# Program 2: Developing Students as Artists

## Music

### SEGMENT 4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**William Taylor**  
13 years teaching

### About the School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>East High School</th>
<th>Grades: 9-12</th>
<th>Arts Requirement: None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>Students: 1,900</td>
<td>Very mixed socio-economic status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type: Urban/Comprehensive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### About the Music Program

**Faculty:**  
2 full-time (1 vocal and 1 instrumental)  

**Students:**  
142  

**Facilities:**  
Above Average in the Area  
• 2 classrooms (instrumental and vocal)  
• School auditorium  

**Required Courses:**  
None  

**Elective Vocal Music Courses:**  
Beginning Choir, Men's Ensemble, Seraphim, Honor Choir, Angelaires, Beginning Music Theory, AP Music Theory, and Voice

### About the Featured Classes

#### Men's Ensemble:
This beginning level ensemble for boys focuses on voice training and rudimentary music reading skills.

**Audition:** None

---

#### Angelaires:
Students receive accelerated and demanding instruction in vocal technique and performance, music theory, music appreciation, ear-training, vocal improvisation, and music history, as well as opportunities to use these advanced musical skills in a vocal ensemble setting.

This is a high-level “X” class, which means that students receive a higher grade point: A=5.2 instead of 4.0.

**Audition Requirements:**  
Students must demonstrate music reading ability, vocal ability, aural skill, and part-singing ability. Rehearsal discipline, school attendance, and dedication to vocal music (particularly in other ensembles) are also examined.

**Student Motivation:**  
High. Most students are motivated by their love of music or by the quality of the music that the Angelaires make.

---

### In the Teacher’s Words

#### What does solfege mean?
Solfege is a series of syllables that are used by singers to identify and to sing the pitches of a scale (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do). The word can also refer to general singing and ear-training instruction.

#### Why do the Angelaires use microphones in class?
Most vocal jazz groups use microphones because they perform with amplified instruments (bass, piano, and drums). Microphones are used in class to accustom the students to the sound of amplified voices.