

# *Choir Academy Ensembles*

## **Desert Harmony**

Desert Harmony is the advanced mixed chorus at Desert Shadows Middle School. Admission is open following a successful vocal audition and admission into the Desert Shadows Middle School Academies of Choir. Students primarily perform two, three, or four-part choral literature from the medieval through contemporary musical periods. Students perform in two or three major concerts per year along with special performances for the community throughout the year. Advanced skills in musicianship are stressed including vocal training, music theory and history, and sight-reading skills. Desert Harmony received a first place gold award at the 2017 and 2018 Heritage Music Festival in Anaheim, California, and a first place award at the 2016-2019 Forum Festival in Los Angeles.

**Vocal audition and application submission are required for acceptance.**

## **Bravo**

Bravo is an ensemble specializing in Musical Theatre literature. Students will study and perform a variety of musical theatre selections. These performances will consist of extensive vocal work and choreography. Students perform in two to three major concerts per year along with special performances for the community throughout the year. Advanced skills in musicianship are stressed including vocal and dance training, music theory, history, and sight-reading skills.

**Vocal audition, dance audition, and application submission are required for acceptance.**

### **Vocal Audition Dates & Times:**

Saturday, December 10th, 12pm - 5pm

Saturday, January 7th, 12pm - 5pm

### **Dance Audition Dates & Times:**

Students will learn a short song and choreography to be performed in small groups. Students should plan to dance in tennis shoes, jazz shoes, or character shoes. Your student will need to be here the full 2 hours, please plan accordingly.

Saturday, December 10th, 10am - 12pm

Saturday, January 7th, 10am - 12pm

### **Choir Academy Application Checklist:**

1. Submit a completed application to the Desert Shadows Middle School front office or mail packet to the school.
2. Once your completed application is received, you will receive an email with the link to the Signup Genius.

**Notifications will be sent to parent email addresses indicated on the academy application from *mkahn@pylearners.net*.**

## **Audition Procedure:**

Auditions will take approximately 15 minutes and will consist of the following components:

- Vocal Range Check
- Rhythmic & Melodic Sight-Reading Example
- Tonal Memory (singing back notes played on the keyboard)
- Required Vocal Solo: *My Country 'Tis of Thee* (First Verse, A Cappella, without accompaniment)

**\*\* See attached music to help you with this**

- A one-minute prepared solo of the student's choice.
- **If auditioning for Bravo, please sing a Musical Theatre song.**

## **Questions?**

Contact **Michele Kahn, our Director of Choirs**, by emailing [mkahn@pvschools.net](mailto:mkahn@pvschools.net)

## **What is the time commitment for my child in the Academy?**

Below is a general list of events and activities that take place throughout the year. Our meeting at the end of the year will provide you with more details about these events:

- Mini-Retreat (August)
- Winter Festival of Choirs performance (December)
- Vocal clinics and workshops in preparation for HHS choir auditions (Jan.- Mar.)
- Pre-Tour Concert (February or March)
- PVUSD Arts Festival performance
- Spring Tour of California (March)
- Academy Solo and Ensemble recital (March/April)
- Spring Festival of Choirs performance (May)
- Choir Awards Night (May)
- Various Community performances and festivals (on going)