



## CONCERT AND SYMPHONIC BANDS

Helix Charter High School

Michael Bengé, Associate Director of Instrumental Music

### COURSE PROFILE

These band classes make up two different parts of the instrumental music program and offer differentiated levels of instruction and a variety of development levels. **Concert Band is for freshmen and Symphonic Band is for sophomores and above. These classes are intended for non-percussionists. All members of these classes must concurrently enroll in Marching Band or Marching P.E. during the fall semester.**

### THE HELIX INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

All students are expected to thoroughly read and familiarize themselves with the content of our department handbook. It will be addressed during the first few days of school and is always available online at [http://helixinstrumental.org/images/uploads/2015:16\\_Fall\\_Handbook\\_copy.pdf](http://helixinstrumental.org/images/uploads/2015:16_Fall_Handbook_copy.pdf). All instrumental music students are held to the policies in this handbook, regardless of prior knowledge or understanding.

### DROPBOX

Our department disburses materials via Dropbox on a regular basis. You can also get your own account for free. Please email Mr. Bengé ([benge@helixcharter.net](mailto:benge@helixcharter.net)) for the Dropbox link if you haven't already received it.

### CURRICULUM

Concert Band is a large band ensemble comprising 9th grade band members enrolled in the Helix Instrumental Music Program. Symphonic Band is a large band ensemble comprising (but not limited to) a majority of 10th and 11th grade students. The Concert and Symphonic Bands rehearse and perform together. Assessment and grading are LARGELY performance based, but individual student ability and individual effort on his or her instrument are also assessed.

Both ensembles are comprehensive, performance-based classes. Band students will focus on all areas of good practice and performance technique. The musical styles covered may include, but are not limited to, contemporary works, classical literature, concert marches, jazz, and romantic literature. Each student will be expected to perform at all concerts.

Please bring a pencil to every rehearsal and use it regularly to mark your music. Be early for rehearsal. Warm up and be mentally prepared before we begin. ("If you are on time, you are late.") Commit to being an integral part of the ensemble. That means being supportive of each other, patient, and helpful.

**Required performances include participation in major concerts throughout the school year, participation in local and national festivals and competitions, and participation in the Highlander Marching Band (1st semester) and Pep Band (2nd semester).**

## **PRIMARY TEXTS**

Students will use a level 2 and 3 band method book to ensure any gaps in musical development from prior training are taken care of as soon as possible. All students can benefit greatly from these basic studies and should look at them as an opportunity to hone their fundamentals.

A classroom set will be provided, but students should consider buying their own copy for use in home practice. Nick Rail Music provides us a special rate and a road rep who can deliver to school. Alan's Music in La Mesa is a local alternative.

## **STUDENT MATERIALS**

Required materials for participation in the Helix Bands are specifically defined in the Helix Instrumental Music Handbook, viewable at [http://helixinstrumental.org/images/uploads/2015:16\\_Fall\\_Handbook\\_copy.pdf](http://helixinstrumental.org/images/uploads/2015:16_Fall_Handbook_copy.pdf). However, for general daily purposes please bring the following:

- Student's individual instrument and all equipment necessary to play.
- Sheet music, both provided and downloaded/printed from Dropbox.
- No. 2 or equivalent mechanical PENCILS (NEVER mark on sheet music in pen). A pencil is expected to be on your music stand at every rehearsal.
- Each student will need to supply his or her own black tux or long black dress for concert performances. If necessary, a packet with ordering information will be distributed to families who missed Paperwork Day in the summer.
- Smart Music subscription (<http://www.smartmusic.com>).

## **CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES**

Below is a typical, tentative list of performances in which the bands will participate. These are subject to change but generally follow the same rough weeks/dates every year. See the calendar at [www.helixinstrumental.com/pages/calendar](http://www.helixinstrumental.com/pages/calendar) for final information and dates.

- ALL home football games and marching band competitions throughout the fall.
- SCSBOA Championships and Disneyland Parade overnight trip in November.
- A fall concert, Veteran's Day concert, and/or Veteran's Day parade.
- Winter concert in December and La Mesa Christmas in the Village.
- Various concerts and concert festivals in the spring, with the traditional entire department POPS! concert toward the end of the school year.

## **EVALUATION**

Performance assessments will mostly be done through the use of Smart Music. All students will need their own home subscription for Smart Music. Students who are unable to have access to Smart Music at home may do their assignments at school. Students are required to use SmartMusic for their individual performance assignments.

Attached to this syllabus is an excerpt from the Helix Instrumental Music Handbook detailing the grading policy. Please familiarize yourself with it and the practice expectations outlined therein. Students are trained to practice effectively and, as such, it is the responsibility of each student to prepare for all performance evaluations.

**It is especially important to note that the departmental grading policy has shifted to 1/3 Participation and Attendance, 2/3 Performance Evaluation. See the handbook for details.**