

Northwest Girlchoir – AMABILE – 2021-2022 Goals and Expectations

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MUSIC EDUCATION

Continuing with the strong preparatory work in Prep Choir and Fresca, Amabile choristers will emphasize:

- varying approaches to learning pieces, especially where cultural history would dictate:
 - solfa approach – intensive study of the notes on the page first
 - takadimi approach – intensive study of the rhythms on the page first
 - rote approach – listen to piano/conductor or other singers and respond
 - various combinations and levels of the aforementioned approaches
- *solfa approach*
 - expand solfa (do re mi...) knowledge to apply to all music styles in major, minor, and modal keys
 - introduce altered tone solfa (fi si te...) so as to achieve fluency for even the most difficult music
 - sing with an artistic musical shape (stress/release, build/relax, etc.), even when using solfa, leading to greater storytelling opportunities when texts are explored
- *takadimi approach*
 - expand rhythm reading knowledge to apply to all note values (and combinations) at the sixteenth-note level and higher
 - say/sing/clap/tap various rhythmic combinations complementing/enhancing secondary rhythms
 - speak texts rhythmically without the benefit of pitch
- *rote approach*
 - learn a song as a given culture or musical historical period would dictate
 - employ a “call-and-response” style of learning a song
 - accurately match pitch with the piano and fellow choristers
- always sing with your “best voice” – supported, conscientious, and engaged singing
- have knowledge of the physiology of vocal technique – it takes mind AND body
- “beauty in for beauty out” – Amabile choristers emphasize breathing as a means to support the most beautiful vocal sound possible

All of these skills will be expanded upon and evaluated with Amabile’s Monthly Challenges. Monthly Challenges are designed to (1) apply abstract musical concepts to our Amabile-specific repertoire, (2) teach choristers independent responsibility and execution, and (3) allow for direct chorister-to-conductor interactions and trust-building. Monthly Challenges are primarily attempted during Amabile rehearsals, but there is also an option to attempt challenges through the online Flipgrid platform.

PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

Amabile is asked to perform in more concerts (and occasional community performances) than the younger choir levels. The responsibilities of a successful performance are placed more squarely on the choristers’ shoulders and a greater sense of individual building blocks (to create a more perfect finished product) is emphasized in Amabile. All repertoire studies, cultural exploration, and music education materials are brought to bear in our stellar performances.

COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP

A strong emphasis is placed on an Amabile chorister’s ability to bring their own special talents to create a homogenous mosaic of beautiful and responsible singing as choir. It is also understood that a concert is not solely performative; choristers gain experience in being in front of large groups of people (primarily peers during rehearsals) and realize that while their individual role is essential, the community of well-bonded choir can support them in both their successes and in their times of need or questioning.