

# Waynflete

## **Performing Arts Classes**

### **Summer & Fall 2016 Information**

The performing arts offer a unique human experience that bridges cultural and generational lines. Waynflete Performing Arts Classes offer a variety of opportunities for Upper School students to explore and participate and thereby discover an interest in music, dance, acting, or stage-craft. Students may take as many Performing Arts classes as they wish during their Upper School career. When a student has identified an area of deeper interest we want them to seek out opportunities for depth of experience in a stage production, the Acting course, in a year-long ensemble, and in our dance program.

These exploratory Performing Arts (PA) Classes run in three terms of sixteen sessions each. This document outlines the Performing Arts Classes that will run in Term 1, September to November, 2015.

### **PA Classes for Term 1**

#### **Steel Band**

Students will gain skills on a steel drum as they develop rhythmic and pitch awareness along with ensemble skills required to contribute to the group process. Previous musical experience is helpful, but not required.

#### **World Performance**

Participants in World Performance will explore music of the Middle East through a hands-on experience. Nonmusicians and musicians alike will learn by doing as they study the many different rhythmic and melodic structures from Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Palestine. No prior musical experience is required.

#### **Vocal Ensemble**

Sing great music in rock, pop, doo-wop, and jazz styles as we explore vocal techniques, score reading skills, and the collaboration it takes to perform as part of an ensemble. An informal atmosphere paired with focus on the music make Vocal Ensemble an excellent choice for both the new and experienced singer. Along with the Sharing Day, additional performances will be scheduled for assemblies and similar events in order to build singer experience and confidence.

### **Stage Crew/Technical Theatre**

Stage Crew concentrates on the backstage skills, safety workplace procedures, and production guidelines that make a show successful. Students will get an intense overview of all technical elements and will learn how to work as a part of a team to design, create, and build the lighting, the sets, the costumes, sound, and props for a play. Students will also learn to create the environment in which a play resides.

### **Film**

Students examine the process of piecing together film and video footage to form a structural narrative sequence. This course surveys several editing and film styles in order to consider choices film editors make and how these choices shape a film's result. Students will spend the first two classes examining/discussing techniques of film with the goal of writing a short scene inspired by a style/genre of their choice. Students will collaborate with one another to experience the many hats of a filmmaker: writer, actor, director, and editor. Each student will participate in their classmates' films and collaborate to produce their final works.

### **Poetry In Performance**

Students learn about and perform a variety of poetry forms through memorization and recitation. Like Poetry Out Loud, this class helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. The Poetry Out Loud competition can be a part of this class if students wish.

### **Dance**

Previous dance experience is not required to participate in the Dance Performing Arts Class. This class exposes students to Musical Theater Dance using a repertoire that may include lyrical, modern, ballet, and jazz styles.

### **Mock Trial**

Mock Trial is offered this year as a Performing Art course. Competing schools are sent a packet of legal materials (police report, witness accounts, copies of any physical evidence) used to create both the prosecution and the defense of a case. Students portray the witnesses, give opening and closing statements as the attorneys, and do direct and cross-examination of witnesses. Students, acting as both prosecution and defense, compete against other schools beginning in early November. Prior experience in Mock Trial is not required.

### **Production Team**

Stories: creating a play based on our own community voices. What does it mean to be a student?, a teacher?, A new arrival?, What is hidden from view and right there in plain sight? How do we make a community? Why do we need to share our stories? Let's find out. This PA Class will help to build a new

production to be performed in the Franklin Theatre this spring. We are looking to create and produce a theatre piece that is composed of the voices of our community. Waynflete? Portland? Who are we? What stories do we need to hear? What stories need to be told? We will ask questions, listen and begin to construct a script based on the the voices of the people we interview. Work on this project will begin in the fall and then continue in the third trimester as the piece becomes scripted and ready for a rehearsal process in the spring.

### **Public Speaking**

This class will help students become more successful and self-assured public speakers. We will research and discuss exemplar speeches and speakers which will inform our analysis of effective speeches and guide our insights into what makes a speech effective. With those insights in mind, we will practice various techniques and critique each other's delivery. The class is open to all Upper School students although preference will be given to members of the classes of 2017 and 2018.

### **Costume**

An introductory course in the theory and process of costume design. Topics will include the skills needed to be a costume designer and the necessary steps to achieve designer status. Activities may include basic theatre history, research, play analysis, measurement, terminology, specialized skills (such as figure drawing). Students will successfully complete a design to be presented at the end of the term.

### **Dates and Times**

Classes run from 2:00 – 2:50 p.m. on the dates listed.

Term 1 (16 days)

September 15, 19, 22, 26, 29

October 3, 6, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31

November 3, 7, 10

### **September 15**

The Term will start with an all-PA Class kick-off in Franklin Theater.

### **November 10**

All PA Classes will gather again to share the work and learning from the Term.

### **A Note on Chorus, Jazz Band, Chamber Ensemble and Acting 1**

Though Jazz Band, Chorus, and Chamber Ensemble may be taken for

Performing Arts department credit, they are not PA Classes. Jazz Band, Chorus, and Chamber Ensemble run all year long and do not follow the PA Class dates. Acting 1 is a course, not a PA class, offered during the Second Term simultaneous with Foundations of Art.

Chorus *may* be taken concurrently with a Performing Arts Class. However, Jazz Band, Chamber Ensemble, and Acting 1 run during Performing Arts class times and cannot be chosen concurrently.