

MUSIC Achievement Portfolio



Choir II (MU 1720)

**Practice Develops
Confidence**

_____ Student
_____ Music Teacher
_____ Parent
_____ School and District

Description of Intermediate Choir

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, aesthetic sensitivity, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to experience the spontaneity of improvisation and the creative process of composition. Students will heighten listening skills and increase their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Prerequisite course is Beginning Choir (MU 1620), or audition.*

Explanation of Standards

The Utah State Music Core divides the goals of music education into four music standards which are Perform, Create, Listen/Analyze/Evaluate, and Discover Meaning. These four divisions or standards organize the curriculum into manageable and related units and guide the student through a rich experience with music. Each standard is broken into objectives, each objective into indicators. A scoring box is placed to the left of each objective. The student scores his or her achievement within each objective using a number ranging from 0 to 10. A legend is provided wherein the student and teacher tally both the average score from the objective boxes and the total number of indicators the class has studied.

Playback/recording technology is required.

Listed below are all of the courses presented in the Music Core Curriculum. There are additional, elective courses available in many schools.

Music Connections (MU 1600)	Guitar (MU 1610)	
Music Aesthetics (MU 1700)	Composition (MU 1750)	
Choir I (MU 1620)	Band I (MU 1630)	Orchestra I (MU 1640)
Choir II (MU 1720)	Band II (MU 1730)	Orchestra II (MU 1740)
Choir III (MU 1760)	Band III (MU 1770)	Orchestra III (MU 1780)

Intermediate Choir Student Achievement Portfolio

Standard 1 **PERFORM**

Students will use body, voice, and instruments as means of musical expression.

Objective A: Produce a beautiful tone.

- Tone. Produce a balanced and free vocal tone with the body and breath working together.
- Posture. Exhibit the right relationship between the head, neck, and torso in a singing posture free from tension.
- Breathing. Breathe quietly through an open throat, preparing the throat for singing with each inhalation.
- Vowels. Keep the proper vowel shape for the duration of the syllable, showing care in the upper ranges to give more space to closed vowels.
- Consonants. Show how clear, crisp, quick, and well-articulated consonants help focus and project the voice.

Objective B: Demonstrate technical performance skills.

- Perform rhythms accurately; e.g., attacks, releases, accents.
- Practice and perform with habits that enable accurate intonation; e.g., listen and match the pitch, master different vocal exercise patterns, sing various scales accurately.
- Hold melodic and harmonic parts successfully in three-part a cappella and accompanied choral music.
- Perform a range of dynamic contrasts and tempo changes with increasing control.
- Match vowel colors and tone qualities within an ensemble.
- Sing in musical phrases.

Objective C: Demonstrate notational literacy.

- Explain correctly standard notation symbols in choral music.
- Demonstrate correct use of music symbols through writing dictated rhythms and pitches and singing from them.

- Sight-sing readily the pitches and rhythms of melodic patterns written in a variety of keys and time signatures.
- Develop reading fluency of unfamiliar songs.

Objective D: Demonstrate productive rehearsal habits.

- Exhibit productive rehearsal skills; e.g., stay focused, be prepared, participate fully, respect others, maintain conscientious attendance habits.
- Demonstrate good care and use of the voice.
- Explain and/or teach the principles of any of the performance objectives to classmates as needed.
- Improve personal use of technical vocal terminology.
- Assist in the care of supplies, facilities, and equipment.

Objective E: Perform varied repertoire.

- Demonstrate ability to communicate meaning through music.
- Perform successfully in public and/or for adjudication a cappella and accompanied music from a variety of times, cultures, and styles.
- Exhibit commendable performer and audience etiquette.

Standard 2 **CREATE**

Students will improvise and compose music.

Objective A: Improvise rhythmic and melodic ideas and phrases.

- Explore possibilities of sounds that can be produced with the voice.
- Improvise melodic, rhythmic, and chordal call/response, question/answer activities; e.g., imitate rhythmic and thematic or melodic ideas in groups such as drum circles or by passing the musical idea from one person to the next; sing/play back short, simple scale fragments or rhythms.
- Improvise simple melodies using limited pitches and/or creating variations of a familiar tune.

Objective B: Record musical thoughts in standard notation.

- Notate class and personal improvisations in a sketch book.
- As a group or individually, complete a composition process: create a tune according to given criteria, notate the rhythms and pitches on a staff.

Standard 3

LISTEN/ANALYZE/EVALUATE

Students will expand music listening skills and use music vocabulary to analyze and evaluate music.

Objective A: Analyze and evaluate musical examples.

- Describe music events/changes as they occur in performance repertoire or in recorded examples; e.g., tempo dynamics, instrumentation.
- Explain how performance repertoire is constructed; e.g., identify the meter (time signature) and any changes, identify the key (find and play the key/home note), identify the form (AB, ABA, rondo, theme and variations, etc.).
- Analyze performance repertoire or music the class listens to by comparing and contrasting styles from a variety of cultures and time periods, describing the emotions and thoughts the music communicates and how it does so.

Objective B: Evaluate ensemble performances.

- List important criteria for determining the quality of a music performance.
- Using this list, identify, analyze, and evaluate strengths and weaknesses in both recorded and live performances.
- Prescribe adjustments needed to strengthen individual and ensemble performance.
- Compare/contrast live music performances with recordings.

Objective C: Document personal growth as a musician.

- Using the criteria from Objective B, evaluate strengths and weaknesses in personal performance.
- Organize and maintain records of completed work; e.g., recordings, journal writings, sketch book, self/peer/teacher/adjudicator assessments.
- Select a piece of own completed work that most clearly illustrates personal progress and explain this choice to teacher and/or parents.
- Analyze how the quality of own work has affected the progress and performance of the whole group.

Standard 4 **DISCOVER MEANING**

Students will find avenues of understanding and communication through connecting music to personal growth, the joy of living, traditions, culture, and history.

Objective A: Examine how music relates to personal development and enjoyment of life.

- Evaluate how the study of music expands the ability to communicate with and understand others.
- Tell how music can be a joyful part of daily activities.
- Describe how making music together helps develop skills and success in working with others.
- Describe how self and/or class have used music to be of service to someone.
- Explain how participation in music can become a lifetime pursuit and/or develop analytical and creative thinking skills.

Objective B: Experience how music connects us to history, culture, heritage, and community.

- Demonstrate how people celebrate, mourn, create, communicate ideas, help others, express feelings, come together, and/or enjoy themselves through music.
- Perform and enjoy music related to various cultures, times, and places.
- Explain what the music experienced above means personally.

CHOIR II LEGEND

Each box to the left of the objective contains a number that represents a level of achievement from this list:

Distinguished	10
Independent	9
Fluent	8
Developing	7
Novice	0-6

This is the average of the numbers recorded in the boxes to the left of the objectives:

This is the percentage of indicators the class completed:

