



The
CONSERVATORY
AT HARKER

GRADES 9-12





Laura Lang-Ree
K-12 Performing Arts
Department Chair
laura.lang-ree@harker.org

You've chosen Harker for many reasons—our stellar academics, supportive environment, and bold commitment to growth. What you might not know is that Harker's upper school is home to an internationally recognized performing arts program.

The Conservatory is where student artists find their voices. Students receive pre-professional training, transformative experiences, and the chance to build a portfolio that reflects who they are - and who they're becoming.

A path for every artist, a stage for every passion.

With 10 mainstage productions each year and 20+ electives, plus music societies and opportunities to produce original works, the Conservatory offers something for every student, whether they're curious, committed or college-bound in the arts. You can find our robust offerings in our Course of Study.

Real growth. Real guidance. Real-world experience.

In the Conservatory, students don't just perform - they evolve. Through hands-on classes, rich mentorship and national events, they grow as artists, collaborators and leaders. They'll go to festivals and

competitions, enjoy master classes, and choose from an unusual and incredible list of electives. And for those who wish a deep-dive, our one-of-a-kind Conservatory Certificate Program is a four-year journey of coursework, performances, crew experience, and creative exploration, guided by expert faculty.

As one of the most respected K-12 performing arts programs in the country, The Conservatory at Harker provides nationally recognized training and a creative home where students can thrive - onstage and far beyond.

Welcome!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Lang-Ree".

Laura Lang-Ree
Director of Performing Arts, K-12

ANNUAL PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Theater Production
Fall Choral Concert
Holiday Tours
Student Directed Showcase
Winter Instrumental Concert
Dance Production
Musical
Evening of Jazz
Gala and Leadership Events
Spring Choral Concert
Spring Orchestra Concert
Senior Showcase

COURSES IN PERFORMING ARTS

For complete descriptions, please see the Course of Study.

Classes offered in:
Theater
Musical Theater
Technical Theater
Choral Music
General Music
Dance and Choreography
Instrumental Music

CONSERVATORY Certificate Program

The Conservatory Certificate Program guides students through a comprehensive course of study in all of the disciplines, with special emphasis in the discipline of the student's choice. The program culminates in the senior year with an impressive evening event, Senior Showcase, that includes an awards ceremony and performances by the new Conservatory graduates. The college counseling department has created a special information sheet about the certificate program for inclusion in the students' college application packets. Details of this comprehensive program follow.

JOINING THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Students join the certificate program as apprentices as we believe that ninth graders need a full year in The Certificate Program to bond together before specifying their certificate major. Sophomores and new students interested in joining will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Transfer students and Harker students wishing to join as sophomores must also complete all freshman requirements.

The first year, certificate apprentices

- Enroll in the appropriate Study of Theater, Dance, Music or Technical Theater
- Attend three lunch time workshops with a focus on overall Conservatory philosophy and practices.

END-OF-YEAR APPRENTICE CHECK

Mentors will meet with apprentices for a final time at the end of the first year to help solidify their certificate choices and plan for Sophomore Studio.

SOPHOMORE STUDIO

All 10th graders will present one or two pieces from their portfolios to the mentor panel in late fall. Students must demonstrate sufficient ability and discipline at this jury in order to remain in the program.

CHOOSING A DISCIPLINE

Once you are enrolled in a discipline (dance, acting, vocal or instrumental music, musical theater or technical theater), you may not move to another discipline. Students with compelling reasons to switch may petition the mentor panel, and will be required to complete an audition and evaluation process.

CONSULTATIONS

Your mentor will be contacting you several times during the year to sign up for meetings to plan your program and discuss your progress. These consultations are required, and you are responsible for pursuing a meeting if for some reason it does not take place as planned.

PROBATION

If you miss a requirement, you will be placed on probation and your mentor will assign a make-up assignment for you. Students who miss more than two requirements and fail to complete their assigned make-up will be asked to leave the program.

SENIOR SHOWCASE

Seniors must be prepared to present their portfolios to their mentor panel in winter. Final approval for completion of the program will be based on this presentation. The mentors and seniors will then select which pieces will be performed at the Senior Showcase, which is held in the spring.





Certificate Program: **Dance**

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10
Classes	Study of Dance	Dance Composition ⁶
	Dance Team - Kinetic Krew or HDC ⁵	Dance Team - Kinetic Krew or HDC ⁵
	Three dance classes after school all year	Three dance classes after school all year
Workshops	Musical Theater and/or Acting and/or Tech Theater ¹	Musical Theater and/or Acting and/or Tech Theater ¹
	Dance ²	Dance ²
Performances	Dance Production ³	Dance production ³ ; Sophomore Studio ³
Auditions & Festivals	Dance production ⁴	Dance production ⁴
	Dance team	
Crew	5 points	5 points

	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Classes	Choreography ⁷	Choreography ⁷
	Dance Team - Kinetic Krew or HDC ⁵	Dance Team - Kinetic Krew or HDC ⁵
	Three dance classes after school all year	Three dance classes after school all year
Workshops	Musical Theater and/or Acting and/or Tech Theater ¹	Dance ²
	Dance ²	
Performances	Dance production ³	Dance production ³
Auditions & Festivals	Dance production ⁴	Dance production ⁴
Crew	5 points	Complete any missing hours (15 total)

GENERAL NOTES

CLASSES: ⁶Students must complete Dance Composition either sophomore or junior year; ⁷Students must complete Choreography either junior or senior year.

WORKSHOPS: ¹Students must complete one workshop from Musical Theater, Acting and Tech Theater by their senior year;

²Students must complete one dance workshop per year.

PERFORMANCES: ³Students perform in 3 routines each year. Grade 10 students perform in Sophomore Studio.

AUDITION & FESTIVALS: ⁴Students must audition for dance production every year; ⁵This program requires participation on the dance team for two years. Students are required to make team by junior year.

CREW: Students must complete 5 crew points/year (15 points total).

GRADUATION NOTES

Dance candidates graduate from the program having completed: Classes (semester-long): 12; Workshops: 7; Performances (including Senior Showcase): 12; Auditions/Festivals: 6; Crew points: 15

Certificate Program: **Theater**



	GRADE 9	GRADE 10
Classes	Study of Theater; Dolce Voce or Rhapsody ⁵	Advanced Acting; Advanced Scene Study ⁴
Workshops	Musical theater and/or dance audition workshop ¹	Theater workshop
	3 Grade 9 Apprentice Workshops	Tech workshop
Performances	Fall play ³ , spring musical (optional) or SDS (optional).	Build call for a mainstage production (recommended)
Auditions & Festivals	Shakespeare competition or Thespian Society	Fall play ³ , spring musical (optional) or SDS (optional); Sophomore Studio
Crew	Shakespeare competition or Thespian Society, fall play audition	5 points

	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Classes	Shakespeare or Film Acting	Shakespeare or Film Acting
Workshops	Theater workshop	Workshop from another discipline
	Workshop from another discipline (musical theater, voice, tech, etc)	Life in the Arts Workshop
Performances	Life in the Arts Workshop	Any workshops not completed
Auditions & Festivals	Fall play ³ , spring musical (optional) or SDS (optional).	Fall play ³ , spring musical (optional) or SDS (optional).
Crew	Shakespeare competition or Thespian Society, fall play audition	Shakespeare competition or Thespian Society, fall play audition
	5 points	Complete any missing hours (15 total)

GENERAL NOTES

CLASSES: ⁴Recommend taking Advanced Acting & Scene Study in 10th grade. ⁵Students must take one year of choir, any year. If taking choir is the one class deterring you from completion, you can substitute for Tech Theater.

WORKSHOPS: ¹Students need to have a dance and musical theater workshop. ²Students are encouraged to work backstage in a build call or work deck crew, if time permits.

PERFORMANCES: ³Students need to be in at least 5 productions over 4 years, 2 of which need to be a fall play, and 1 SDS. One dance credit is required for candidates. Options include 1 semester of after-school dance, 1 semester of summer dance, after-school dance or participation in the dance production.

CREW: Students must complete 5 crew points/year (15 points total).

GRADUATION NOTES

Theater candidates graduate from the program having completed: Classes (semester-long): 6; Workshops: 8; Performances (including Senior Showcase): 6; Auditions/Festivals: 5; Crew points: 15



Certificate Program: **Instrumental Music**

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10
Classes	Study of Music/Study of Theater	Choir/Orchestra/Jazz Band/Lab Band ¹
	Dolce Voce or Rhapsody/Orchestra/Jazz Band/Lab Band ¹	
Workshops	3 grade 9 certificate workshops	Music workshop, acting workshop, technical theater workshop
	1 music workshop	
Performances	Dance Production	Fall and spring concerts; other events listed by class syllabus for instrumental/choral classes; Sophomore Studio
Auditions & Festivals		CMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival ³
Crew	5 points	5 points
Other	Written instrumental concert review for grade 9 (completed in Study of Music)	Private lessons ²
	Private Lessons ²	

	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Classes	⁴ Performance Practice or Basic Conducting or Arranging/Composing	Only those not completed in grades 9-11
	⁵ Basic Voice and Collaborative Piano	AP Music (not required but highly recommended)
	Choir/Orchestra/Jazz Band/Lab Band ¹	
Workshops	Music, dance	Only those not completed in grades 9-11
Performances	Fall and spring concerts; other events listed by class syllabus for instrumental/choral classes	Fall and spring concerts; other events listed by class syllabus for instrumental/choral classes
	Winter Song (for pianists only)	Senior Showcase
Auditions & Festivals	CMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival ³	Only those not completed in sophomore and junior year
Crew	5 points	Complete any missing hours (15 total)
Other	Private lessons ²	Private lessons ²

GENERAL NOTES

CLASSES: ¹Pianists can use a choir as their ensemble; ⁴optional for pianists as of Class of 2024; ⁵for pianists as of Class of 2024

AUDITIONS & FESTIVALS: ³2 Festivals required; pianists may substitute MTAC or piano recitals.

CREW: Students must complete 5 crew points/year (15 points total)

OTHER: ²2 years of private lessons required (total of 72 hours)

GRADUATION NOTES

Instrumental Candidates graduate from the program having completed: Classes (semester-long): 10; Workshops-6 plus 3 required for grade 9; Performances: 8 plus Senior Showcase; Auditions & Festivals-5; Crew Points-15; Private Lessons-2 years (72 hours); Portfolio: 4

Certificate Program: **Vocal Music**



	GRADE 9	GRADE 10
Classes	Student of Music/Study of Theater, Rhapsody and Dolce Voce ¹	Rhapsody and Dolce Voce ¹ (Capriccio OR Downbeat) Or Basic Musicianship, please see note. Advanced Acting ² , Intermediate Musicianship or Conducting
Workshops	3 grade 9 certificate workshops 1 Music workshop	Music, Acting, Technical Theater
Performances	Fall and spring concerts; other events listed by class syllabus for choral classes	Fall and spring concerts; other events listed by class syllabus for choral classes Sophomore Studio
Auditions & Festivals	None	Audition for Coastal Region Honor Choir ³ Audition for Capriccio & Downbeat CMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival (as soloist)
Crew	5 points	5 points
Other	Written instrumental concert review for grade 9 (completed in Study of Music) Private Lessons ⁴	Private Lessons ⁴

	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Classes	Dolce Voce or Rhapsody, Camerata, Capriccio or Downbeat ¹ AP Theory (not required, highly suggested)	Dolce Voce or Rhapsody, Capriccio, or Downbeat ¹
Workshops	Dance, Life in the Arts	Only those not completed in grades 9-11
Performances	Fall and spring concerts; other events listed by class syllabus for choral classes Junior Winter Song	Fall and spring concerts; other events listed by class syllabus for choral classes Senior Showcase
Auditions & Festivals	Audition for Coastal Region Honor Choir ³ Audition for Capriccio & Downbeat CMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival (as soloist)	Audition for Coastal Region Honor Choir ³
Crew	5 points	Complete any missing hours (15 total)
Other	Private Lessons ⁴	Private Lessons ⁴

GENERAL NOTES

CLASSES: ¹This program requires 3 years of any choir, with one of those years being in grade 9. ²Students must take Basic Musicianship if they took Study of Theater in grade 9. Can test out of Musicianship. ³Honor Choir auditions are only required for 1 year of the program, and can happen in any year.

OTHER: ⁴2 years of private lessons required (total of 72 hours)

GRADUATION NOTES

Notes: Vocal Candidates graduate from the program having completed: Classes (semester-long): 10; Workshops: 6 plus 3 required for grade 9 year; Performances: 8 plus Senior Showcase; Auditions & Festivals: 5; Crew Points: 15; Private Lessons: 2 years (72 hours); Portfolio: 6



Certificate Program: **Technical Theater**

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10
Classes	Ensemble of choice as your EPO recommended, Study of Theater accepted	Technical Theater 1 or 2 sequentially, Choose elective, see general note below
Workshops	Technical workshops (2) ¹	Technical workshops (2) ¹
	Music or Dance or Theater	Music or Dance or Theater
Performances	Events listed in class syllabus/crew responsibilities	Events listed in class syllabus/ crew responsibilities; Sophomore Studio
Auditions & Festivals	All certificate students must perform in one show during their four years.	
Crew	15 points	15 points

	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Classes	Technical Theater 2 or 3 sequentially. Choose elective, see general note below	Technical Theater 3. Choose elective, see general note below
Workshops	Technical workshops (2) ¹	Technical workshops (2) ¹ , or Music elective of choice, see below
	Music or Dance or Theater	Music or Dance or Theater
Performances	Events listed in class syllabus/crew responsibilities	Senior Showcase
Auditions & Festivals	All certificate students must perform in one show during their four years.	
Crew	15 points	15 points

GENERAL NOTES

WORKSHOPS: ¹Build calls count as technical workshops.

CLASSES: Students must take 6 semester long classes for a Technical Theater Certificate within the Conservatory courses or Visual Arts.

Students are obligated to complete 60 Crew points by January of Senior Year

GRADUATION NOTES

Technical Theater candidates graduate from the program having completed: Classes-6, Workshops-11; Performances-1; Auditions & Festivals-1; Crew Points-60.

Certificate Program: **Musical Theater**



	GRADE 9	GRADE 10
Classes	Study of Theater or Study of Music	Advanced Acting
	Suggested participation in Festival Choir as your EPO	
Workshops	Musical Theater Audition Workshop ²	Dance workshop ²
	Dance workshop	Technical theater workshop
Performances	Spring musical ³	Spring musical ³
	Fall play or SDS ⁴	Choral concerts ⁵
Auditions & Festivals	Musical	Musical
Crew	5 crew points	5 crew points

	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Classes	Advanced Scene Study, Vocal Interpretation ⁷	Film or Acting
Workshops	Life in the Arts Workshop ²	Dance workshop ²
Performances	Spring musical ³	Spring musical ³ (Optional)
Auditions & Festivals	Musical	
Crew	5 crew points	Complete any missing hours (15 total)

GENERAL NOTES

CLASSES: ¹Students take two years of choral music, beginning with Dolce Voce or Rhapsody. The other year can be anytime, grade 10-12. ⁶One dance credit is required for candidates. Options include 1 semester of after-school dance, 1 session or semester equivalent of summer dance, or participation in Dance Production; ⁷Vocal Interpretation is offered every other year, check the Harker academic schedule. Musical Theater Certificate candidates must take 10 semester long courses including: Advanced Acting, Advanced Scene Study, Vocal Interpretation. Additional options include: Choir, Acting for the Camera, Shakespeare, Musicianship, SDS upon approval

WORKSHOPS: ²This is a suggested schedule for musical theater workshops grade 9-12. There are 6 workshops total.

³Candidates must be in the musical 3 out of their 4 years.

PERFORMANCES: ⁴Candidates must be in one fall play or Student Directed Showcase in grade 9-12. ⁵2 per year for any choir; Sophomore Studio Students must be in the musical 4 years, one fall play or SDS.

CREW: Students must complete 5 crew points/year (15 points total)

GRADUATION NOTES

Musical Theater candidates graduate from the program having completed: Classes (semester-long): 10; Workshops: 6; Performances (including Senior Showcase): 8; Auditions & Festivals: 5; Crew Points: 15

Timeline for Junior & Senior Certificate Candidates Applying to Arts Programs

December – Junior Year

Students wishing to major in the arts and who want to attend high caliber, national programs the summer before senior year, must investigate and apply to programs in December/January.

January – Junior Year

If you are planning on attending summer conservatories the summer before senior year, any audio or video needs must be reviewed with your mentor no later than January.

- Meet with certificate mentor with a firm list of what pieces are needed for summer auditions. (This does not mean the pieces you are THINKING about; rather ones that are virtually ready.)
- At this meeting, a checklist goes home for the parents to sign containing commitments (colleges, auditions requirements, deadlines for multimedia).

May-June – Junior Year

Meet with certificate mentor and college counselor with

- list of all colleges/scholarships applying to
- requests from the colleges as to repertoire they require and production restrictions they may have
- due date (live audition vs. multimedia creation)
- meet with Certificate mentor to select pieces for fall and winter auditions. Use the summer to work with private coaches to learn and memorize the pieces.

Common college requests (but check your schools for specific details):

- Theater: one dramatic, one comedic and one Shakespearean monologue
- Musical Theater: above, plus one up-tempo song and one ballad
- Vocal Music: Students may have to choose classical vs. musical theater/popular & refer to your specific college requirements. Commonly, 2-3 pieces, one in English, one foreign language, or 16-32 bars of musical theater/popular style.
- Instrumental Music: refer to your specific college requirements
- Dance: refer to your specific college requirements

August-September – Senior Year

- Schedule recording/filming time. See Recording Sessions below.
- Musical theater, vocal or instrumental candidates must have arranged for an accompanist and given her/him music. Work with Certificate mentor
- Vocal candidates run pieces with mentor & accompanist

Final Rehearsals

- 1 month prior to live audition: rehearsal with mentor & accompanist
- 2 weeks prior to live audition: rehearsal with mentor & accompanist
- 1 week or less prior to live audition: dry run with certificate mentor & accompanist

Recording Sessions

As a service to our parents and students, we offer limited recording services for our actors, singers and musical theater students applying either to arts schools or creating supplemental materials. This service is currently provided at no charge. However, if you work with an accompanist there will be minimal service charge to that person. All recording sessions will be audio and visual, allowing for editing for the largest number of possible combinations. The process for the recording sessions is as follows:

1. Sign up for a slot during one of the three established recording dates and times per year. Length of slot depends on amount of material, but are roughly 1-1.5 hours in length for 3-4 pieces. Be sure to check your college deadlines so that you can choose the most appropriate recording date. Dates will be announced in Encore, our summer newsletter.
2. After your recording, you and your mentor will have roughly a week to select your preferred track(s) for your submissions.
3. Once the track choices are made, the Office of Communication will make one master of each needed submission that will be available for student pickup within one week. The students are responsible for making whatever copies they need for their various applications. Suggested methods and vendors will be provided to help you out.

Scholarship Opportunities

If you are planning on applying for scholarships at specific schools, be mindful that most schools follow an early application deadline. Be sure you read the fine print very carefully or you may miss deadlines – this is independent of state and federal scholarships.

Live Auditions

Be mindful that some schools have auditions posted early, others require a video application first and will call you back between January and early March. Knowing your personal schedule early is key. Be aware of weekends you may need to travel and let your teachers/directors know early. Orientations tend to be held in late March.

Performing Arts Faculty

Laura Lang-Ree

Director of Performing Arts K-12, Department Chair, Downbeat, Advanced Acting, Scene Study, Acting for the Camera, Student Directed Showcase and musical
408.345.9641 • laura.langree@harker.org

Ahmed Elgasseir

Study of Music
408.345.9632 ahmed.elgasseir@harker.org

Brandi Griffith

Advanced Acting, Study of Theater Arts, Shakespeare Scene Study, theater production
408.345.9275 • brandi.griffith@harker.org

Rachelle Haun

Harker Dance Company, Kinetic Krew, Dance Composition, choreography, dance production, after-school dance
408.345.9679 • rachelle.haun@harker.org

Brian Larsen

Technical Theater 1, Technical Theater 2, Production Manager, K-12 Performing Arts
408.345.9206 • brian.larsen@harker.org

Jennifer Sandusky

Basic Vocal Technique and Collaborative Piano, Intermediate Musicianship, Dolce Voce, Rhapsody, Downbeat, Study of Music
408.553.0522 • jennifer.sandusky@harker.org

Paul Vallerga

Middle School Lead Teacher, Middle School Technical Director, Grade 7-8 Theater Production and Design Instructor, Technical Theater 3, Middle and Upper School Scenic Designer
408.553.0339 paul.vallerga@harker.org

Jaco Wong

Orchestra, Jazz Band, AP Music Theory, Performance Practice
408.345.9636 • jaco.wong@harker.org

Jill Yager

Harker Dance Company, Study of Dance, dance production, after-school dance
408.345.9278 • jill.yager@harker.org





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The Harker School
500 Saratoga Avenue
San Jose, CA 95129