

Fall 2022 Ragazze Electives

In addition to participating in a high-achieving choral ensemble, Ragazze singers develop their individual musicianship skills through elective classes. Electives are *required* for Ragazze singers, and occur on Tuesdays from 7:15-8:00 pm, as part of weekly Ragazze instruction.

Ragazze singers begin their elective journey in one of three music theory classes, which give them a strong foundation in music notation and aural skills. Once they have passed Theory III, Ragazze singers are invited to choose their own elective class.

Voce A Cappella Ensemble is the only elective class that meets outside of regular Ragazze rehearsal times. It is open to all Ragazze singers, regardless of theory level.

Voce A Cappella Ensemble

Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 pm @ Christ Church Oak Brook

September 13-November 29

Open by audition to all Ragazze singers, Voce is a new pop a cappella ensemble coached by two Bravura singers. Members of Voce will learn the basics of pop a cappella singing, from vocal independence and harmonization to improvisation and solo technique. Voce singers will also learn to beatbox and create and modify arrangements of their favorite songs to perform in concert. Voce rehearses from 5:00-6:00 pm on Tuesdays. *Interested singers can sign up for an audition in August.*

Theory I

In this class, students will explore the fundamentals of music notation and learn to apply their knowledge to their own music-making. Designed for both those new to music theory and those looking to strengthen their skills, this class will use project-based activities to help students learn how to identify key signatures, recognize intervals, build scales, and sight-sing with increasing fluency. Students will apply their theory knowledge to composition projects throughout the course. *Singers must complete the Spirito Theory Placement Test to be admitted into this course.*

Theory II

In this class, students will take their theory practice to the next level by exploring more complex rhythms and time signatures, key signatures, and all major and minor scales. Students will identify and sing all intervals, read notes in treble and bass clefs, and work on ear-training through weekly sight-reading and dictation exercises. Creative projects will reinforce theory concepts and help singers confidently apply their new skills to their own music. *Singers place into this course through the Spirito Theory Placement Test or previous theory assessment.*

Theory III

This class is designed to enable young musicians to read, create, and understand music with complete fluency. Students will learn to write major and minor scales in any key, and use improvisation and ear-training exercises to build harmonies together. Creative projects will

reinforce theory concepts and frequent collaboration will build confidence and trust. Melodic, intervallic, and rhythmic ear-training will be reinforced through weekly sight-singing and dictation exercises, and students will write and read complex rhythms. *Singers place into this course through the Spirito Theory Placement Test or previous theory assessment.*

Songwriting

In this class, students will join their love of singing with practical theory application to create their own original songs. This project-based class will focus on common song structures and include weekly writing and recording assignments. Students will study melody, lyrics, harmony, and rhythm, and use their knowledge to create strong hooks, clever lyrics, and catchy melodies. Students will write independently and in teams, and will study the work of their favorite singers and songwriters for inspiration. Weekly critiques will strengthen students' listening and creativity. At the end of the class, each student will have a portfolio of original songs. *Singers must pass their Theory III assessment to enroll in this course.*

Theory Tutoring

Open to students who have passed all three levels of theory instruction, this course allows students to give back to their peers and gain firsthand teaching experience. Working closely with a theory instructor, tutors will assist weekly theory instruction, give one-on-one support to students, and help teach new concepts and run review sessions as necessary. Tutors share their expertise with their fellow singers, and help everyone to achieve at the highest level. *Singers must pass their Theory III assessment to enroll in this course.*

Ragazze singers may sign up for electives in August.