

Choir

This week's assignment: Zuckerkandl, pages

The ETS choir is an opportunity to learn to experience and understand the nature of beauty through its practice in the form of music. Students not only learn to sing, but will study music theory so they can become articulate in the language of musical description. By becoming capable of describing music through words, they are better able to appreciate their own musical experience. Choir is a two year sequence that begins each odd year, so students can begin during the GBT I or III year. Local GBT students are required to complete two semesters of choir before during GBT I or III. In order to complete a semester, students must attend the entirety of 14 practices during the semester and sing in our final concert.

All choir students need to download **Finale Notepad** in order to practice at home. It can be [downloaded here](#) and is free! The finale version can easily be used to practice your part with by opening the instrument list or score manager and removing or adding various parts to practice either with or against. You can find finale tutorials on youtube.com by doing a search for "finale notepad tutorial". You can find links to download all the songs we sing on the music page - [music/Default.asp](#). You will have to use "Save link as" on your browser and then once it is saved to your computer, open Finale Notepad and go to Open File.

If you are new to choir, the most difficult challenge that you may face is learning to sing on pitch. One nice way to practice this skill at home is singing for a tuner. There are a number of inexpensive tuners available on the Internet. A simple version can be found at [here](#), however, my favorite is called gstring tuner and is available through the android marketplace for free. Once you have a tuner, try playing a series of notes such as a,b,c,d,e on piano or some other instrument and then try singing them and see if the tuner says you sang the pitches correct. It can be very challenging because the tuners are very precise, but the more you work at it, the better you will become at holding your pitch.

Once I have assigned our pieces for the semester, please see our [musical resources page](#) for the music for each piece.

Another great resource for learning choir parts is [Choir Partson](#) youtube. A good video for learning about intervals is the [Music Theory Song](#). The following TEDx talk is a [good description](#) of what it is like to sing in a choir. The first 20 minutes of each choir will be spend on music theory. Choir members need to purchase the music theory text- for more information please see the [music tutorial page](#). If you have not had any prior musical experience, it would be helpful to watch some videos on basic music theory, there are many but here are my recommendations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAnYuVrD4t0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLfzXg7BygM>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1gyZ4Z_Z2w

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FNZqlXK2mE>

The date of our first semester performance will be at the end of January. Our second semester performance is at the fling recital during the third week of June.

The book we will use in this tutorial is Victor Zuckerkandl's [The Sense of Music](#). Please make sure to have this book before the first class.

Music charms us, even though its beauty consists only in the harmonies of numbers and in a calculation that we are not aware of, but which the soul nevertheless carries out, a calculation concerning the beats or vibrations of sounding bodies, which are encountered at certain intervals. The pleasures that sight finds in proportions are of the same nature, and those caused by the other sense amount to something similar, even though we might not be able to explain it so distinctly. **Leibniz- Principles of Nature and Grace**