



BACH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Parent Handbook
2019-2020

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

559-287-3463 Cell phone

cynthia@bachchildrenschoir.org

Cantabile REMIND: @bcc19 to 81010

Tami Spurgeon: Associate Director – Vivace & Youth Chorale

tami@bachchildrenschoir.org

Vivace REMIND: @bccv19 to 81010

Youth Chorale REMIND: @bccbyc19 to 81010

Sarah Griffin: Associate Director - Prima Voce

209-247-5441 Cell phone

sarah@bachchildrenschoir.org

Prima Voce REMIND: @bccpv19 to 81010

Lisa Thurman: Choir Manager

Lydia Bustos: Rehearsal Assistant

Board Members:

Dean Stuckenschmidt, President - deanstuckenschmidt@gmail.com

James Offen, Secretary – jameso@lightspeed.net

Jayne Massie, Treasurer – jayne.massie@mossadams.com

Lydia Bustos - lcb6780@yahoo.com

Joel Campbell – joel@valleycompdefense.com

Veronica Campbell – photographybynica@gmail.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 your director if your child will not be at rehearsal (text is preferred or through Remind)**. 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 and classroom prep. Please do not arrive any earlier and/or leave your child unattended.

The preschool playground is unavailable until after 5:00pm, due to state preschool licensing regulations.

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* may 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 \$60/month

The focus of *Prima Voce* is laying the foundation for vocal development and music reading, including matching pitch and proper vocal technique, with an introduction to part-singing. Education is the primary emphasis at this stage rather than performance.

Cantabile [*kahn-tah-bee-lay*] Italian. "In a singing style"

Directed by Cynthia Salomonson

Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 pm ~ Tuition \$60/month

Cantabile is comprised of children mostly within 2nd through 4th grade. 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. The singers learn a varied concert repertoire of music, including an introduction to singing in a foreign language. Folk songs and singing games are incorporated to help develop their young voices and beginning musical skills.

Vivace [*vee-vah-chay*] Italian. "Full of life"

Directed by Tami Spurgeon

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. In addition to their 6-8 performances a year, the choristers are challenged with a wide variety of literature and sing more advanced 2-3 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 Tami Spurgeon

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm ~ Tuition \$80/month

Youth Chorale is a select group of singers, comprised of girls and boys with unchanged voices, which perform 3-6 part music, increasing the variety and range of repertoire available to the ensemble. This group is for the most advanced musicians in the organization and is designed to further challenge and enhance their musical education. Youth Chorale has 10-12 performances per year and is asked to be a part of our summer music camp in July.

YC Mentorship

This program is designed to offer Youth Chorale members the opportunity to work with students in the younger choirs 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 sight read music
3. Exhibit strong leadership in personality, behavior and attitude
4. Exhibit good social skills

Expectations:

1. Attend assigned weekly 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 or by the 5th of the month, whichever is later – usually September thru May (or June, if applicable). Please make checks payable to BCC. Checks may be mailed to the PO Box or given in person 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 link on the choir's website. **A late fee of 10% of the amount due will be added to tuition payments that are not made by the deadline each 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 the Choir Manager.

There are scholarships available for those in need. Please contact the Choir Manager 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.

Dinner/Silent Auction Fundraiser: In the spring, the choir will host our annual dinner/silent auction event. All choir parents are invited to attend this event. In addition to the wonderful food and drink, guests will be able to browse the silent auction and hear a performance from some of our choirs.

**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 sponsorship, silent auction or ticket information can be directed to Cynthia Salomonson at 559-226-6500.

Additional Fundraisers:

In addition to our main fundraisers, there will be optional fundraisers we strongly encourage each family to participate in. Flyers will be sent home as those fundraisers are scheduled.

Shopping Fundraisers:

Give back while you shop! We are set up to receive cash back from stores that have escrip (Savemart, FoodMaxx, etc). You will need to set up your account for BCC to get credit.

Love Amazon? Visit smile.amazon.com and set up the choir to be your designated organization. Each time you shop on the Smile site, BCC will get a percentage back.

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 the Choir Manager or visit our website.

The choir is a 501(c)(3) 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 Lisa Thurman by email at manager@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. Sign up for text reminders with REMIND. Each choir has a unique code. See the first page for your child's choir code. Text that code to 81010.
2. Email-- We ask that you check your email regularly since updates and changes will be sent out frequently.
3. Calendar--a calendar will be issued at the beginning of each semester. If there are changes or updates, information will be distributed through Remind and email. The calendar will also be available on our website at www.bachchildrenschoir.org/choristers.
4. Check the white board at rehearsal every week for important information. It will be located by the front door.
5. 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.
6. Please use the contact information found in the handbook to obtain answers to questions, 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 – Girls

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.

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

All Choirs Casual Uniform

Polo shirt- Paid for through Registration Fee, will be worn untucked with blue jeans for casual performances with black closed toe dress shoes. Black socks (optional).

Prima Voce & Cantabile Formal Uniform

French Toast Pleated Hem Jumper in Black #1352 - Order from www.FrenchToast.com

French Toast Long Sleeve Peter Pan Blouse in White #1594 - Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Black Tights – May be ordered online or purchased at Target, etc. (No bare ankles, please!)

Shoes – Plain black closed toe dress shoes, no heel

Vivace Formal Uniform

A long, black choral dress from www.stageaccents.com, style name “Bel Aire”. Girls and women’s sizes available. Please check sizing chart before ordering.

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

Shoes – Plain black closed toe dress shoes, no heel

Youth Chorale Formal Uniform

A long, black choral dress from www.stageaccents.com, style name “Wisteria”. Please check sizing chart before ordering as this dress fits small.

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

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

Performance Attire – Boys

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.

Hair must be pulled up away from the face. No colored hair accessories are allowed.

All Choirs Casual Uniform

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

Prima Voce, Cantabile & Vivace Formal Uniform

Long Sleeve Oxford Shirt in White #1017 - Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Adjustable Waist Double Knee Pant in Black #1519 - Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Adjustable Solid Color Tie in Black #1031 - Order from www.FrenchToast.com

Black dress shoes, belt, and black socks

Youth Chorale Formal Uniform

Long Sleeve Oxford Shirt in Black

Black Dress Pants with black belt

Black Tie (adjustable or clip on ok)

Black dress shoes, belt, and black socks

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 and performances. Please notify the 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: being respectful of others, 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 must be returned at the end of each semester or incur a \$40 music fee. 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, including cleaning up after yourself.

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 check in table next week)

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 _____