

Curriculum Goals for Children's and Youth Choirs at FUMC, Dallas

Carol Choir (K - Grade 1)

Goals:

1. To help the children to find their abilities to match pitch
2. To guide the children to find their head voices
3. To help the children keep a steady beat
4. To help the children read basic rhythm patterns of quarter, eighth and half notes
5. To choose and teach repertoire which meets the following criteria:
 - Unison songs/anthems with a limited number of age-appropriate words and simple rhyme schemes
 - Songs with a limited range of about an octave (D to D) which move mostly in stepwise manner avoiding large intervallic leaps especially leaps from lower chest voice to head voice
 - Songs with biblical themes
 - Simple hymns
 - Action songs
6. To incorporate crafts, games, rhythm instruments and other "hands on" activities to broaden and enrich the children's understanding of chosen topics (biblical narrative, rhythm etc.)
7. To provide opportunities in each rehearsal for the children to experience music and musical concepts kinesthetically

Cantate Choir (Grades 2 - 3)

Goals:

1. To help the children sing a major scale on syllables and to sing leaps within the scale concentrating mainly upon sol - mi (minor 3rd) then adding "do" and "la" if the children progress quickly.
2. To help the children learn basic part singing by introducing simple rounds, ostinato patterns, and by providing opportunities for the Cantate Choir to sing in combination with another choir in which they will sing one part (usually melody or descant) while the other choir sings a different part.
3. To help the children read rhythms including quarter, eighth, half and whole notes
4. To introduce the children to the United Methodist Hymnal and how it is used in our worship.

5. To introduce four new hymns each year including fun facts about the authors, composers, and tune names. (The criteria for anthem selection also apply to hymn selection.)
6. To choose and teach repertoire which meets the following criteria:
 - Anthems with a range of about an octave and a third (D to D extending up to an E, top space, and down to middle C) with a tessitura, which resides mainly in the head register.
 - Anthems with simple rhyme schemes or verse/refrain forms (2 - 3 verses max); simple ABA Coda forms etc. (Avoid lengthy through-composed pieces, repetitious choruses, or ABA1 Coda)
 - Scripture-based texts or hymn texts
7. To incorporate games, rhythm instruments and other "hands on" activities to broaden and enrich the children's understanding of chosen topics (biblical narrative, rhythm etc.)
8. To provide opportunities in each rehearsal for the children to experience music and musical concepts Kinesthetically

Counterpoint Choir (Grades 4 - 6)

Goals:

1. To help the children learn part singing i.e. partner songs, melody/descant, and simple two-part music.
2. To help the children discover good vocal production based upon proper breathing, posture, breath support and vowel formation and placement.
3. To help the children identify and read their assigned parts in choral music with 2 or more voice parts.
4. To help the children identify simple musical forms i.e. ABACoda; verse refrain; ABACACoda, etc.
5. To help the children expand their music reading skills by introducing sixteenth notes, triplets, and dotted quarter notes.
6. To help the children sing a major scale on syllables and to sing leaps within the scale concentrating on building upon sol, mi, do and la, adding fa, re and ti.
7. To choose and teach repertoire which meets the following criteria:
 - Anthems with a range of about an octave and a fifth (B flat below middle C to a G above the staff) with a tessitura, which resides mainly in the head register.
 - Scripture-based texts or hymn texts

- (Optional) Anthems incorporating Latin, Spanish, or another foreign language as long as a translation is provided
 - Avoid repetitious choruses or "Praise Choruses"
8. To introduce one new hymn per month.
 9. To provide an opportunity to experience staging and choreography.
 10. To use Orff and rhythm instruments to broaden and enrich the children's understanding and expression of rhythm.
 11. To provide opportunities in each rehearsal for the children to experience music and musical concepts Kinesthetically.

Variations Youth Choir (Grades 7 - 12)

Goals:

1. To create an atmosphere of Agape, acceptance, and affirmation where the youth will find musical challenge, spiritual safety, and a sense of belonging.
2. To build aural skills by singing both major and minor scales on syllables, intervallic leaps, and major scales in 2, 3, and 4 part rounds
3. To continue to build good/healthy vocal production based upon proper breathing, posture, breath support, vowel formation and voice placement
4. To carefully listen to adolescent boys voices, check ranges, and explain the voice change process to them individually or in small groups so that they will understand what is happening and be less frustrated with the process.
5. To choose and teach repertoire which meets the following criteria:
 - Choral music in 2, 3, 4 or 5 parts suitable for the enrolled singers voices/abilities
 - Music representing a variety of styles, genres and historical periods each choir year
 - Sacred music with sound biblical, theological, or hymn texts and some texts of a more personal nature (spirituals or gospel) may be carefully chosen
 - Secular music for the annual show for the fundraiser (free from profanity and sexual references)
6. To provide an opportunity to experience staging and choreography
7. To provide an opportunity to tour annually

