



"I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that." - Paul McCartney

The Alabama Vocal Association provides many opportunities for student musicians to learn, to create, and to share each year:

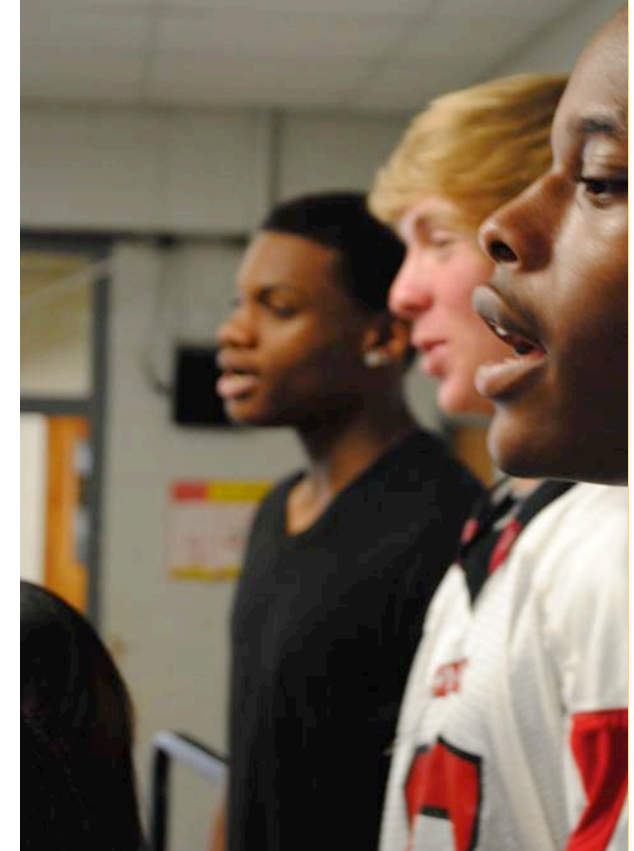
- All State Choral Festival/ All State Show Choir
- Honor Choir
- Solo & Ensemble Performance Assessment
- State Choral Performance Assessment
- Outstanding Choral Student/ Outstanding Accompanist
- Choral Music Education Scholarship

Choral music plays an important role in all of our lives because it uniquely connects with our intellect, our emotions, and our soul to express what we alone cannot say. That is the beauty of choral music; it has the ability to engage the complete person, regardless of age, ability, or prior experience.



**DON'T
SILENCE
OUR VOICES**

**KEEP ALABAMA
SINGING**

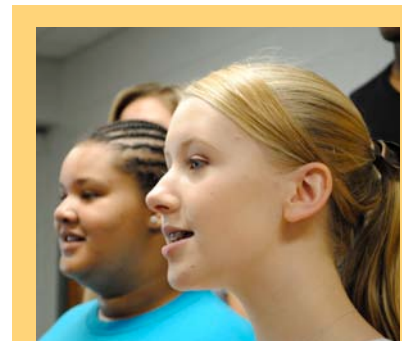


The Advantages of Choral Music

1. Everyone has a voice.
2. That voice comes free -- *no purchases necessary.*
3. That voice is portable -- *no special travel requirements.*
4. That voice is highly flexible -- *all music can be sung.*
5. Choral music has rhythms AND words. Reading, counting, comprehension, foreign languages, expression... *we've got it all.*
6. Choral music has messages and meaning. From discovering folk traditions and world music to singing about social justice and civil rights, choral music provides a powerful means of cultural and historical expression... *we sing about something.*
7. Choral singing is a collaborative endeavor... *we sing together.*
8. Choral singing can be taught in ways that work for all kinds of learners.
9. Choral singing is a very cost-effective form of arts education.
10. Choral singing is a lifelong activity!



WHY Choral music?



Choral Music Is Important for a Complete Education

In the 21st Century, America's manufacturing-driven economy is being rapidly replaced by a creative economy or "economy of ideas." Educators and lawmakers are calling for a "complete and competitive education" for American students to ensure our place in the global economy. Choral Music can help prepare our students to meet these challenges.

Singing In Choir Promotes Academic Achievement

Studies show that singing in choir promotes academic achievement:

- Academic -- improved reading/language and mathematics skills
- Comprehensive -- help to create a learning environment conducive to teacher and student success that fosters: teacher innovation, a positive professional culture, community engagement, increased student attendance, effective instructional practice, and school identity.
- Studies show that high-arts/low-income students are 3X more likely to have earned degrees than low-arts/low-income students.

Singing In Choir Builds Success Skills

- Thinking skills (reasoning, intuition, perception, imagination, creativity, problem-solving)
- Social skills (self-confidence, self-control, empathy, social tolerance)
- Motivation to learn (active engagement, sustained attention, persistence)

Singing In Choir Provides A Sense of Real Belonging

- According to a 2009 survey conducted by Indiana University, only 41% of students said they attended school because of what they learned, yet 82% reported they wanted more opportunities to be creative. Choral music provides that opportunity.

SINGING IN A CHOIR HELPS STUDENTS SUCCEED...

- In School
- In Work
- In Life