

# Chamber Choir Academic Electives

All students, grades 7-10, will take two of the three electives listed below, one in a shorter session (September–December, approximately 11 weeks), and one in a longer session (January-June, approximately 22 weeks.) When indicating your preferences, please remember that your spring class will be much longer than the one you are taking in the fall. Also, please note that you are not guaranteed to get your first choice, but you are guaranteed to get at least your second choice as one of your two electives.

## Creative Writing



**(Fall Semester: September-December)**

This winter, we will produce the second edition of the Highbridge Voices Literary Magazine, a follow-up to the first edition in which more than 20 students participated as either direct contributors, or as part of the Literary Magazine Editorial Board, which met on Saturdays. This semester's magazine will revolve around a theme to be decided upon by students in the workshop's first weeks.

**(Spring Semester: January-June)**

The second half of the workshop will focus primarily on writing the book for the first-ever Highbridge Voices original musical. Qualified and interested students will convene during inter-session as a storyboard committee, before collaborating with their peers in music theory to create a complete musical, to be rehearsed and performed for the public at the end of the year.

## Issues & Choices



**(Fall Semester: September-December)**

Issues and Choices will highlight the roots of protest in America. Students will learn about the history and impetus for several protest movements throughout American history. They will then begin research on a topic (to be decided) and, much like a debate club exercise, will be randomly assigned to opposite sides of the protest. Students will then organize, plan, and execute a mock protest, complete with speeches, signs, and a "march." The exercise intends to expose students to the deep, important place protest has in our country's history, and will teach them how to organize an effective, grass-roots movement of their own.

**(Spring Semester: January-June)**

When we return after the holiday break, Issues and Choices will turn its attention to the political process that will be playing out nationally throughout 2016. We will attempt to mimic this process as closely as possible, complete with candidates "throwing their hats in the ring," caucuses, primaries, conventions, and a simulated "Election Day." This comprehensive approach will unveil the inner workings of the political process, allowing students to have fun while also examining the strengths and weaknesses of an often-maligned system.

# Living Songs & Singing Stories

**Overview:** A class divided into three 10-week segments. Students will either take the first section, or the last two. All three are described below.



## (Fall Semester: September-December)

**Mirrors In The Movies:** Everybody loves the movies! For the first exciting term at HBV, let's take a close look together into how we are reflected in action, romance, adventure, and music in the movies. We will not only explore those images in front of the camera but also the artists behind the camera. Along the way we will visit movie-making in cultures like Mexico, Spain, Iran, Japan, and African nations, as well as different eras in Hollywood. We will check in with visionary contemporary filmmakers like Guillermo Del Toro, Andrew Dosunmu, and Ava Duvernay.

## (Winter Semester: January-June)

**Living Stories:** Winter is a wonderful season for storytelling! How do stories shape our lives? How do our lives make stories? Do all stories have plots? Are plots always about living? Storytelling brings our differences together in places where our hopes, challenges, laughter, and tears become universal. Together we'll have fun bringing a selection of soulful and suspenseful tales to life! We'll become familiar with some timeless voices of literature like James Baldwin, Ann Petry, F. Scot Fitzgerald, and others (Note: Reading will include short fiction and short excerpts. Also, special guests)



**Women In Music:** This spring an exciting chapter for many a young singer begins in our introduction to great divas like Maria Callas and women musicians like Lil Hardin Armstrong; women of different eras and cultures who, over the decades, have been crucial in the development of many schools and styles of composing, arranging, and performing music. Many names have been lost or faded from history. So, we will pick up and follow the trails of these exceptional women as they created their music and stood steadfast in their dreams, making this class a course of not only informed music history, but also creative motivation for any student of music. Along with the likes of Graciela Rivera, Marian Anderson, Nina Simone, Odetta, and Abbey Lincoln, we'll listen to and talk about the legacy of great pianists, from Mary Lou Williams to Geri Allen. (Special guests: TBA)

