving the e-mail, please contact Mr. Mercer. In addition, if you change your e-mail address, you will need to give Mr. Mercer the updated e-mail. **Note:** E-mail, Remind, Facebook, and the Calendar will be our primary methods of communication. **If you have a concern, use e-mail rather than calling - it will give you a faster response!**

Charms: This online web-based program will make your life easier as you navigate through the show choir year. You will have 24-hour up-to-date access to the things that are important to you: Calendar, Your Student Statement, Absence Log, Volunteer Needs, Forms, and much more. This Communication Hub will replace many of the different things we use currently to house everything in one place.

It is important to make sure that your student profile and parent profiles are completely updated and filled out. Leaving out information will cause issues down the road – perhaps leaving you and your family in the dark. Your login information will be given to you once you have been accepted into the program. See an overview video to prepare you here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAvoR8CgCwg>

A very important tutorial will be given at the opening year meeting – it is vital that you are there so that you are up-to-date on all of the new changes.

PLEASE do not contact directors in any other forms of communication than e-mail and/or Remind. Do not text, Facebook message, etc.

Success. A Team Effort.

The key to the success in choir is putting the interest and the integrity of the success of the **group** first. There will certainly be times when putting the interest of the group first is not necessarily well accepted by an individual. This is normal, and it happens quite often. This is the time when we need your strongest level of support and understanding. To achieve this, we need to keep lines of communication open. **If you have a question or concern, your first stop should be the director.** Going to other people (i.e. principal, other parents, other students) only causes more issues, rumors, misunderstandings, and unneeded drama. **The most successful student organizations have highly involved parents who interact with the students and director in a positive way.**

More Than A Commitment. It's An Attitude.

As you can imagine, the many accomplishments and accolades that the Fairfield choral program has garnered over the years has been obtainable due to the amount of time that has been put into the performances, competitions, and events that our students participate in. Participation in concert choirs are typically limited to classroom time, minimal after school rehearsals, and 4-5 concerts. A cappella choir meets after school once a week and participates in 3-4 concerts during the year.

Show choir students will have several more commitments such as FSCU, Camp Merc, rehearsals outside of the school day, competitions, community performances, and more. Students in Pure Elegance and Choraliers are co-curricular as they rehearse during the school day but have some after school commitments. Little Elegance, Rhythm Express, and FortissiBROS, The Heartbeat, and Nuts & Bolts are exclusively after school rehearsals.

Students and parents sometimes worry that participation in the choir program will get in the way of other activities, especially sports. We have had students who have played most sports available on this campus in our program. We feel strongly that athletes bring very valuable work and team ethics to their choirs. With that said, we think it is also true that sometimes choices have to be made.

Most importantly, we need students and parents to have a positive attitude in this program. Be proud to be a part of the program. Things might not always go your way, but it is a privilege to be part of such a prestigious legacy, not a right. Let's find solutions to problems that arise together.

Attendance. Be Present.

Attendance at all scheduled engagements are mandatory. Attendance is crucial to the success of the group a student is a part of. Excessive absences to rehearsals is damaging for the entire group. Being late/leaving early is also damaging to the entire group. Therefore, the following policy is necessary:

- Daily attendance status (during the school day) will be based on the Fairfield City Schools attendance policy.
- Student absences will be excused at the discretion of the director(s). Absence will be deemed excused if the director(s) are given at least 24 hours notice and there is a sensible reason (FHS extracurricular conflict, illness, family emergency, etc.)
- Three unexcused absences from after school rehearsals will result in dismissal from the ensemble. Attendance will be taken five minutes after rehearsal begins. Each tardy will count as $\frac{1}{2}$ an unexcused absence. Therefore, a student who is tardy six times will be dismissed from the ensemble.
- **Any unexcused absence from a performance is grounds for dismissal from the ensemble.**
- It is understandable that members are involved in other Fairfield City School sponsored activities. However, Fairfield Choirs must take certain priority. Therefore, numerous conflicts resulting in absence will not be tolerated. Non Fairfield City Schools activities will not be excused.

To be clear, unexcused absences include, but are not limited to: Work-related conflicts, family dinners, birthdays, doctor appointments, dentist appointments, driving school, rock concerts, etc. Please plan ahead. Excusable absences include weddings, funerals (two weeks' notice unnecessary), military requirements, illness, etc. **We do not excuse for jobs.** We also will not compromise with jobs as we provide plenty of notice for upcoming events and rehearsals.

If you have a question about what is considered excused, please contact the directors **well in advance**. **Excusable absences must be submitted in writing two weeks before the event.**

Placement. It's a Privilege.

Performers must take personal responsibility to know every note, every dance step (for show choir), and blocking for a performance. Every day is an opportunity to earn your spot in the group. Performers may be assessed at any time on singing their voice part and/or performing their dance assignment. Inability to properly execute a number will result in the performer being swung out of a number and/or performance.

No performer has the “right” to any particular spot regardless of skill or seniority and no justifications will be made to argue a particular blocking location. It is important to understand that membership in a group does not guarantee you a spot on stage. Performers must understand that blocking positions are based upon the director and/or choreographer’s interpretation of the best look and sound for each particular number. Blockings may change at any time. Most show choir students will be swung out for one song. What does it mean to be a swing? Most students will be out of the show for one song. If a student doesn’t know what they are doing in a song, has a bad attitude, is out sick, or many other reasons, a swing can take their spot. **Any student or parent who argues or questions blocking will be taken out of the number and/or show.**

Solos

Performers and families must understand that solo selections are based upon the director’s interpretation of the best sound for each particular number. More than one soloist may be selected for the same solo part. **Solos may change at any time.** If a performer is not present for rehearsals (regardless of the reason), the solo may be given to another singer. The solo may be cut for logistical or creative reasons. No performer has the “right” to any particular solo regardless of skill or seniority and **no justifications will be made to argue a solo choosing.** However, you can always ask for feedback!

Voice Lessons. Invest In Yourself.

We encourage students to take private voice lessons to further their vocal technique. On our website, you can find a list of area teachers. **Those students in Vocal Impact may take the class for Honors Credit if they are fulfilling the minimum number of voice lessons required.** (Honors Credit info can be found in the Grading and Assessment section of this handbook.)

Grading and Assessment

Throughout the year, students will be evaluated in the categories below. Even though choir members who meet after school will not receive a grade, they will still be evaluated within the same standards and expectations.

Fairfield Choir Department Grading Policy

40%	<p>Attendance and Participation: Preparation in Class (folder, pencil, dance clothes, assignments, etc.), Attendance in Class and Sectionals (when applicable), Behavior, Attitude & Effort, Appropriate Appearance for Performance, Rehearsal Discipline, Concert Participation, Concert Etiquette, etc.</p>
30%	<p>Musicianship Vocal assessments will be given for points. Improvement is important, not raw ability. Successful musicians are typically those who mark their music with important information, who practice regularly, and are punctual and disciplined.</p>
30%	<p>Showmanship Choreography (for show choir) and show concepts (facial communication, stage presence, etc.) will be tested for points. Thorough knowledge and execution of the visual aspects is expected and will be tested.</p>

Class Materials

Students are to have a pencil at all times. It is recommended that they keep this in the choral folder that is provided to them at the beginning of the year. It is expected that the student has their folder with them **at every rehearsal**. Any lost music or folders will be charged to the student's account.

Leadership Positions

The director(s) will assign the following positions to mature individuals to help the daily activities of the Choral Music Program. (These positions are designed to be year-long assignments. However, if a student is inconsistent or unable to continue in the position, it will be reassigned.) **For awards events, MS dance captains will always accept the awards. The HS president will always accept the award with the section leaders or dance captains (there will be a rotation schedule).**

- *President (HS ONLY)* will be the intermediary between students and director. He/she will be the spokesperson for the ensemble. He/she will be assigned to help maintain ensemble records: attendance, supply and music needs.
- *Section Leader(s) (HS ONLY)* will be assigned to help sections learn music, organize sectional rehearsals/activities, and communicate students' needs to the directors.
- *Dance Captain(s)* will be assigned to help lead ensemble sections learn choreography and clean visual elements of the group's performance. They will lead some rehearsals, answer questions, and help individuals with problems.
- *Properties Manager (HS ONLY)* will be assigned to help directors and the costume committees manage music folders, costumes, and property needs of the ensemble.
- *Spirit Leader (HS ONLY)* will be assigned to help build team pride and record events.

Behavior Expectations

All choir members are to be exceptional public representatives for our community. This will be demonstrated through showmanship, poise, conduct, and maturity. The reputation of the choirs is determined by the behavior of the members within. Therefore, the expectation of good behavior is extremely high and extends beyond the rehearsal room and also beyond the school day. Student performers that fail to meet these expectations are subject to removal from performances and/or their respective ensemble(s). This is to be determined in a case-by-case basis and with communication between the director, parents, and the high school administration.

Students are expected to uphold ALL Fairfield High School rules and policies while participating both on/off campus. Students are to refrain from "inappropriate" behavior during rehearsals, competitions, performances, workshops, as well as outside of rehearsals. Vulgar language, inappropriate comments or attitudes, and inappropriate displays of affections are unacceptable behaviors and will result in removal from the group/class. We thank you for your understanding this policy and appreciate your cooperation.

Grade Eligibility

Students are expected to maintain good grades throughout the year. Students are expected to be passing 6 of their 7 classes (or all if 6 or less classes) at all times. Any student who is failing two or more classes will be put on probation and possibly will be removed from the performance/competition/event in question. **The directors reserve the right to decide on eligibility however they see fit.**

Disciplinary Actions

Students who act in violation of the rules and regulations of the ensemble will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by school administration. Parents will be notified of any issues in the classroom. If the problems persist, the performer will be placed on probation as explained above. If a member continues to disregard rules and regulations while on probation, the member will be removed from the ensemble. **Please note: This handbook serves as a guideline for typical situations. However, the director and administration reserve the right to deal with any situation as they see fit without warning.**

Students may be pulled from performances for the following:

- Repeated Tardiness
- Unexcused Absences
- Non-Compliance with Rules and Regulations
- Failure to Cooperate with the Directors
- Failure to Cooperate with Other Members of the Ensemble
- Grade Ineligibility
- Disciplinary Action at School (ISD, Suspension, etc.)

Students may be dismissed from an ensemble for the following:

- Consistent/Excessive Disruptive Conduct
- Grade Ineligibility for more than Two Performances
- Any Action that Reflects Negatively on the Ensemble, School, or Community
- Disciplinary Action at School (ISD, Suspension, etc.)

Lost or Stolen Items

Oftentimes the choir room becomes a “storage space,” accumulating books, clothing, etc. Please do your part to take items home with you and use your school locker for storage. Items will be cleared out periodically and taken to Goodwill. We will not assume responsibility for items that are lost, stolen, or given to Goodwill.

Competitions & Travel

All competitions/trips are school sponsored and therefore are considered to be an extension of the school day. **All Fairfield School District policies and consequences shall apply and be enforced, in addition to any established trip guidelines.** The Director, Administrator(s), and Chaperones are responsible for all students throughout the full duration of the trip. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend competitions, **but are not decision makers while traveling unless asked by the director(s).**

Eligibility/Right to Travel

Students in the any competing choir must maintain eligibility to be in the ensemble. All members of the competing choirs must be in good standing with the school to participate in performances that take them out of school. A student **cannot be failing more than one class out of seven classes to be taken out of school. A student who is taking less than seven classes must be passing all classes.** Students are also required to make up all work missed while out of the classroom representing their school. Should the group return from an in-school performance before the end of a school day, students are required to return to class. Please note that if you are disciplined with a severe infraction at any point of the school year, the student will not be permitted to travel/compete/perform outside of school property. Additionally, students must abide by Fairfield policies for attendance before/after a school trip. You must be in class for at least ½ a day or you may not go on a trip. For events happening on Saturday OR Sunday, the student must be in school at least ½ day on Friday.

NOTICE: There are no refunds for student fees for any reason.

Competitions & Travel (Continued)

Competitions/Overnights

As many former choir members will agree, the chance to travel and compete is among one of the best parts of being in a choral group! Please pay close attention to the following guidelines.

- Pay attention to directions for check-in and departure. At no time are students to be out-of-bounds or wandering in the school during these off hours. We need everyone's help with loading and unloading! Set your alarm early if we have an early departure time. Don't be a late arrival, or you **WILL** be left behind! **If you are left behind, it is YOUR problem and YOUR responsibility to get to where you need to be.**
- All traveling as a school will still be governed by FHS rules and regulations. Follow the directions of chaperones and staff the first time they are given. Often, additional side duties may be assigned during travel. Be responsible, as you may be held accountable! If a chaperone experiences any problem with any student, the director should be contacted immediately to handle the situation. Any variation from this rule will result in a write-up and further disciplinary action by administration. **Rule of Thumb: If a chaperone or staff member is asking for help, do the right thing and help.**
- Students should expect to travel two to a seat but may not sit with anyone they have a romantic interest in. Once you are assigned a bus, there will be no switching buses. Travel attire will be announced prior to the trip.
- Any theft of items by a student at home or away will be written up and dealt with accordingly. You are responsible for your belongings including your costume and any equipment you may be assigned. Don't hesitate to double-check your belongings! Do not bring large amounts of money on trips! Use common sense as to what needs to be brought with you. (Expensive jewelry... your whole bank account is not needed!) **We are not responsible for your lost items and will not replace them.**
- Homerooms will be assigned at various competition locales. It is imperative that proper cleanup and maintenance be observed in these homerooms. They are meant for storage and as a *home base* during our competition travels. Changing for performance must be done in separate men's and women's rooms.

Competitions & Travel (Continued)

Competitions/Overnights (Continued)

- Often times, many facilities will not allow food, drink, or lounging in the homerooms. If this is not permitted and the rules are not followed, expect to be written up upon return to FHS. As ambassadors, it is important that we leave a good impression anytime and anywhere we perform! Everyone must pick up trash and leave homerooms as we found them.
- **Good sportsmanship is critical at competitive events.** You never know who may be sitting next to, or behind you! Judges and other adjudicating staff **have the power** to deduct points due to lack of professionalism. Do not ruin it for the group or for your school! Be positive always and applaud just as you wish to be recognized by others! Chances are, the more enthusiastic and supportive you are, the more other competitors will be when YOU take the stage! Remember too, in this digital age, that **SOCIAL MEDIA should never be used to refer to other show choirs.** It will put our groups in a poor light. Internet postings are always permanent!
- Hotel stays will also occur during our competition travels. In addition to observing the posted schedule, it is also critical that students observe the indicated curfew time. Once lights out is called, no student may leave his/her assigned room without permission of the director or chaperones. At times, a “rise and shine” time may be indicated when students must be awake and ready to prepare for the day’s events while staying in the prescribed boundaries. Only those students assigned to the room may be inside the room after curfew. **Room changes may only be approved by the director in advance and/or with a valid reason.**
- Since acceptable conduct has been explained in detail, students who choose not to follow the guidelines will be dealt with in the following manner during travel:
 1. The student’s parent(s) will be immediately notified of the student’s action and the student will have a conference with the director.
 2. The student will be written up to the school administration for insubordination and violation of the rules.
 3. The student may be sent home, depending on how severe the infraction, at the parent’s expense. This may also result in removal from the group.

Costuming/Uniform Information

Part of being a part of a high caliber program is looking the part. We support students and their freedom of expression and unique individuality. However, when we perform as a group, there are expectations to produce a cohesive and professional attire and look. If your plan is to demand the right to express yourself through unique or popular means, we respect that, but ask that you do not accept membership within the choral program for the simple understanding that we are judged and scored on how we look as a group – not as individuals. Below are the expectations for each of our groups. Should there be any concerns or questions, please contact the directors with enough advanced notice.

- **Concert Choir Attire**

- Rental Fee: \$40 (Includes Rental, Alterations, and Cleaning)
- Ladies are given school provided dress and jewelry.
- Ladies must wear a black closed toe dress shoe (1 ½" to 2 ½" Heel) that the student provides on their own.
- Ladies hair must be done neatly and be pulled out of the face.
- Men are given school provided tuxedo, shirt, and bowtie.
- Men must wear black socks (no no-show, ankle) and black dress shoes that the student provides on their own.
- Men must be clean shaven and hair must be cut so it is out of face.
- No student may have any visible tattoos, body piercings, or extra jewelry.
- Student's hair must be a natural hair color.
- Student's finger nails must have no polish with the exception of French tip or clear coat.

- **Concert Choir Attire Care Instructions**

- All performers must be clean from a shower every time before being wearing costume/uniform. Please adhere to this policy as it helps our costumes stay nice.
- Prior to wearing your costume/uniform performers must apply clear, non-scented deodorant. Powder-based stain the costumes/uniforms.
- Scented lotions, colognes, perfumes, and other strongly scented items are all banned from performers in rehearsal/performances.

Costuming/Uniform Information (Continued)

- **Show Choir Attire**
 - Cost is part of show choir fees.
 - Ladies are given custom costumes and accessories and wear the shoes provided.
 - Ladies hair typically is requested to be long, usually down and often curled. Depending on the thematic nature of the show, ladies will have a specific hairstyle look that must be uniform during competition.
 - Men are given custom costumes and accessories and wear the shoes provided.
 - Men must be clean shaven including side burns, mustaches, and any form of beard and hair must be cut so it is out of their face. Hair must be short, neat, and clean for every show. To be clear, when we perform, male hair must be cut over and off the ears, off the neck, and above the eyebrows.
 - No student may have any visible tattoos, body piercings, or extra jewelry.
 - Student's hair must be a natural hair color.
 - Student's finger nails must have no polish with the exception of French tip or clear coat.
 - Students who wear glasses must purchase contact lenses for use on stage or go without them as glasses reflect light off the stage and can be a distraction as well as a danger should they fall off.
- **Show Choir Attire Care Instructions**
 - All performers must be clean from a shower every time before being wearing costume/uniform. Please adhere to this policy as it helps our costumes stay nice.
 - Prior to wearing your costume/uniform performers must apply clear, non-scented deodorant. Powder-based stain the costumes/uniforms.
 - Scented lotions, colognes, perfumes, and other strongly scented items are all banned from performers in rehearsal/performances.

The Heartbeat (Combo) Information

Our national award-winning show choir combo is appropriately named 'The Heartbeat' of what happens on the show choir stage as they are the pulse and energy of our singer/dancers. Our combo is open to students in grades 9-12 and begin their year with us in the beginning of the school year. Their schedule is light through the fall and early winter but will fill up throughout January-March.

It is important to understand that because they play such an important role, this group is not for the student who has trouble committing to things and following through. Combo rehearses often in the winter and travels with the groups to competitions on many weekends. This group also performs for all five show choirs, which can make for some very long competition days. Don't be fooled, however! Being a part of The Heartbeat is a lot of fun and very rewarding.

Any student who is interested in being a part of The Heartbeat will audition with the director(s) during the audition process. Students will prepare a song of their choosing to show off their skill set on their instrument.

Nuts & Bolts (Tech) Information

Our national award-winning tech crew is known as 'Nuts & Bolts.' These students are the behind-the-scenes unsung (get it?) heroes who make our sets look amazing and facilitate the shows through sound, lighting, and special effects (and sometimes a surprise cameo!) Our tech crew is open to students in grades 9-12 and begin their year with us in the beginning of the school year. Their schedule is light through the fall and early winter but will fill up throughout January-March.

It is important to understand that because they play such an important role, this group is not for the student who has trouble committing to things and following through. Tech is busy in the winter building sets, rehearsing with the groups, and traveling to the many weekend competitions. This group also assists all five show choirs, which can make for some very long competition days. Don't be fooled, however! Being a part of Nuts & Bolts is a lot of fun and very rewarding.

Any student who is interested in being a part of Nuts & Bolts will fill out an application and give it to the directors during the audition process.

Fairfield Show Choir University Summer Camp

Every show choir singer/dancer MUST participate in the FSCU summer camp in late July/early August. Students are required to attend the camps to learn our competition show routines as well as other material for the school year. **Any member missing ANY portion of camp will forfeit their membership in the group.**

Camp Merc Fall Retreat

HS show choir singer/dancers in Pure Elegance and Choraliers MUST participate in the Camp Merc fall retreat in September. Students are required to attend the retreat to work with top-notch clinicians who will work on their shows for the competition season. In addition, there are many group bonding activities that happen at this camp that are invaluable and crucial for success in the rest of the school year. **Any member missing any portion of camp will forfeit their membership in the group.**

Fairfield Fall Gala

HS show choir singer/dancers will participate in the Fairfield Showcase in the fall that showcases their talents. HS concert choir students will also have the opportunity to participate if they choose to. Show choir students are required to perform in the showcase and will work to produce a professional production for a night of dinner, singing, dancing, and fun. This event typically happens in October.

Fairfield Crystal Classic

All MS/HS show choir students and their families are required to work one of the largest events in Fairfield – the Fairfield Crystal Classic. This event brings in groups from all over the nation who compete with approximately 5,000 people in attendance. All families and students are required to sign-up for shifts (there are over 1000!) that will help us run the amazing event that is often seen as one of the best competitions in the region and nation. Be ready to work and help Fairfield stay on top as one of the most sought out destinations to compete!

Fees Information

Depending on what area of the choral program you participate in, you will incur fees that will cover the costs to run our program and maintain the caliber and quality that we are proud of here in Fairfield. The fees have been **estimated** for the year. Should you elect to not pay your fee upfront, we will implement a monthly fee, which will work as a payment plan. **Either way, payments must remain on time meaning you cannot wait until the last due date to pay all of your fees.** All fees are to be made payable to **Fairfield Tempo Club**. If the student has not paid this fee on time, or has not worked out other payment arrangements, the director reserves the right to exclude the student from costuming and other items for performance as well as performing in a concert or competition that is not part of our regularly scheduled curricular concerts.

Again, these payments are **ESTIMATES** based on quoted costs. As final costs/invoices are paid, the treasurer will reflect upon the actual amount. Any remaining balance due must be paid by the pay-off deadline. If the actual cost is less than the estimate, students may use money for travel costs or food expenses.

2020-2021 Group Treasurers

- **Angela Strack - angelanstrack@gmail.com**
 - o Little Elegance, Rhythm Express
- **Regina Schroer - fftempochoraltreas@outlook.com**
 - o Sound Check, Tone Down For What, Vocal Impact, Acapocalypse
- **Kari Robinson - hsshowchoirtreasurer@gmail.com**
 - o FortissiBROS, Pure Elegance, Choraliers, The Heartbeat, Nuts & Bolts

Uniform Rental Fee

All students who are in concert choir will pay a \$40 costume rental fee by the end of August to the Fairfield Tempo Club boosters. This fee covers yearly maintenance, alterations, accessories, and one dry cleaning. Any costume not returned at the end of the year will result in a charge for the full uniform cost.

WHAT MAKES UP PERFORMER FEES?

We know that the fees for show choir can be a sticker shock! It is very important for parents to understand that we look ahead to anticipate fees in their entirety before defining monthly payment amounts.

The costs figured in below come from these areas and more:

Costuming: Design Consultation, custom manufacturing, fabric and pattern work, labor, and shipping costs. Costuming for our choirs is typically custom, not catalog.

Choreography, including travel expenses and hourly rates/fees.

Jewelry/Accessories for the performing choir (earrings, glasses, gloves, etc.)

Custom Arrangements, including copyright permissions, arranger fees, recorded tracked accompaniment, instrumental arrangements.

Group Tees, which are also custom-designed with our show logos and artwork.

Contest Fees, charged by each event for student admission.

Set Design/Recurring Expenses, including special effects such as dry ice/fog/electrical needs, and any unforeseen costs for maintenance.

FSCU/Camp Merc/Workshops, for facility use, materials, and clinician fees.

Truck Rentals/Fuel Costs, for our equipment when traveling with all show choirs. We do not have our own fleet of trucks for taking all the show choirs on the road, and the district does not have enough vehicles for all our equipment.

Costume Maintenance, including additional sewing needs, spare items, and other necessities/incidentals when we are on the road.

All fees are offset by: The Fairfield Tempo Club (Accounts for Choreography/Contest Fees/Misc.), The Fairfield Crystal Classic (Our Own Show Choir Competition), Group Fundraisers (As Announced).

Fee Breakdown by Ensemble

Little Elegance & Rhythm Express 2020-2021

Due Date	LE or RE Member	Double Information
May 29, 2020	\$150 (\$150/\$1200)	LE-RE Double Cost: \$2215
June 26, 2020	\$150 (\$300/\$1200)	
July 31, 2020	\$150 (\$450/\$1200)	
August 28, 2020	\$150 (\$600/\$1200)	RE-FB Double Cost: \$3215
September 25, 2020	\$150 (\$750/\$1200)	
October 30, 2020	\$150 (\$900/\$1200)	
November 20, 2020	\$150 (\$1050/\$1200)	LE or RE-HB or NB Double Cost: \$1450
December 18, 2020	\$150 (\$1200/\$1200)	
Total:	\$1200	

FortissIBROS, Pure Elegance, & Choraliers 2020-2021

Due Date	FB, PE, or CH Member	Double Information
May 29, 2020	\$275 (\$275/\$2200)	FB-CH Double Cost: \$3355
June 26, 2020	\$275 (\$550/\$2200)	
July 31, 2020	\$275 (\$825/\$2200)	
August 28, 2020	\$275 (\$1100/\$2200)	PE-CH Double Cost: \$3230
September 25, 2020	\$275 (\$1375/\$2200)	
October 30, 2020	\$275 (\$1650/\$2200)	
November 20, 2020	\$275 (\$1925/\$2200)	FB/PE or CH-HB or NB Double Cost: \$2450
December 18, 2020	\$275 (\$2200/\$2200)	
Total:	\$2200	

The Heartbeat & Nuts & Bolts 2020-2021

Due Date	HB or NB Member	Double Information
May 29, 2020	\$100 (\$100/\$800)	LE or RE-HB or NB Double Cost: \$1450
June 26, 2020	\$100 (\$200/\$800)	
July 31, 2020	\$100 (\$300/\$800)	
August 28, 2020	\$100 (\$400/\$800)	FB/PE or CH-HB or NB Double Cost: \$2450
September 25, 2020	\$100 (\$500/\$800)	
October 30, 2020	\$100 (\$600/\$800)	
November 20, 2020	\$100 (\$700/\$800)	
December 18, 2020	\$100 (\$800/\$800)	
Total:	\$800	

Sound Check, Tone Down For What, & Vocal Impact 2020-2021

Due Date	SC, TD, or VI Member
August 28, 2020	\$40
Total:	\$40

What Fees Do Not Cover

- Any show choir custom costume alterations and subsequent cleaning/maintenance costs.
- Choir items missing after distribution or those to be replaced
 - The performer must re-purchase these before the performer is permitted on stage. This also includes additional hose/undergarments for women and black socks/undergarments for men.
- Lost or stolen choir items.
 - The performer must re-purchase these before the performer is permitted on stage.
- District Activity/Class Fee. Paid at school registration with class fees - just like any other course.
- Additional Spirit wear, pictures, photo buttons, etc.

Refunds

There will be no refunds of participation fees for any reason. Once money is deposited into the Fairfield Tempo Club account, it will not be refunded. This includes fees, travel payments, and payments for merchandise. Should a student leave the group before the school year ends, no refunds will be provided. If the director terminates a student's membership, no refunds will be distributed. We do not transfer funds between Fairfield Tempo Club and any other organization.

In the event that Fairfield Tempo Club undertakes a capital campaign for specific funding (equipment, staffing, etc.), funds donated and ear-marked for such a campaign could be refunded to the contributor if the expense goal is not reached or the fund is not expended due to change of priority.

Student Accounts

The group treasurer will keep update your Charms account as you make payments. All questions and concerns regarding student payments, balances, and special circumstances must be communicated with the treasurer. Contact information for your group's treasurer is listed at the front of the handbook. There will be a lock box in the choir room that you may drop your deposit in – deposit **MUST** have student name, group name, and what payment is regarding on the envelope.

Continuing Student Accounts

Students continuing in the choral program from the 2019-2020 must pay all fees to Fairfield Tempo Club prior to April 15, 2020 in order to audition and be considered for the 2020-2021 year.

A Note About Checks

If a check is written to Tempo Club and the check bounces, Fairfield Tempo Club will charge the person that wrote the check a returned check fee of \$35.

Delinquency of Fees

We know financial hardships do occur and are willing to work with families based on the individual situation. Students and parents can check their statements at any time on their Charms account. All attempts must be made to pay off balances including participation in **all** fundraising activities. Those who are interested in financial assistance must fill out the form and return it by the deadline to be considered. **Students who have not paid for costuming will not have garments ordered/given to them until balances are paid in full.** We cannot afford to offer a “line of credit” without regular, steady payments made to bring down the balance due.

Expenditures and Reimbursements

- Every purchase made on behalf of the group **must be pre-approved by the director**. Those purchases made without consent **will not** be reimbursed.
- Approval must come from the director before any agreement for the choir to engage in any business or performance opportunity.
- No one may sign for any accounts receivable purchases except for the director.
- Anyone who signs for any purchase without consent will be charged the amount for which he/she signed (this includes items for set construction, spirit, and for any fundraising event)
- Sales tax will not be reimbursed by the organization. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, we do not pay sales tax.
- Please see “Authorization for Payment Form” as provided by Tempo Club.

Parental Involvement

The Fairfield choral program has a long-standing tradition of tremendously active and positive parent involvement. We are very proud of this! Don't wait to be asked – we **WANT** and **NEED** your help! Be willing to share your ideas and much needed organizational advice. Additionally, be ready to help administer the needed help on each volunteer task. Even over the summer months, there is work to be done.

Chaperoning is an essential piece to parent involvement. This is also a great way for you to be involved in your child's life. Even when they say they don't want you to, they really do. Students – if you're actually reading this... sorry! 😊

At times, parent meetings will be called to distribute needed information. We request that all parents be in attendance for these meetings – **even if you have been there before. We are a family – we do this together.** We will strive to be as brief as possible!

Literature Selection Policy

At times, there can be potential controversy over singing choral music due to the text. The department has adopted a policy to always include a variety of musical subject matter including music that was religiously inspired.

As a choral musician, it is necessary to be tolerant of other religions and to treat the singing of religious music as a performance. The art of singing in four-part harmony and even our system of writing music was developed by the Roman Catholic Church and is a tradition of Western Civilization. So, while it is historically true that the Christian religion has been a major source of inspiration for much of the world's music, religious differences can become points of understanding between people. Jewish Synagogue canting became Gregorian chants of the early Christian Church, while Hebrew folksongs are some of the most beautiful melodies ever sung. George Frederich Handel, the court composer of King George I of England and composer of The Messiah (considered by many as one of the greatest choral works ever written), also wrote an oratorio called Judas Maccabaeus which is based on the Old Testament hero of the Hebrew people.

Literature Selection Policy (Continued)

Music is selected on the basis of the highest standards for teaching musical independence (reading) and choral performance and is programmed with the audience in mind. Much of the literature is chosen directly from the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA)'s contest lists. This list has grown to include multicultural pieces by non-American composers. Others are from standard or "classic" choral repertoire heard at performances and educational conference or by community or student suggestion. Much attention is given to singing American choral literature including African American spirituals, jazz, and tunes of the American Musical Theatre. Most popular "Top 10" pieces are not written for choral ensembles, and therefore, are rarely performed by choirs.

While every person is entitled to his or her opinion, discussion of personal preferences or religious beliefs does not have a place in the choral classroom. It is the duty of the choir director to select music that is appropriate for the students' academic needs, understanding, and musical ability. It is the responsibility of the choral performer to learn that music to the best of his or her ability and to perform it for the benefit of an audience.