

CORNELIA CONNELLY SCHOOL
MUSIC DEPARTMENT



*Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe,
wing to the mind, flight to the imagination,
and charm and happiness to life and to everything.*
-Plato

2006-2007
CHOIR HANDBOOK

Singers, Parents and Friends,



Welcome to the Cornelia Connelly Music Department!

The music program at Connelly is one of the newest additions to the wonderful history of this Holy Child School. Connelly's reputation is unsurpassed as a healthy community that promotes academic excellence, teaches social responsibility, and helps students grow strong in faith and self-esteem. To compliment this tradition the choral ensembles at Connelly will uphold that same high standard when it comes to the music it chooses to perform. It is the hope of this program, indeed the entire school, that a high standard of excellence, modeled by the instructors and administrators, is internalized by each student thus producing women capable of contributing to a changing world.

I personally feel that your experience and time in this choir will affect your entire life. As a member of the choirs here at Connelly, you are a part of a vibrant, growing, changing and vital arts program. Throughout recorded history, and no doubt before, the arts have always been an important part of the human experience. Through Art, Dance, Drama, and Music, humankind continues to express life, death, love, pain, work and play – this is what gives meaning to our lives. We turn to these expressive arts when we need to express the deep feelings that words alone could never hope to communicate.

The music we sing at Connelly is eclectic, challenging, and rewarding to the singer as well as the audience. We will be singing music from our earliest forms, such as chant and madrigals, to the most modern classical pieces and popular styles. You will find that every piece will call each of you to give fully of your gift to the success of this ensemble. Without it, we simply cannot succeed.

The commitment is indeed great, but the intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual rewards are even greater! This will be a wonderful year to grow and discover not only the world of music, but also the world of friendship in excellence and its support that comes from being a part of a close-knit team of singers.

Please read this handbook carefully and thoughtfully. It is provided so you may refer to it throughout the year. Return the consent form with all signatures by **Monday, September 11th**. This is your first graded assignment.

I invite you to study your music thoroughly, make new friends, enjoy our time together, and draw closer to the meaning of this art. I know that you will truly experience the power of music and the power of success in excellence. This will be a phenomenal year!

Sincerely,

Brian Dehn
Music Instructor
Cornelia Connelly

Students who audition and are accepted as members of the choral ensembles at Cornelia Connelly School will be involved in an educational venture that holds an extremely high standard of performance. Singers are expected to become active participants in our continuous quest for musical excellence. Only through an intense commitment to adequate preparation and insightful performance can the goals of the ensembles be met. Through curricular and extracurricular participation, the student is encouraged, and expected, to develop a real ownership in the choral program and her own musical growth. The joys of an uplifting musical performance and the satisfaction of a challenge successfully met are promised to those who lend their energies to Connelly's fine choral ensembles.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of teamwork for these ensembles. There are dress rehearsals, concerts, festivals, and other performances (Liturgies, Exchanges, etc.) that are required as well. It is important for students and parents to understand that the grading policy in the choral program is based on the students' dedication and attendance at all rehearsals and performances.

Beginning Choir (Vocal Ensemble)

This course is designed to give the female vocal instrument its special environment to grow and mature. Within the context of a traditional classroom environment there will be direct individual voice instruction as well as group lessons. It will also give every student the opportunity to learn more about singing and develop the voice through the performance of a variety of styles of music. When appropriate, this ensemble will join with the Freshman Choir and Women's Ensemble in concerts and other functions. This learning experience requires mandatory attendance at all school performances. Any performances, such as liturgies, festivals, or tours will be addressed as they occur and will be accepted by vote of the ensemble.

Freshman Choir

This choir is designed to enhance the Art Foundation course at Connelly. This ensemble will provide the platform for each student to explore basic vocal technique, music reading skills, literature exploration and performance.

Women's Ensemble

This course is designed to give the advanced student an experience in performance techniques and styles in a variety of music. There is an immense time commitment necessary to succeed in this course. There are Monday evening rehearsals nearly every week of school, in addition to dress rehearsals, concerts and festivals. These activities take a great deal of time and energy. A major focus will be on the emphasis of stylistic performances of difficult choral literature from all historical periods with appropriate accompaniment. This is a performance-oriented ensemble and all scheduled performances are mandatory.

Liturgical Ensemble

This is a non-academic course for up to eight students wanting to explore, in-depth, the Liturgical aspect of music. As there is specific application of these techniques (our own Liturgies) we will study Catholic music history and traditions. Liturgical documents will be studied and discussed. However, since this is a performance oriented ensemble each student will have specific musical assignments including (but not limited to), learning their specific part, assisting in the selection of Mass music, researching literature, and developing musical talents. This group will have rehearsals and performances as is convenient for all involved.

Chamber Singers

This non-academic course is designed to give the advanced student an experience in performance techniques and styles in a variety of music through the format of the mixed ensemble. Dependant upon interest, the ensemble will be formed within the first few weeks of school. All rehearsals and performances will be agreed on by the ensemble.

Caroling Group

During the Christmas season, organizations will ask for seasonal performances and this will be an opportunity to represent Connelly. This group will be organized on an as needed basis to fulfill these opportunities. This group will meet to learn literature (carols) and perform as is convenient for all involved.

WARDROBE

The choral groups at Connelly perform most often in formal attire. Whenever the choir is performing for an audience, all participants are expected to be dressed in the appropriate outfit. Students are responsible financially for their performance materials, although there is financial aid available for those that qualify.

Formal Performance Attire

For All Concerts and Festivals

Garnet Choir Dress

Black shoes - [closed toe with heel - *at least 1, not more than 3, inch(es)*]

Black stockings

Necklace - [Must obtain from Mr. Dehn – cost: TBA]

Hair always up - [French twist preferred, bun is acceptable]

Make-up preferred

Informal Performance Attire

For Liturgies, Exchanges, Community Events, etc.

[Follows Cornelia Connelly School Dress Guidelines]

Skirt: Plaid

Tops: White polo with Connelly logo

Socks/Tights/Stockings: White

Shoes: Student choice (within school rules)

Jackets, sweaters and sweatshirts will be approved specific to event.

... I LOVE my choir dress!



Remember:

No perfume is to be worn during a performance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Attendance – All attendance policies are similar to those outlined in the School Handbook, but are specifically tailored to be especially pertinent to the music department. Matters including: Types of Absences, Excused and Unexcused Absences, Lateness, and all related consequences are stated in the 2005-2006 Handbook pgs. 36-38. These will be adhered to but, as individual circumstances arise, it will be at the discretion of the instructor to administer academic consequences to the extra curricular events. Please see how attendance impacts the grading policy on a later page in this handbook.

Auditions – Auditions are open to any student who is willing to commit to the requirements and schedules of the group. Only Women's Ensemble requires a specific audition where each student auditions in front of others. Auditions for Women's Ensemble will take place in May for the following year. Should a vacancy arise, it will be filled through a special audition process. The vacancy will be announced to all Connelly students, especially choral students.

Choral Council – A leadership group of students from each ensemble is necessary for the success of this program. The Choral Council will consist of students from all ensembles, elected by their classmates. The Executive Choir Board will be drawn from this Council. Meetings are scheduled on an as needed basis. The following are the Council positions and their responsibilities in alphabetical order. Students are encouraged to offer other assistance when needed.

Alto Section Leader – Must have keyboard skills and be willing to assist in running sectional rehearsals. Attend all council meetings and speak on behalf of the section/ensemble.

Audio/Visual Coordinator – Work with Mr. Dehn in coordinating primary sound and video for all performances. Set-up, arrange, and maintain all equipment and recording for the Cornelia Connelly Choral Music Department.

Historian – Create and maintain a book or album of all activities pertaining to the choral program. This includes taking and collecting photos, programs, and memorabilia of all activities. Pictures, pictures, pictures!

Librarian – Keeps track of each student's music number. Makes copies of music when necessary. Upkeep (including cataloging) of Connelly's Sheet Music Library. Assist in leading "strike team".

Soprano Section Leader – Must have keyboard skills and be willing to assist in running sectional rehearsals. Attend all council meetings and speak on behalf of the section/ensemble.

***President** – Coordinates all choir activities with Mr. Dehn, including concerts, festivals, exchanges and tours. Help in contacting ensemble through email list. Represent and speak for the choir at any school or community activities. Assist in filling any vacancy in the Choral Council. In charge of hospitality for visiting groups along with the Vice-President. Accepts all other assignments as given by Mr. Dehn.

Publicity – Initiate, submit, and disseminate, in the appropriate manner (i.e through Mr. Dehn and Sharon Olson at least!), information pertaining to all events requiring publicity for the Cornelia Connelly Choral Music Department. Leader of "strike team".

***Secretary** – Records minutes of all Council Meetings and gets copies to all in attendance prior to the next meeting. Maintain a master copy of all Choral Department expectations, procedures, handbook, and job descriptions. Keeps track of student information (individual concerts, birthdays, etc.) and organizes appropriate support for them on behalf of the Choral Department. Take roll at all choir functions.

Treasurer – In charge of choosing, implementing, and analyzing the fundraising activities of the ensemble. Assists in the organization and collection of any funds as approved by Cornelia Connelly policy and Mr. Dehn.

***Vice-President** – Assist President (as mentioned above) and perform duties in the absence of the President. Accept all assignments given by President. In charge of hospitality for visiting groups. Wardrobe chair.

* - Denotes Executive Choir Board

Music and Folders – Whenever possible during the school year each student will receive original copies of music. Sheet music is very expensive and the entire folder is worth over fifty dollars. Each piece is the property of Cornelia Connelly and will be used in the future, therefore it demands thoughtful care and consideration. Each student is given music that has her music assignment number. Taking close, careful care of music is necessary to ensure proper condition when it is returned. Use pencil only, no markers, highlighters, etc. Feel free to make photocopies to mark up if necessary. Take music home; study it, sing it, and learn it! If you are missing any pieces notify the Librarian immediately. NEVER borrow music from another student or from the library. Each student is financially responsible for these materials. Take care of yours and look out for fellow students' music. Students must pay for damaged or lost materials before final grades will be released.

Parent Volunteers – As with any active school program parent volunteers are extremely helpful, even necessary. A few of the things we need help with include: Driving to certain events, making phone calls, writing emails, setting up potlucks, printing programs, etc. But even more, it is the added creativity of parents that will add a very necessary sparkle to each Connelly Choir event. We need you! Contact Mr. Dehn if you would be willing to help.

Performance Opportunities – Throughout the school year there are many opportunities to perform as a group. At some concerts the opportunity may exist for students to have a solo, either in a choral piece or by themselves. Auditions may be necessary to assure the most appropriate literature will be on stage during concerts. Performing a solo in concert will warrant extra credit for the student. Cantoring at Mass is worth twice the credit. Even the sole act of auditioning for a solo is considered to be sincere interest in exploring the reward of performing as an individual and thus the student will also receive extra credit.

Responsibilities to other coursework – While all performances are mandatory, they are not ever in lieu of fulfilling obligations in the classroom. When there is a concert, festival, or any other activity that requires a student to miss class it is the student's responsibility to turn in homework, take an exam or quiz, receive homework, etc. before her absence occurs. Our ability to perform off campus has been very carefully coordinated with the academic calendar, the faculty and administration. This opportunity is a privilege and it will only continue if each singer fulfills her responsibilities.

Transportation – Transportation will usually be provided by the school for school trips. If there is any need for drivers, parents will be asked first. If the need arises for students to drive themselves, a written note must be handed to Mr. Dehn at least ***one week*** prior to departure. This gives ample time to take care of all necessary verifications and precautions. Per school policy, only students over the age of 18 may drive to any school activity. Policy for a student driving another student requires a letter from parents of both students ***one week*** prior to the actual trip.



*Music expresses that which cannot be said
and that on which it is impossible to remain silent.*

- Victor Hugo

CHOIR COUNCIL

These individuals are your student leaders for the Choral Music Program at Cornelia Connelly High School. Please insert their name (and email/phone if available) when it is announced after the elections. Please see them if you have any questions about schedules, procedures, etc. They know to make themselves available during school hours and during all rehearsals and performances.

Executive Board

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Contact info</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Choir President | | |
| Vice President | | |
| Secretary | | |

Choral Council

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Contact info</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Alto Section Leader | | |
| Audio/Visual | | |
| Historian | | |
| Librarian | | |
| Publicity | | |
| Soprano Section Leader | | |
| Treasurer | | |



Our first meeting...

GRADING INFORMATION

Because these arts have always been a vehicle for expressing a culture's emotional and spiritual values, they are a part of our daily lives and are offered to achieve a balanced educational program. Moreover, visual art, dance, drama, and music have an inherent value and are difficult to evaluate with non-artistic criteria. We will be exploring music with subjective guidelines, but only through thoughtful study and heartfelt performances can we fully experience one of God's greatest creations. The imagination that created a musical piece and the imagination that is drawn from the performer must always be available as an essential element in the complete education for students. To offer anything less devalues and dishonors everyone involved.

Now, to grade such a subjective art form with subjective criteria would seem logical, however, problems arise with this approach and have therefore been negated for a more objective grading criteria. This includes the student's attendance, quality and completion of homework and tests, and overall daily attitude and participation.

Here is a breakdown for grading:

40% ATTENDANCE – This is the most important part of your grade. Simply put, if a student is not present she will not receive credit. A team cannot succeed if its players don't show up. Similarly, if a singer neglects to show up, the group suffers and cannot perform as well. There is a tremendous amount of preparation that goes into every performance and the entire group is let down when someone doesn't show, or is late, because of a lack of responsibility or communication. If a student knows they cannot make the commitment, now is the time to decide. The basis for grading follows the school handbook but differs in the following ways.

Dress Rehearsals: 40 points

Masses: 20 points

Exchanges/other performances: 30 points

A missed performance results in a drop of two letter grades, regardless of point total, and an examination of dedication will be conducted with the student, their parent, and Mr. Dehn.

For the above statements, tardiness warrants half of the penalty as well as school.

40% HOMEWORK/EXAMINATIONS – Almost daily, music will be assigned and singing examinations given based on the compositions we will be studying. Each assignment/exam will be announced and will be graded on a scale of 1-5 (5 being best). Although nothing can replace a performance of the piece of music, it is believed that an understanding of the life of the composer, culture in which the composer lived, and the context within which it was written will lend support and further the understanding of each work that we perform. Examples of homework and examinations you will receive will include papers on the composers, concerts and festival reviews, quartet singing, etc. Each project will carry specific point totals and will be given as the projects are assigned.

20% ATTITUDE/DAILY PARTICIPATION – On a daily basis there will either be a rehearsal or an analytical study of the music we perform, therefore, daily participation and a pleasant attitude is a must. There are two required materials for class EVERY DAY, **Music and a pencil**. How the music is taken care of is taken into consideration as well. Additionally, attitude will be a major consideration for your grade. Any lack of respect for the music, the instructor, the ensemble or its members will carry additional grade deductions. We will be representing Connelly in many places and for many people. We must be on our best behavior at all times especially when we have guests or are off campus. Any student found not upholding Connelly values during any choral activity will not be allowed to perform and the subsequent grade punishment for non-participation will be levied. Here a few guidelines that will be considered in this portion of the student's grade:

- Pleasant, supportive attitude towards the instructor and members of the ensemble.
- Correct singing posture, sitting or standing.
- Not talking during rehearsal.
- No gum or food in class
- Having materials in class (i.e.: sheet music and pencils).
- Fulfillment of assigned duties (i.e.: striking team, clean-up crew, etc.).

Extra-Credit will be possible throughout the semester. Those options will be announced in class as they arise.

Your grades are in your hands. It is more than possible for everyone to succeed, but it is ultimately up to you. You decide what you will get out of this class and your grade.

CALENDAR

2006-2007

FALL SEMESTER

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|
| September 5 | Tues. | Student Orientation |
| September 6 | Wed. | Fall Semester begins |
| September 15 | Fri. | Consent Form Due |
| September 20 | Wed. | MASS of the Holy Spirit |
| September 25 | Mon. | First Monday Night Rehearsal (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.) |
| October 2 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| October 13 | Fr. | 45 th Anniversary Mass |
| October 16 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| October 27 | Fri. | Santa Barbara Festival (6am – 10pm) |
| October 30 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| November 1 | Wed. | MASS – All Saint’s Day |
| November 4 | Sat. | PERFORMANCE – “Friends” Festival - 1pm-4pm 11am call time (SAT exams in the a.m.) |
| November 6 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| November 9 | Thurs. | PERFORMANCE – Legatus Mass Irvine 3:30pm-8pm |
| November 13 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| November 20 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| November 27 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| December 3 | Sun. | OPEN HOUSE – PERFORMANCE |
| December 4 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| December 6 | Wed. | DRESS REHEARSAL – 3:00pm-5:00pm |
| December 8 | Fri. | MASS – Immaculate Conception |
| December 8 | Fri. | CONCERT – 8pm |
| December 14 | Thurs. | CONCERT – Christmas Service 7:30pm (Call time: 6:00pm) |
| January 2 | Tue. | Classes resume |
| January 5-7 | Fri.-Sun. | CHOIR RETREAT |
| January 17 | Wed. | MASS – New Year |

SPRING SEMESTER

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| January 29 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| February 5 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| February 10 | Sat. | PERFORMANCE – Pueri Cantores 11am – 5:30pm |
| February 12 | Mon. | PERFORMANCE – Loyola Marymount Women’s Festival |
| February 16 | Fri. | PERFORMANCE – Pop’s Concert at Connelly (School WASC Holiday) |
| February 21 | Wed. | MASS – Ash Wednesday |
| February 26 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| February 28 | Wed. | PERFORMANCE – Loyola Marymount Chamber Singers Festival (only CS) |
| March 5 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| March 12 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| March 19 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| March 23 | Fri. | PERFORMANCE – Anaheim Heritage Festival |
| April 2 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| April 5 | Thurs. | MASS – Holy Week Service |
| April 9-13 | Mon.-Fri. | Easter Break |
| April 10-21 | Tue.-Sat. | NY TOUR |
| April 25 | Wed. | Connelly Arts Festival |
| April 30 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| May 7 | Mon | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| May 14 | Mon | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| May 18 | Fri. | PERFORMANCE – SCVA Festival (Rated) |
| May 21 | Mon. | Monday Night Rehearsal |
| May 23 | Wed. | MASS – End of Year |
| May 30 | Wed. | DRESS REHEARSAL – 3:00pm-5:00pm |
| May 31 | Thurs. | 2007-2008 ‘AWE’ AUDITIONS |
| June 1 | Fri. | PERFORMANCE – Awards Day |
| June 1 | Fri. | CONCERT – 7:00pm (Call time: 5pm) |
| June 8 | Fri. | PERFORMANCE/RECORDING SESSION 8am-3pm |
| June 9 | Fri. | PERFORMANCE/MASS - Baccalaureate Mass |

* We will adhere to this calendar as best as we are able. Some events may be cancelled as well as added. You will have at least one month of preparation for any new events. When events are added they immediately become mandatory – I will clearly communicate with all students and their parents.

2006-2007 TOUR Literature

Choral Repertoire

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| To Agni..... | Gustav Holst |
| Tota Pulchra Es..... | Maurice Duruflé |
| Will There Really Be A “Morning”?..... | Craig Hella Johnson |
| Vere Languores Nostros..... | Antonio Lotti |
| My Song is Love Unknown..... | Edwin Childs |
| Ave Maria..... | David MacIntyre |
| There Is No Rose..... | Gary Garcia |
| Go Where I Send Thee..... | arr. Caldwell/Ivory |
| Ceremony of Carols..... | Benjamin Britten |
| <i>Hodie Christus Natus Est</i> | |
| <i>Balulalow</i> | |
| <i>As Dew In Aprille</i> | |
| <i>This Little Babe</i> | |
| Liebesgram..... | Robert Schumann |
| Ergen Deda..... | Peter Lyondev |
| “Suite” de Lorca..... | Einojuhani Rautavaara |
| <i>Canción de jinete</i> | |
| <i>El Grito</i> | |
| <i>La luna asoma</i> | |
| <i>Malagueña</i> | |
| Dies Irae..... | Z. Randall Stroope |
| Poor Wayfaring Stranger..... | arr. Shane Warby |
| Precious Lord..... | arr. Roy Ringwald |
| There Is A Balm in Gilead..... | arr. Ysaye M. Barnwell |
| Music Down In My Soul..... | arr. Moses Hogan |
| Seasons of Love (from <i>Rent</i>)arr. Roger Emerson | |
| Send in the Clowns (from <i>A Little Night Music</i>).....arr. Robert Beadell | |
| For Good (from <i>Wicked</i>).....arr. Mac Huff | |
| Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In (from <i>Hair</i>)arr. Frank Metis | |
| Praise His Holy Name..... | Keith Hampton |
| The Lord Bless You and Keep You..... | John Rutter |

Handbell Repertoire

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Morning Song of Praise..... | arr. Derek Hakes |
| Ukrainian Bell Carol..... | arr. Hart Morris |
| The River.. | arr. Anna Laura Page |
| Prisms.. | William Payn |
| Canon in D.. | Pachelbel arr. McFadden |
| A Day at Disneyland.. | arr. Nick Hanson |
| Pirates of the Caribbean..... | arr. Kevin McChesney |

CONSENT FORM

Please return this form with all signatures filled in.

Signing this form means that you have read, understand, and agree to all the requirements

This next paragraph is very important:

Communication is a must. If there are any conflicts you must communicate with Mr. Dehn as soon as possible. All performance dates are binding. You must be at every performance, dress rehearsal, etc.

Since you have been notified of most of these dates, there should be no excuse of conflicting schedules (i.e.: no doctor's appointments, transportation problems, birthday parties, etc.)

Only illnesses or legitimate family emergencies will excuse you from a performance.

If this type of absence should occur a make-up assignment must be done.

*****CHECK ALL DATES BEFORE SIGNING THIS FORM*****

I have read, understood, and agree to the requirements in this handbook:

STUDENT NAME (print)

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

RETURN THIS FORM BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th



*The arts are not simply skills: their concern is the intellectual,
ethical, and spiritual maturity of human life.
And in a time when religious and political institutions are so busy engraving images
of marketable gods and candidates
that they lose their vision of human dignity,
the arts have become the custodians of those values
which most worthily define humanity,
which most sensitively define Divinity.*

-Robert Shaw

Brian M. Dehn
Music Instructor
Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child Jesus
2323 West Broadway
Anaheim, CA 92804
(714) 776-1717 ext. 81
bdehn@connellyhs.org
www.connellyhs.org

