August 19, 2014

Dear Junior High Choir Families:

Let me extend to each of you a warm welcome to the 2014-2015 Xenia Christian Junior High Choir.

To ensure that our choral music ministry is characterized by excellence, and to give each student an opportunity to earn a grade reflecting that excellence, please take time to read all of the important information contained in this Commitment Letter and its attachments. **Future communications will come via email.**

**Mission:** Our choir has three purposes: (1) to uplift the name of Jesus Christ to our audiences, young and old; (2) to teach responsibility; and (3) to grow as musicians, both in our ability to sing well and also in our familiarity with music of various styles.

**In keeping with purposes #1 & #2: Concert Schedule and Concert Attire.** Our schedule for the year as well as the required concert attire may be found attached to this letter. Our school requires only two concerts outside of the school day; however, it is imperative that students perform in both of them. (There will be some optional events for which you will receive information in a separate communique.)

***These two concerts serve as the final exam for each semester.***

Please sign and return the Response Sheet indicating your student’s commitment to sing in each of these concerts. If you are not able to commit to both of the required dates, it may not be realistic for your student to be a choir member this year. If that is your situation, let’s talk about it and then make a decision together.

**In keeping with purpose #3**, we will sing in a variety of styles, ranging from historical art music (some of these “classical” selections may be in a language other than English; some may have been composed as early as 600 years ago) through contemporary Christian music. Students need to be willing to cheerfully participate in the singing of music that may be new to them. This is part of their education. If you have any doctrinal reservations about your student singing music that is written for worship traditions other than your own, please contact me in the next two weeks and I will show you what I have planned.

**Grades:** Students receive grades based upon the criteria shown below. All students have an “A” in each category unless deductions must be made.

1. **Class Participation = two test grades.** Students are to respond to my instructions during class to assemble for singing or to return to their seats within a specified time frame. Deductions will be made to the Class Participation grade when students are tardy in responding to instructions or inattentive while singing.
2. **Written tests over lyrics and techniques of singing = one test grade.** (A study guide will be provided for the questions on the “techniques of singing” test with exact wording and answers.)
3. **Out-of-school concerts in December and May = exam grades.** All students earn an “A” unless deductions are made for tardiness to the warm-up room, failure to abide by the concert dress code, or leaving before the last group performs. Students who fail to attend will receive “F’s” for their concert grade unless they are absent from school.

Despite the cautionary tone of this letter, nearly all students will be able to earn an “A” for the year. They will also have a growing experience as they reach out in Jesus’ name to many in our community. Let’s rejoice in the Lord together this year, and praise Him before all those who will hear us!

Because of Calvary,

 **Bob Colaner**

Robert L. Colaner, Junior High Choir Director

rcolaner@xeniachristian.com

**RESPONSE SHEET for COMMITMENT LETTER of 8/19/14**

**This Response Sheet must be returned to Mr. Colaner by Tuesday August 26.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Print student’s name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Parent’s signature

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Student’s signature

Parent’s phone number[s] & email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK THE STATEMENT THAT IS TRUE FOR YOUR FAMILY.**

\_\_\_\_\_ We have seen the letter and the schedule.

We will abide by the dress code as described under “Concert Attire” on the reverse of the schedule.

We will put all of the concert dates on our calendar and will protect them, explaining to coaches and club leaders of our *prior commitment* to these required school events for which our student receives a grade. (Exceptions will be made for personal illness or family emergency. Lack of transportation does not constitute an emergency unless your vehicle breaks down *on the way* to a concert.)

We understand that after singing in a concert, choir members must return to and remain in their assigned choir seats until all groups have completed their performances. Hearing the other ensembles gives students a better understanding of other types of music, as well as showing Christ-like support for their fellow musicians since we are all one body in Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ We have seen the letter and the schedule and can foresee a conflict with one or more of the concert dates.

We will abide by the dress code as described under “Concert Attire” on the reverse of the schedule.

We will put all of the concert dates on our calendar and will protect them -- *except those noted below for which our family cannot make a commitment* -- explaining to coaches and club leaders of our *prior commitment* to these required school events for which our student receives a grade. (Exceptions will be made for personal illness or family emergency. Lack of transportation does not constitute an emergency unless your vehicle breaks down *on the way* to a concert.)

We understand that after singing in a concert, choir members must return to and remain in their assigned choir seats until all groups have completed their performances. Hearing the other ensembles gives students a better understanding of other types of music, as well as showing Christ-like support for their fellow musicians since we are all one body in Christ.

 **(Write problem dates here.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**