

SOA
Vocal Department
Guidebook

2017-2018

Welcome to the SOA Vocal Department! We are happy to have your family join our family. We have put together this guide book to help you see what the vocal department is all about. Please take the time to read through all of the pages whether you are a new or returning family. Contact information for several board members and our directors are included in this guide should you have additional questions or concerns.

The majority of communication within the vocal department is done via email. If you have not received an email or an invoice for vocal fees prior to registration, please email Lisa Estes (lisamhe@gmail.com) and she will get your email address added or corrected.

Vocal Parent Meetings

These meetings are held in the high school vocal room in the Fine Arts building at SOA. All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. The vocal directors will highlight the vocal year, give out important information, and answer questions. The treasurer will also be available to receive vocal fee payments. Vocal school supplies can be turned in at these meetings as well.

Middle School Parent Meeting: August 28th at 6:30

High School Parent Meeting: August 29th at 6:30

Vocal Booster Club

This group is for parents of vocal students with advisement from the vocal directors. All parents become members as they pay their vocal fees.

There are only a couple of meetings per year but all parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held when there is a need for a group vote, for fundraising, or for big events. The vocal board members manage the disbursement of vocal funds. Input is always welcome from all members. Please email a current board member if you are interested in becoming a future board member.

2017-2018 Vocal Calendar

A complete calendar can be accessed at any time at soavocal.com. A copy of this calendar has also been emailed to all returning families. A vocal calendar agreement was attached to the email which requires a response. Your child will also receive a copy of this calendar during the first week of school.

Student Responsibilities

Coming prepared to class is only part of a student's responsibilities. Class participation and behavior are also very important and will be reflected in a daily grade. A behavior/expectation contract will be signed by a parent/guardian and the student during the first week of school.

Rehearsals and concerts are class requirements for vocal majors. Grades are also given for attendance, participation, and behavior at rehearsals and performances.

All students are required to attend rehearsals in their entirety and fulfill other attendance requirements in order to sing in each concert. There are only two reasons for missing all or part of a rehearsal or performance that will be excused. 1. Death in the family or comparable devastating family emergency. 2. Student illnesses verified by a doctor's excuse.

Each absence or tardy requires a written note or email from a parent/guardian to be excused. Verbal or written excuses from students are not acceptable. Work related absences are also unexcused.

Prior commitments must be reported to directors for approval during the first week of school. (ie. Wedding, graduation, religious holidays, etc.)

Vocal Performance Attire

All vocal students are required to purchase assigned performance attire. Female attire will be paid for and purchased through the Vocal Booster Club. Invoices will be emailed for online payment once the dresses are ordered.

Female students wear a full length black concert dress with black character shoes. Middle school and high school dresses are slightly different styles. New high school dresses are \$85 and include earrings and a pin. New middle school dresses are \$60 and include earrings and pearls. Character shoe prices vary and are purchased individually by parents and not through the Booster Club.

Male students wear black tuxedo pants, jacket, cumberbund, bow tie, white shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes. Tuxedo prices vary. Male attire is purchased individually by parents and not through the Booster Club.

Vocal directors will give parents/guardians and students further information for ordering the required performance attire. Do NOT purchase any attire until you have received the parameters from the vocal department.

There is also the opportunity to purchase gently used performance attire. If a student has outgrown their performance attire, it can be returned to school for others to try on. Students will be given an opportunity during class to try on returned performance attire. If they find something that fits, it will be sent home with a note for the parent/guardian with an option to purchase. The payment will be given to the student's family that returned

the item. If a used item is not available for your child, you will be required to purchase new items. ***Please note that middle school girls will all be getting new dresses this year as the dress style is changing.*

All concert attire is best kept in a garment bag. A personalized garment bag is given to all students who are current on their vocal fees.

Students who come to a performance in unacceptable attire will not be allowed to perform and will receive a zero.

Vocal Fees

A \$200 vocal fee is required of each vocal student. The Vocal Booster Club Treasurer will send an email invoice to each family. There are several payment options available for paying vocal fees from a one time paid in full payment to a four payment plan. All vocal fees should be paid in full before winter break in December unless another agreement has been made between the parent/guardian and the Treasurer.

There are two full scholarships or four half scholarships available to families in dire need. The number of requests and need will determine how the scholarships are distributed. To be considered for financial assistance, a written description describing need and circumstances is required and should be given to Mr. Rogers or emailed to the Treasurer at lisamhe@gmail.com. This information is kept confidential. A volunteer commitment is required of all scholarship recipients. A family who has previously received a scholarship is not eligible for a scholarship in a consecutive year except in extreme circumstances. **Written scholarships must be received by September 8th to be considered.**

Vocal fees are extremely important to the success of our program. These fees are used for a variety of expenses within the vocal program. These expenses include but are not limited to music, workshops, student meals and snacks, student travel expenses, all county fees, all state fees, special

accompanists, in service guests, and more. Money from these fees are also set aside for large purchases such as new microphones, new risers and other vocal department equipment that needs to be updated. A detailed financial report will be available at the parent meetings and a copy can be obtained from the treasurer at any time upon request.

Students who have not paid any of their vocal fees will not be allowed to participate in school trips, all state auditions, national auditions or other events covered by the vocal department.

For all 7th, 8th, and 9th grade families, at least \$100 of the vocal fee must be paid by September 1st to be eligible to attend the Junior All State Clinic.

For 10th, 11th, and 12th grade families, at least one \$50.00 payment must be made by September 1st to be eligible to audition for All State.

*A special note for families of Senior students – Vocal fees must be current for a student to obtain their Golden Ticket which is required for graduation.

2017-2018 Vocal Events/Performances

July 31st – August 3rd: Registration

Students will go through the registration process which includes the vocal table. Volunteers will be available to collect vocal fee payments at this time.

August 25th: Performance Attire Fitting for grades 7-12

Students who have outgrown their performance attire will try on used performance attire and if none fit they will be sized for a new order

August 30th: 6th Grade Boys Tuxedo Fitting

During class, boys will be measured and fitted for performance tuxedos

September 5th: 6th Grade Girls Dress Fitting

During class, girls will be measured and fitted for performance dresses

September 23rd: High School Mozart Requiem Workshop

Students in grades 9-12 will participate in a workshop at SOA from 9am -1pm. This workshop will include students from Wando and Cane Bay High Schools.

October 2nd, 3rd, 4th: High School After School Rehearsals

Students in grades 9-12 will rehearse after school from 3:45 until 6:00 pm for the Shake your Groove Thing performance

October 5th, 6th: Shake Your Groove Thing Performances

High School students will perform in a 6:30 pm performance on both evenings. Call time for students will be announced closer to the date.

October 13th and 14th: Junior All-State

Students in grades 7, 8, and 9 who we chosen for All-State, will travel to Southern Wesleyan College in the upstate to participate in All-State activities. Travel information will be distributed to those students closer to the travel date.

November 3rd & 4th: North Charleston Pops

Students in grades 9-12 will perform with the North Charleston Pops at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

November 6th – 9th: High School All State Auditions

Students in grades 10-12 will travel to Columbia on one of the above dates to live audition for the All State Choir. (An exact date will be available closer to Nov.)

November 14th: High School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 9-12 will rehearse after school from 3:45 -6:00 in preparation for the holiday concert

November 27th: Middle School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 6-8 will rehearse after school from 3:45 – 6:00 in preparation for the holiday concert

November 28th: High School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 9-12 will rehearse after school from 3:45 -6:00 in preparation for the holiday concert

December 4th: High School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 9-12 will rehearse after school from 3:45 -6:00 in preparation for the holiday concert

December 4th: Middle School Pull Out Rehearsal

Students in grades 6-9 will be pulled out of some classes for an in school rehearsal in preparation for the holiday concert

December 5th & 6th: Middle School Holiday Concert with Strings

Students in grades 6-8 will stay after school until concert time. They will be given dinner, time to get dressed, and time to warm up. Concert starts at 6:30. Volunteers will be needed to assist with tickets, performance and food distribution during after school rehearsals.

December 7th: High School Pull Out Rehearsal

Students in grades 9-12 will be pulled out of some classes for an in school rehearsal in preparation for the holiday concert

December 7th & 8th: High School Holiday Concert with Orchestra

Students in grades 9-12 will have the opportunity to stay after school and have dinner and get ready for the concert or return at call time (TBD). Concerts begin at 6:30. Volunteers will be needed to assist with tickets, performance and food distribution during after school rehearsals.

January 9th: High School After School Rehearsal

After school rehearsal for students in grades 9-12 from 3:45 to 6:00

January 11th: High School After School Rehearsal

After school rehearsal for students in grades 9-12 from 3:45 to 6:00

January 16th: Mozart Requiem at the Gaillard

Concert at the Gaillard including grades 9-12. More specific times and details will be given closer to the date.

January 22nd & 23rd: All County Chorus

This will be held at SOA and students in all grades will participate. More specific times and details will be given closer to the date.

January 30th: High School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 9-12 will rehearse after school from 3:45 – 6:00 in preparation for Music Down In My Soul

February 1st: High School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 9-12 will rehearse after school from 3:45 – 6:00 in preparation for Music Down In My Soul

February 2nd: Music Down in My Soul Concert

This is a dinner concert including all grades. Students will stay after school, they will be fed dinner and given time to get dressed and warm up before the 6:30 concert time. Volunteers will be needed to assist with tickets, performance and food distribution during after school rehearsals.

February 3rd: Music Down in My Soul Concert

This is the second night of the dinner concert. Because this is a Saturday, students should arrive at call time (TBD) having already had dinner and ready to perform.

February 15th: High School Pull Out Rehearsal with Orchestra

Students in grades 9-12 will be pulled out of some classes to rehearse in preparation of the SCMEA (SC Music Educators Association) Performance.

February 16th: SCMEA Performance

Students in grades 9-12 will perform at the USC Koger Center in Columbia. Travel information will be given closer to the date.

March 1st, 2nd, & 3rd: High School All State Chorus

Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 who made the All State Choir will travel to Winthrop University to participate in All State Chorus activities. More specific times/details will be given closer to the date.

March 12th, 13th, & 14th: Senior Thesis Nights

Senior students choosing to perform a senior thesis will sign up for performance times on one of these dates.

March 22nd, 23rd, 24th: Young Americans Workshop

Students in all grades will participate in this high energy workshop. This will take place during school hours as well as during after school hours. A performance will conclude the workshop. More specific times and details will be given closer to the date.

April 12th: Spring Showcase

All students will participate in an evening performance at the school. An exact time has yet to be determined. This event is school-wide and includes food trucks and all majors performing across the campus.

April 17th: High School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 9-12 will rehearse from 3:45 to 6:00 in preparation of the Masterworks Concert.

April 23rd & 24th: High School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 9-12 will rehearse from 3:45 to 6:00 in preparation of the Masterworks Concert.

April 25th & 26th: Masterworks Concert

Students in grades 9-12 will perform with the high school orchestra at 6:30

May 8th: Middle School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 6-8 will rehearse after school from 3:45 – 6:00
In preparation for the Middle School Spring Concert

May 10th: Middle School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 6-8 will rehearse after school from 3:45 – 6:00
In preparation for the Middle School Spring Concert

May 14th: Middle School After School Rehearsal

Students in grades 6-8 will rehearse after school from 3:45 – 6:00

In preparation for the Middle School Spring Concert

May 15th: Middle School Spring Concert

Students in grades 6-8 will stay after school, will be given dinner, and time to get dressed and warm up before the 6:30 concert. Volunteers will be needed to assist with tickets, performance and food distribution during after school rehearsals.

*******Any of the above dates/times are subject to change***

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are a crucial part of our vocal program. Volunteers are needed in varied capacities throughout the year. We ask that every family sign up for at least two volunteer opportunities. A sign up genius will be sent to all families at the beginning of the school year and will be resent several times throughout the school year. We thank you in advance for supporting our program with your precious time. Below is a brief description of the events requiring volunteers.

Shake your Groove Thing: This concert is somewhat like a variety show starring our high school students. Volunteers will be needed to sell tickets, take tickets at the door, usher, and help with back stage assistance.

Junior All State: A few parents will be needed as chaperones to travel and stay overnight with the 7, 8, & 9th graders who were accepted to All-State.

High School All-State Auditions: A few parents will be needed to chaperone a day trip to Columbia as students in grades 10-12 participate in live auditions.

After School Rehearsals: Parents are needed to send in a variety of snacks to be offered during rehearsals.

Middle School Holiday Concert: This concert includes vocal students and string students. The concert is performed on two separate nights. All students must participate in both concerts. Volunteers are needed to pick up a pre-ordered, pre-paid dinner for the students staying after school. Volunteers are also needed to help serve the meal to the students, sell tickets, take tickets at the door, usher, and help with backstage assistance. A few volunteers will be needed to stay in the lobby after the concert has begun so you may want to purchase your tickets to watch the concert on the night you are not volunteering. A board member will be present at all concerts to step in when needed, handle any problems, and handle the money.

High School Holiday Concert: This concert includes vocal students and orchestra students. The concert is performed on two separate nights. All students must participate in both concerts. Volunteers are needed to pick up a pre-ordered, pre-paid dinner for the students staying after school. Volunteers are also needed to help serve the meal to the students, sell tickets, take tickets at the door, ushers, and backstage assistance. . A few volunteers will be needed to stay in the lobby after the concert has begun so you may want to purchase your tickets to watch the concert on the night you are not volunteering. A board member will be present at all concerts to step in when needed, handle any problems, and handle the money.

Music Down in My Soul Dinner Concert: This dinner concert includes middle and high school students. It takes place on a Friday and Saturday evening and all students are required to attend both concerts. A catered dinner is provided for guests while the students sing a variety of soulful gospel music. Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to the students after school on Friday. Volunteers are also needed to coordinate and gather concert dinner supplies, set up, clean up, take tickets, and serve. These volunteers are needed for both Friday and Saturday night.

SCMEA Performance: This performance is grades 9-12 and is in Columbia, SC. A few high school parents will be needed to chaperone this day trip.

High School All State: A few high school parents will be needed to travel with students and stay over 2 nights at a hotel near Winthrop University to chaperone those students who made All-State Choir. A concert will take place at Winthrop on Saturday afternoon and students will travel back after this.

Senior Thesis: Seniors who are working toward an SOA diploma will prepare and perform a senior thesis. These will be spread over three dates. Parents of Juniors are needed to coordinate, set up and clean up a small reception to conclude thesis nights. A parent is also needed to put together and wrap the senior class gift (this is a class picture taken by the directors which needs to be put into frames and wrapped).

Young Americans Workshop: This is an incredibly fun workshop that all of the students love. It takes place every three years. A group of young adult singers dancers from California come and involve the students in an interactive workshop. The Young Americans will put on a show for the students and they will include the students in a show for parents. The workshop takes place over three days and will include school time and after school time. The Young Americans also need a place to stay while they are here. Families willing to host a performer or two will be needed. The performers are kind, well mannered, and fun. Students love having them come home with them. Families will be responsible for providing them with a place to sleep, some food/snacks, and rides to and from SOA. It is an experience your family will treasure.

High School Masterworks Concerts: This concert includes vocal students and orchestra students. The concert is performed on two separate nights. All students must participate in both concerts. Volunteers are needed to pick up a pre-ordered, pre-paid dinner for the students staying after school. Volunteers are also needed to help serve the meal to the students, sell

tickets, take tickets at the door, ushers, and backstage assistance. A few volunteers will be needed to stay in the lobby after the concert has begun so you may want to purchase your tickets to watch the concert on the night you are not volunteering. A board member will be present at all concerts to step in when needed, handle any problems, and handle the money.

Middle School Spring Concert: This concert includes vocal students and string students. Volunteers are needed to pick up a pre-ordered, pre-paid dinner for the students staying after school. Volunteers are also needed to help serve the meal to the students, sell tickets, take tickets at the door, ushers, and backstage assistance. A few volunteers will be needed to stay in the lobby after the concert has begun. High school parents would be ideal volunteers for this concert so you don't have to worry about missing any part of it. A board member will be present at all concerts to step in when needed, handle any problems, and handle the money.

*****Other volunteer opportunities may be added throughout the year.

Sponsorships: Personal or business sponsorships are available. There are varying levels of sponsorship available. All sponsors will have an ad in the concert programs. Sponsors also receive tickets to most concerts. More specific information about sponsorships will be sent home with your student. Sponsorship information is also available at soavocal.com. Sponsorship applications and fees are due by October 18th.

Vocal Contacts:

Heather Hammond Caffarel, vocal director

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Robin Rogers, vocal director Robin_rogers@charleston.k12.sc.us

Lynn Rea, vocal booster club president lynn@reaofsunshine.com

Lisa Estes, vocal booster club treasurer lislamhe@gmail.com

