

Honors Credit Guidelines: 2018 Revision

Choral Classes: **Vocal Music III, IV**

Brad Bensen, Instructor

Students enrolled in Vocal 3 and Vocal 4 automatically receive honors credit but will need to complete a set of criteria (as presented below) in order to receive honors credit points. **INCOMPLETE, POORLY PREPARED OR IRRELEVANT** work will automatically receive a lowering of the student's final grade by 1 letter, as honors credit point values are weighted as 1 letter grade above academic levels (B in Honors level= A in Academic level). This project will be due **1 week before the exam** each semester for seniors (on the exam day for underclassman).

Performance Critiques

Because the material required for this Honors Credit project is extremely minimal, it is expected that students clearly **demonstrate honors-level discipline and work-ethic in completing this assignment**. Poorly prepared, short or irrelevant critiques will simply be voided in fulfilling the requirement. **TURNING IN A PROJECT** does NOT guarantee a passing grade on this—it is worth about 10 % of the student's final grade. The criteria below serve as a **MINIMUM** to fulfill honors credit standards. **PLEASE** be conscientious in completing this project in timely, scholarly manner!

ASSIGNMENT:

The Performance Critiques are **2 type-written reviews (each at least 2 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 pt font)** on some choral performances that you attend during the semester. These performances must meet the following criteria:

- a) **BOTH MUST be choral concerts** (1 must be high-school level or collegiate; 1 can be middle school or non-student choir); possibilities:
 - School choral concerts at other schools
 - Collegiate concerts at Meredith, UNC, State, Duke, Peace, Shaw, Southeastern Seminary, etc.
 - Raleigh Master Chorale or Chamber Singers concerts
 - Raleigh Boy Choir, Women's Voices Choir of Chapel Hill
 - Attending All-County, All-State or Honors Chorus as an audience member
 - Other events as posted in the classroom (updated monthly)
- b) Must include the following aspects into your critique:
 - General overview of concert—tell name of group, what the occasion was for, about how many people performed, the title of the concert, the place (venue) of the concert, the date, etc.
 - Basic information about the performance—length of time, style of music, generally what was your impression
 - Give list of songs performed (don't have to give all, necessarily)
 - Give some basic perspectives revolving around the audience response/reaction to the performances—where there specific songs/styles that were better received than others?
 - Tell what was good, what was less good (if anything)
 - Use “musically descriptive” words in your summary—terms like: blend, balance, timbre, tempo, harmony, vocal part names, range, instrument titles, time signatures, etc.
- c) Please attach a copy of the **program** from each event. Be aware of this before you attend your concerts.