

2021-2022 Bravura Electives

New for Fall 2021 – In addition to participating in an elite choral ensemble, Bravura singers will be able to develop their individual musicianship skills through elective classes. Electives are part of the Bravura curriculum, and will be held on Sunday afternoons after the choral rehearsal.

Bravura Theory is *required* for students who have not yet tested out of Ragazze Intermediate Theory, and is open to anyone who would like to brush up their theory skills.

Fall

Solo Vocal Technique: Musical Theater

In this continuing-level vocal technique class, singers will learn about the evolution of American Musical Theater and develop a collection of Musical Theater repertoire that showcases the beauty and power of their voice. Singers will learn to balance and blend their vocal registers, build power throughout their range, and develop healthy technique in all musical theater styles, from the Golden Age to contemporary repertoire. Singers will also learn to develop character in each song, integrating and communicating emotions, motives, and back-stories to make their performance authentic and specific.

A Cappella Ensemble

This 16-voice ensemble will enable singers to develop vocal independence and advanced ensemble-singing skills in a collaborative, supportive environment. Singers will learn to “listen loud” and trust each other as they develop their ensemble skills and learn to be capable, confident musicians. Singing repertoire from a wide range of genres and styles will help singers easily adapt to any musical situation, and improvisation and arrangement exercises will build on singers’ music theory skills. The ensemble will perform in Spirito concerts, and at other events as needed.

Composition

In this class, students will create their own original music using their music theory knowledge as well as improvisation and intuition. Using weekly composition projects and other creative activities, students will compose for both choral and instrumental ensembles using a variety of techniques and strategies. Students will also develop their aural skills through weekly ear training exercises and learn how to incorporate these skills into their compositions, furthering their knowledge of more advanced concepts in music theory. Workshops with members of the class and other Spirito singers and instructors will bring each composer’s music to life.

Audition Bootcamp

Designed for singers looking to get over their stage fright, as well as singers who want to nail their college auditions, this intensive will prepare all singers to enter the audition room with their

best foot forward. Singers will learn to ace their auditions – from first impression to final exit – and will demonstrate their skills in weekly workshops with their peers. Singers will participate in a variety of different types of mock auditions, and learn what to expect in various scenarios. They will also develop problem-solving skills, and learn how to handle any curveball the audition process throws at them. By the end of the course, singers will be well-prepared for any audition scenario, and know how to shine in front of a panel.

Bravura Theory

This course is open to singers who have not passed the Theory III assessment, or who would like the chance to brush up their theory skills. Designed for the experienced singer, this class will focus on the music theory concepts most applicable to singers, and will emphasize practical theory skills through projects and activities. Singers will learn to quickly read a score, identify key signatures, sing and hear chords, and execute complex rhythms with ease. Weekly ear-training, sight-reading, and improvisation exercises will strengthen singers' individual musicianship, and allow singers to find real-world applications for the concepts they're studying.

Spring

Solo Vocal Technique: Classical

Often cited as the foundation for all styles of singing, Classical vocal technique takes center stage in this continuing-level course. Singers will learn to use their voice to its fullest extent, mastering breathing exercises and vocalizations designed to smooth transitions between the registers and develop their voice's unique beauty. Using repertoire from throughout history in many different languages, this course will help singers develop confidence in their voice, and teach them to perform with expression, control, and passion. Singers will prepare solo repertoire as well as collaborating on duets.

A Cappella Ensemble

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Conducting

In this class, students will learn the fundamentals of conducting, from gesture and beat pattern to score study and interpretation. Students will discuss challenges unique to conducting singers and will learn about good rehearsal technique and performance practice to ensure that their singers feel supported and respected. Through weekly conducting assignments, students will study

expert conductors and discuss major issues facing conductors today, including questions of gender, cultural appropriation, and representation in choral music. Conductors who successfully complete this course will have the opportunity to conduct their fellow singers in the spring concert.

Songwriting

In this class, students will join their love of singing with their music theory knowledge and creative writing skills to create their own original songs. This project-based class will focus on common song structures and include weekly writing and performing 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 examine the work of some of the most popular songwriters working today. Weekly critiques will strengthen students' listening and creativity.

Bravura singers may sign up for electives in August.