

Fall 2022 Bravura Electives

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 *optional* for most Bravura singers, and are offered at the times listed.

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.

A Cappella Ensemble

Thursdays 7:30-8:30 pm @ Epiphany Lutheran Church, Elmhurst

August 18-November 17

This small 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.

Songwriting

Tuesdays 6:15-7:15 pm @ Christ Church, Oak Brook

August 23-November 29

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 Theory

Tuesdays 6:15-7:15 pm @ Christ Church, Oak Brook

August 23-November 29

This course is open to singers who have not passed the Theory II 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.

Conducting

Tuesdays 7:15-8:15 pm @ Christ Church, Oak Brook

August 23-November 29

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 Ragazze singers in the spring concert.