



The Boys and Girls Choirs of Grace Church in New York

Choir Parent Orientation

Mission Statement

The Grace Church Choir Program seeks to sustain and strengthen the rich tradition of choral offerings at Grace Church by fostering a community for everyone celebrating excellence in music and God's love for all. The Choir Program welcomes singers and musicians who desire to celebrate and extend this ministry undertaken by Grace Church.

Program

Three Tiers

- Novices
- Junior Choristers
- Senior Choristers

Officers

- Optimus/Optima
- Lead Choristers
- Choir Jobs – Music Library, Pencils, etc.

Stipends and Scholarships

- *Stipends.* Standards, Salary and Extra Salary are payable to chorister by check twice a year
- *Scholarships.* Payable to parent by check at the end of the year
- *Awards.* At the Choirmaster's discretion

Professional Personnel

- *Organist and Master of Choristers.* Patrick Allen
- *Organ Scholar.* George Fergus

Rehearsal Schedule

CHOIR CAMP 2015 TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER – for all choristers that are back in town.

2:00 to 6:30 pm. The day to start with ice cream in the Yard. Come to 802 Broadway to enter and exit the building for Choir Camp.

Parent Orientation Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Reception Room of the Parish House.

- *Seniors. Treble Boys:* Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:15-8:10. *Tenor and Bass Boys:* Sundays 1:00-2:00. *Girls:* Wednesdays and Fridays 7:15-8:10. *Boys and Girls:* Sundays 1:00-3:00 after most singing Sundays and some non-singing Sundays.
- *Seniors. Special Rehearsals:* Sunday October 1, 1:00 – 3:00 for Britten (Boys only) December 12 9:45-12:00 for Britten Evensong (Girls only), Thursday December 17 5:45-9:00pm for Christmas Eve, Saturday March 26 8:30-10:30am for Easter, Thursday April 28 5:45-9:00 pm for Concert.

- *Juniors. All:* Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 Rehearsal, followed by 6:00-6:30 Evensong. Boys: Thursdays 7:15-8:10. Girls: Fridays 7:15-8:10
- *Novices.* Girls on Tuesday 3:20 – 4:30 and Boys on Fridays 3:20-4:30
- ***Juniors and Novices: Special Rehearsal week*** with Dr. Barry Rose from January 19-24 in preparation for Junior Treble Music Concert and Whiting of Novices on January 24 at 4:00. *With parents permission, Seniors are welcome to participate as Senior Mentors and work on leadership skills as they inspire and support the younger choristers.*

Service Attendance and Service Schedule

- ***Required Sundays for All Choristers (Seniors, Juniors and Novices):*** September 13 Beginning of 121st Season of Choirs, November 22 Grace Church Sunday, May 8 Mother’s Day and Elevation of new Seniors, and June 12 End of 121st Season, Choir Appreciation Sunday and Church Picnic.)
- ***Sunday Services and Afternoon Rehearsals:*** Mandatory for Senior Choristers. Optional for Juniors and Novices except for Required services outlined above and below and in the Handbook.
- ***Additional Required Junior Only Sunday Services:*** December 6, January 24 4:00 Evensong, January 31, and May 22.
- ***Required Choral Evensong Services (Seniors sing; Juniors and Novices process and attend):*** October 18 Britten Rejoice in the Lamb 4:00 pm (Senior Boys), December 13 Britten Ceremony of Carols 4:00 pm (Senior Girls).
- ***Required Holiday Services (Seniors Only):*** A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols December 24 8:00pm, Easter Sunday March 27 9:00 and 11:00 am services.

Concerts (ALL choristers should attend BOTH concerts. Seniors should support and listen to Juniors/Novices and Juniors/Novices should support and listen to Seniors – it’s FUN.)

- *Juniors and Novices:* January 24 Eighth Annual Junior Treble Music Concert with Dr. Barry Rose and Whiting of Novices
- *Seniors:* April 29 The Annual Choir Concert and Reception

After School Choir Coaching and Voice Lessons

- *Vocal Coaching.* Mandatory for Seniors; Optional for Juniors.
- *Scheduling.* Sopranos: Wednesdays 3:30-4:30; Thursdays after dismissal for an hour; Shaving Club: tbd. Four lessons required in Fall; Six required in Winter/Spring. Advance sign-up required.
- *Sign Up Sheets:* Posted on the bulletin board outside the music room. Sessions take place in Dr. Allen’s office. (See Website for more details.)

Trips, Special Projects and Recordings

- *Trips.* A trip is planned ever two to three years so that every chorister has a chance to go on a special concert tour. Summer of 2015 takes the choir to France – Paris, Rouen, Normandy and Chartres.
The annual fund raising for the Choir Special Projects Fund is vital for the support of this and future trips. We are always raising money for current and future offerings/projects simultaneously, our results effect every choir family.
- *Recordings.* To be announced.
- *Special Projects.* Several are in the works and information will be shared as they come together.

Communication:

WEBSITE: www.gracechurchnyc.org

CLICK: MUSIC

CLICK: login

User Name: helfenstein

Password: iheartch0ir (0 is a zero)

CHOIR SCHEDULES 2014 – 2015: REMEMBER Kathy's Link to our Goggle Doc Schedules, they are ready to go for 2014-2015: <http://gchoirsched.info/home.html>

Code of Conduct

Attendance

- *General.* Call or email if you cannot come. 254.2004 or helfenstein@yahoo.com
- *Absences or Lateness.* Penalties apply unless excused
- *Leave of Absence.* Consult Handbook
- *Dates of Required Attendance for All Choristers for 2015-2016.* Consult Handbook (on website) for full schedule . Consult Choir website weekly for updates and changes.

Church Conduct

- *Dress Code for Services and Offerings.* Appropriate Sunday clothes with dark shoes
 - *Boys.* Dark dress shoes (no sneakers) with dark socks, white collared shirt and tie, black or navy pants (no khaki)
 - *Girls.* Black or navy dress shoes (no sneakers, open-toed shoes, sandals, clogs or flip flops), white, black or navy socks or tights or nude-colored hose, dress or skirt that is appropriate for church, no collar showing above the cassock except a simple white collar, no noticeable hair ornaments
 - *Choir Clothes Closet.* Appropriate clothes available for borrowing
- *Rehearsal Drill and Service Drill.* Enter at 802 Broadway at 7 am (not before) on weekdays and 9:45 am on Sundays
- *Communion.* Receiving only a blessing is perfectly appropriate
- *Dismissal.* After the Daily Prayer for Choristers

Social Conduct

- *Expectations and Standards of Behavior.* Respect, attentiveness, teamwork, commitment and accountability
- *Misconduct.* May result in suspension, fines or termination
- *Wrongful Treatment.* Should be reported immediately
- *Feedback.* Provide to the Choirmaster

Contract

- Agreement to Read the Handbook

Choir Parents' Commitment

Important Role of Choir Parents and Choir Parents' Contribution

- Year Round - Choir Parent Helpers: Service Choir Parent Helper and Sunday Lunch
- September - Vestment Fitting and Care
- November - Grace Church Sunday
- November- Thanksgiving Pie Sale
- December - Annual Christmas Party, Annual Christmas Carol Service

- January -Amahl and the Night Visitors
- January- Special Junior Evensong with Dr. Barry Rose and Reception
- April - Annual Easter Breakfast
- May - Annual Concert Reception
- June - End of the Year Raffle
- Fall and Spring - Social Events, Newsletter
- All Year - Photography, Alumni Relations, Social Media, Recording, Publicity, Choir Steering Committee

Thank You!