

Hi Titan Choir 2020!



What a time to be alive! I've always thought of challenges as *opportunities* and we are currently in a world FULL of *opportunities*. We are all feeling a lot of exhaustion, anger, loss, disorientation, and bewilderment, and all of those feelings are valid. We are also in a time of great *opportunity* disguised as an **epic challenge**.

Teaching an art form that relies entirely on sharing breath with other human beings is not the ideal position to be in during a pandemic affecting the respiratory system. I've been paying close attention to a national study, specifically about COVID-19 and singing, and planning for our return to singing using that information. As with everything this year, choir is going to be very different. These changes are allowing me to think and plan and teach beyond our traditional concerts and festivals, and I'm looking forward to this *opportunity* to explore different realms and share those experiences with the Titan Singers.

While what we are doing in choir will look different, our goal remains the same as we have discussed on the first day of school every year since I started at SCC: **We are setting out to change the world**. I am getting to ask myself "What kind of people do I hope my students will be? How can I help them to look at life with more generosity, kindness, and selflessness?" and also getting the *opportunity* to organize my music teaching directly around those things.

When you return to school, you'll be singing in smaller ensembles. You'll be outside a lot. You'll be building relationships. You'll be singing simpler music, though not less valuable. You'll be able to focus on sight singing, connecting with music, creating, and composing in a way you haven't in choir previously, and that is a great *opportunity*.

A few specific things: our choir year schedule will not be concert driven as it has in the past. Individual lessons will be less frequent to allow for sanitizing of the choir room. You can have as many individual lessons with me as you want, schedule permitting. I'll have a calendar set up for you to sign up for the available slots during the school day as well as after-school opportunities. **Lady Patriots** will be only seniors this fall to keep our group small and offer that *opportunity* to the people who are getting it for the last time. **Titanium A Cappella** will be returning members and any senior interested. I will cap the ensemble at a certain number based on safe spacing in my classroom and will invite others to join based on that. In this time before school starts I'd be happy to set up a time to meet and chat with anyone who wants to, to answer questions, introduce myself or to get reacquainted before the craziness of this year officially begins.

This is a real *opportunity* for us to experience the transformative power of collaborative music. We are being given the gift of time: time away from frantic schedules preparing for performances, and time to rethink what is most important for us as humans. By sharing and listening we can figure out how to deal with the world we are in right now, and we can do that together and with music.

What a beautiful *opportunity*.

I so look forward to meeting my new singers and re-meeting the old after what has felt like a lifetime away. Please reach out with any questions or ideas you have for the Titan Choirs this fall.

Peace,

Ms. Morton

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