



BACH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Parent Handbook
2016-2017

Bach Children's Choir Contact Numbers

Mailing Address: PO Box 5455, Fresno, CA, 93755-5455

Rehearsal Location: North Fresno Church 5724 N. Fresno Street, 93710

(Please note: This is NOT our office location. We do not have a physical office.)

Main Phone Number: 559-226-6500 (call/text) **Main E-mail:** manager@bachchildrenschoir.org

Website: www.bachchildrenschoir.org or check us out on Facebook

Cynthia Salomonson: Artistic Director, Director of Cantabile, Director of Design and Marketing

559-287-3463 Cell phone

cynthia@bachchildrenschoir.org

EJ Hinojosa: Associate Director--Youth Chorale & Dolce

559-303-8658 Cell phone

ej@bachchildrenschoir.org

Rachael Watson: Associate Director--Vivace

559-304-7410 Cell phone

rachael@bachchildrenschoir.org

Sarah Griffin: Associate Director--Prima Voce

209-247-5441 Cell phone

sarah@bachchildrenschoir.org

Lisa Thurman: Administrative Director

559-226-6500 Choir phone

manager@bachchildrenschoir.org

Suzanne Kimball: Executive Director

559-281-0847 Cell phone

suzanne@bachchildrenschoir.org

Board Members:

Dean Stuckenschmidt, Board President – the4stucks@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Fee, Secretary - barbfee@sbcglobal.net

Jayne Massie, Treasurer - jayne@bpfcpa.com

Dina Williams - dinalwilliams69@gmail.com

Sandra West – swest@fresnofair.com

Gina Wathen – ginawathen@gmail.com

Richard Wathen - rich@wathen-castanos.com

Valerie Quiring - vquiring@quiring.com

Choir Membership

We hope that all students and family members who are a part of the BCC will form the foundation of a life-long relationship with music through their experiences with us. The essence of a musical experience is based on *what is felt and what is heard*. Unlike all other musical instruments, the body itself is the instrument for singing, allowing music to be internally experienced. Singing is a way of experiencing and expressing that is unlike anything else because it is an outward expression of an inner experience.

Being a member of the BCC is a great experience. Lessons will be learned that students will carry with them wherever they go. Students should feel a sense of pride in their association with this excellent organization. **It is important that all of our students come to understand the meaning of commitment. We are committed to educating and empowering young people through musical excellence and we ask that each member remain active and committed to the program for the entire season so that together we can strive to reach our potential.**

All rehearsals are mandatory. We understand that illness and last minute emergencies arise. **Please inform both Lisa and your director if your child will not be at rehearsal.** If you know in advance that your child will not be attending rehearsal or a performance because of a viable conflict, please let us know as soon as possible. The number of students missing from a rehearsal/performance greatly impacts the ability of the entire group.

Please also note that there will be no supervision of students until 15 minutes prior to the start of rehearsals because of staff coordination meetings. Please do not arrive any earlier and/or leave your child unattended.

Choir Groups

The Bach Children's Choir is sub-divided into choirs based on age and ability. Each choir is introduced to all aspects of age-appropriate musicianship and professional ensemble performance. Each choir performs in a variety of venues throughout the community including our Christmas and Spring Concerts. *Vivace* and *Youth Chorale* will be given the opportunity to travel on tour.

Prima Voce [preema-vochay] Italian. "First voice"

Directed by Sarah Griffin

Tuesdays 5:00-6:15 pm ~ Tuition \$55/month

The focus of *Prima Voce* is laying the foundation for vocal development and music reading. Education is the primary emphasis at this stage rather than performance.

Dolce [dohl-chay] Italian. "Sweet, gentle, pleasant"

Directed by EJ Hinojosa

Tuesdays 5:00-6:15 pm ~ Tuition \$55/month

Dolce is comprised of children primarily in 2nd and 3rd grade. The choristers learn the basics of matching pitch and proper vocal technique, with an introduction to part-singing and singing in a foreign language.

Cantabile [kahn-tah-bee-lay] Italian. “In a singing style”

Directed by Cynthia Salomonson

Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 pm ~ Tuition \$55/month

Cantabile is comprised of children generally within grades 4-6. In addition to 4-6 performances per year, the choristers continue to develop proper vocal technique using part singing, sight reading and music theory in a fun and positive environment.

Vivace [vee-vah-chay] Italian. “Full of life”

Directed by Rachael Watson

Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 pm~ Tuition \$65/month

Vivace is for choristers who possess the vocal qualities, musical knowledge and maturity necessary for more difficult music and rehearsals. It typically includes students grades 6th and up. A readiness assessment is required for students advancing through our program. In addition to 6-8 performances a year, the choristers are challenged with a wide variety of literature and sing more advanced 2-4 part music in several languages, with and without accompaniment. A more extensive study of sight-reading and ear-training continues, as well as music theory, music appreciation, and ensemble refinement and performance. The singers demonstrate a willingness and desire to achieve a higher level of musicianship, responsibility, commitment, leadership and discipline.

Youth Chorale

Special Audition ~ Directed by EJ Hinojosa

Thursdays 6:00-8:00 pm ~ Tuition \$75/month

Youth Chorale is a select group of singers, comprised of boys with changed voices and girls that perform both separately and combined, increasing the variety and range of repertoire available to the ensemble. This group is for the most advanced musicians in the organization, typically high school age, and is designed to further challenge and enhance their musical education. In addition to their 10-12 local performances a year, this group attends twice yearly retreats and tours each spring/summer.

YC Mentorship

This program is designed to offer Youth Chorale members the opportunity to work with students in the younger chorus to increase their musical abilities and those of the other students in the organization through mentorship. Listed below are some of the qualities we looked for in a mentor and some of the expectations that the directors have for those who become mentors.

Qualities:

1. Confident musical leader and a willingness to provide an example for other singers.
2. Ability to read music and to sight read
3. Exhibit strong leadership in personality, behavior and attitude
4. Exhibit good social skills

Expectations:

1. Attend assigned rehearsals and participate in lessons as directed
2. Prepare mini lessons for different choirs under the direction of the staff
3. Make friends with students in other choirs and interact with them when appropriate
4. Participate in the Summer Camp Program
5. Have a great attitude and help others get excited about singing!

Tuition Payment and Scholarships

Tuition is due at the first rehearsal of each month – September thru May (or June, if applicable). Please make checks payable to BCC. Checks may be mailed to the PO Box or given directly to administrative staff at rehearsal. *There is a \$15 fee for any returned checks.* Payments can also be made with a credit card at rehearsals or online through our Paypal account link on the choir's website. If you have any questions on how to utilize this payment method please see Lisa. **A late fee of 10% of the amount due will be added to tuition payments that are not made by the 10th of every month. Please make sure to pay your tuition on time so that you do not incur late fees.**

The choir offers a multiple child family discount. The discount is 10% off the tuition for the younger child(ren). For additional information please contact Lisa.

There are scholarships available for those in need. Please contact Lisa for scholarship information and an application. If you have received a scholarship in the past you are still required to fill out a new application each year.

In order for a student to return each semester, their account must be kept up to date. No student will be able to return to rehearsals at the start of the semester if there is a balance on their account. We understand that financial circumstances may change at any time. If a situation arises that impacts your ability to pay tuition we ask that you talk to us as soon as possible so that we can come to a mutually agreeable course of action.

Fundraising

Fundraisers are conducted to help offset the cost of tuition and we strongly encourage each family to participate in some way.

A Taste of Music: On March 11, 2017 the choir will host our new event, *A Taste of Music*. We would love to have more parents attend this event. Enjoy an evening of small plate cuisine, craft beer and award winning wines from the Paso Robles and coastal regions of California. In addition to the wonderful food and drink, guests will be able to browse the silent auction and hear a performance from our own Bach Youth Chorale.

****In order to make this event a success, we ask for parents to participate by donating restaurant gift cards, service/goods, provide a business sponsorship, or donate wines for the silent auction. Additional information will be available in January. Any question regarding the silent auction or ticket information can be directed to Suzanne Kimball: (559) 281-0847**

Additional Fundraisers:

In addition to our main fundraisers, there will be optional fundraisers we strongly encourage each family to participate in. Please see the fundraising schedule for additional information.

Donor Opportunities:

Join the BCC family of donors. We have varying sponsorship levels available for businesses, families and friends that want to support the BCC. All donors are included in our concert programs and on our website. For additional information, please see a staff member.

The choir is a non-profit organization and we are supported by sponsors and donations received from the community. If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a donor or business sponsor, making an in-kind donation of goods or services, please let us know. A choir information packet is available as well as tax information for receipt of donation. For more information, please contact Suzanne Kimball by email at suzanne@bachchildrenschoir.org.

Communication

The BCC makes every effort to ensure that singers and their families are provided with up-to-date information regarding all BCC events.

1. Constant Contact--our primary source of communication is through an email program called Constant Contact. We ask that you check your email regularly since updates and changes will be sent out frequently.
2. Calendar--a calendar will be issued at the beginning of each semester. If there are changes or updates, information will be distributed through email. The calendar will also be available on our website at www.bachchildrenschoir.org/choristers.
3. Check the white board at rehearsal every week for important information. It will be located by the front door.
4. Notices will occasionally be sent home with students providing details regarding directions and time frames for upcoming events. Please remind your students when you pick them up from rehearsal to give you anything that was distributed. This information will also be available at the sign in table or from Lisa.
5. Please use the contact information found in the handbook to obtain answers to questions, to report absences, etc.

If your child is going to be absent, please let us know. Attendance is crucial to the success of each student and each choir.

We do our best to communicate with our parents and we would appreciate hearing from you! Please don't hesitate to ask questions or share feedback.

Performance Attire

Please order/purchase all uniform pieces as soon as possible to avoid sizing and/or shipping delays. You are responsible for ensuring that your child has the appropriate uniform **before** their first performance.

ALL GIRLS

Polo shirt- Paid for through Registration Fee, will be worn untucked with jeans for the more casual performances with black closed toe dress shoes.

Hair must be pulled up and away from the face for all performances. Acceptable styles include ponytail, French braid, or chignon. No colored hair accessories except the choir bow. Please keep jewelry to a minimum.

Prima Voce, Dolce & Cantabile (Formal Uniform)

Twin Buckle Tab Jumper in Black- Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Long Sleeve Peter Pan Blouse in White (Feminine Fit)- Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Black Tights – May be ordered from French Toast, or purchased at Target, etc.

Shoes – Plain black closed toe dress shoes, no heel

Vivace (Formal Uniform)

A long, black choral dress from Stage Accents, style name “Bel Aire”. (Lisa will size and order)

*Dress will need to be hemmed 1” from floor with choral shoes on.

Black Nylons – To be purchased by you

Shoes – Plain black closed toe dress shoes, no heel

Youth Chorale (Formal Uniform)

A long, black choral dress from Stage Accents, style name “Wisteria”. (Lisa will size and order)

*Dress will need to be hemmed 1” from floor with choral shoes on.

Black Nylons – To be purchased by you

Shoes – Plain black closed toe dress shoes, up to 2” heel acceptable

ALL BOYS

Polo shirt- Paid for through Registration Fee, will be worn untucked with jeans for the more casual performances with black dress shoes.

Prima Voce, Dolce & Cantabile (Formal Uniform)

Long Sleeve Oxford Shirt in White- Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Adjustable Waist Double Knee Pant in Black (Modern Fit)- Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Adjustable Solid Color Tie in Black- Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Black dress shoes, belt, and black socks – To be purchased by you

Vivace (Formal Uniform)

Tuxedo pants, white tuxedo shirt, black vest, black bow tie, belt, socks and dress shoes

All may be purchased through A.J.’s Tuxedo Junction in Fresno. Please see Lisa for more information.

Youth Chorale (Formal Uniform)

Tuxedo pants, white tuxedo shirt, black tuxedo jacket, black vest, black bow tie, belt, socks and dress shoes. All may be purchased through A.J.’s Tuxedo Junction in Fresno. Please see Lisa for more information.

Behavior Expectations

In order for every choir member to receive the maximum benefit from this musical experience, these guidelines will be followed during the rehearsals and performances.

Choristers and parents are asked to read and sign at the bottom.

Please cut off and hand in at the next rehearsal. Keep top portion for reference.

1. Choristers are to arrive and leave rehearsals and concerts promptly, according to the given schedules. All choristers will be signed in/out by a parent, guardian, or approved adult.
2. Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled rehearsals. Please notify Lisa and directors, in advance, if absence is necessary due to illness, family emergency, or other serious reason.
3. During rehearsals, choristers should enjoy singing and learning while maintaining good self-control: keeping hands, feet, and objects to oneself, not talking between or during pieces, focusing on the director, and listening carefully.
4. Choristers must bring their music to each rehearsal (if applicable). All music will be returned at the end of each semester and all lost or damaged music will be charged to the chorister.
5. All choristers need to show respect for church facilities and any other properties used during rehearsals and performances.

Consequences

1. 1st Warning: Chorister is reminded about inappropriate behavior. When a student has been warned 3 times in one rehearsal, the parent will be notified.
2. 2nd Warning: If disruptive behavior continues and child has received 3 warnings at a second rehearsal, the child is on probation and will be removed from rehearsal as deemed necessary.
3. 3rd Warning: If the behavior continues beyond these consequences, the chorister will be asked to leave the choir.

(Cut off bottom portion and return to Lisa)

My child and I have read and agree to the behavior expectations and consequences of the Bach Children's Choir. I understand that by signing this, my child and I accept responsibility for his/her actions.

Chorister's Name: _____

Chorister's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____