

From: The Choirs of Grace Church in New York (gracechoir1894@gmail.com)

To: helfensteinch@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, July 24, 2020, 11:44 AM EDT

**The Choir Family News of
The Choirs of Grace Church in New York**

**A community for everyone celebrating excellence in
music and God's love of all!**



- *P. Allen Greetings
- *Pandemic Start Up Info
- *Senior Chorister News
- *Junior Chorister News
- *Novice Chorister News
- *Pandemic Rehearsal Summary
- *Summer Choir Homework
- *High School Singer News
- *Parent Volunteers Needed! [Sign Up Genius](#)
- *Social Media: [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)
- *Recruiting
- *Essentials

PA Greetings

Greetings and happy middle of summer.

I hope this info letter finds you all safe and well.

Has summer begun? It's just been a steady run since last September for me.

I hope to detach and head to the mountains the last week of July and be back for 1 September. Resting and re charging is important to be at best form come September. Be my pen pal, write emails with news and photos of what you are up to and know you are in my thoughts and prayers for a beautiful family time, health and safety.

We have a plan! The Steering Committee has been working all summer on possible plans for choir. The Church Vestry Re-Opening Committee and GCS have been intensely working on plans for the autumn. Our choir proposal below has been developed in partnership with Don Waring and George Davison, and has their blessing. With government ok, we all hope to be ready to teach, train and create together in September.

Instead of the normal Orientation materials, this newsletter will serve that purpose as an pandemic choir orientation start up letter.

FORGIVE the length. Please take your time with it. CLICK for the pdf of this text so you can download and print out for easier use.

FEEDBACK: your communication and feedback are more essential than ever.

Don't hesitate to communicate with members of the steering committee or myself with questions, concerns, suggestions, anything and everything to increase the quality of our offerings and the safety and well being of all participating.

Remember, especially during this pandemic time, all normal choir requirements are suspended, participate as works for your family.

Because we need to monitor numbers coming and going and how many are in any space at a given time, the more communication about your participation plans we have the better.

Recruiting - is never over! Even in a pandemic. Please spread the word! We have a great program that can be safely offered and that offers so much especially during this time when so many programs are not operating. Spread the word.

Big hug to you all, fear not, be safe and let your light shine! All my love, Patrick

Start Up Info September 2020

If your chorister is experiencing COVID symptoms or just not feeling well, please stay home. If anyone is not feeling well, or showing any signs or symptoms of illness, we do not want them attending. And if they are uncomfortable, they should not come. This sounds horrible, but it is the first step to being able to meet and keep everyone safe.

All choristers are asked to attend all choir activities wearing a face mask and a shield. In an emergency, we have extras that can be issued to make sure everyone has a mask.

Attached is the link to the face shield we recommend for rehearsals. We ask each family to purchase one for your chorister - they can decorate it and make it their own. They should keep it with their things and take responsibility for it's care and wiping down each evening. For anyone with need, we can issue a face shield that will become their private property.

https://www.amazon.com/Premium-Protective-Protect-Elastic-Comfort/dp/B087JVBL3J/ref=sr_1_4_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=face+shields&qid=1592068234&sr=8-4-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlnaWVYPUeZ

[UTBNOU1DSU9GV0xNjMvY3J5cHRIZElkPUFwNjkyMjU3SUQ0RE9MWTJWV1U0JmVuY3J5cHRIZEFkSWQ2QTA0MDQzMTgzN1FDQjdQU9NN1ZQJndpZGdlE5hbWU9c3BfYXRmJmEjdGlvb1JlZGlja1JlZGlyZWV0JmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJ1ZQ==](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81809192800?pwd=L1lhNUFDMjRXOFphSFpSdThWY1h2UT09)

All choristers will be assigned music and a pencil, there will be no sharing.

Attached is a waiver that must be signed and returned to Patrick Allen in order for your chorister(s) to participate during this pandemic period.

[The Participation Waiver Link](#)

No live choir camp this September. Instead the choristers **will have a Zoom choir camp meeting just to see one another**, ask questions and officially kick off our 126th season. Mark your calendars: Tuesday, September 8th at 4:30pm for 30-minute Zoom choir call for all choristers. Passcode: 951560

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81809192800?pwd=L1lhNUFDMjRXOFphSFpSdThWY1h2UT09>

No live parent orientation meeting this September. **Instead a zoom orientation meeting just to see one another**, ask questions and officially kick off our 126th season. Mark your calendars: Tuesday, September 8th at 5:00pm for Zoom call for ALL choir parents. Passcode: 479261

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85743093526?pwd=OTBVVm01NXZqTVVvQ3RBOW8rVnRCZz09>

**The pandemic period live choir training program will have two sides.
Rehearsal and (2) public offerings - services.**

Rehearsals.

The pandemic schedule will fold around the school schedule adopted by Grace Church School.

- a. Choristers when coming from outside will enter the Broadway Gate at the Chantry and come into the Honor Room. As they enter, they will have their temperature taken and asked a short list of health survey questions. (This follows the school's check-in procedure.)
- b. No running around the school. Entrance and movement must be calm and precise to keep the spaces clean and safe. This is for everyone's safety.
- c. Choristers already checked in and coming from GCS will enter the Honor Room from the Stairwell hallway.
- d. All choristers should keep a safe distance in the Honor Room, form a line and wash their hands in the little bathroom - one at a time.
- e. After washing your hands, get your music and pencil (Seniors) from your cubby and come to your assigned seat in the Chantry (Seniors and Novices) or Church (Juniors). Juniors and Novices will find their pencil and music in their seat when they arrive.
- f. Entrance and Dismissal must be slow and orderly in order to keep social distancing and safety measures in place. I hope parents might sign up to take a shift either before or after rehearsals to help with pacing the choristers through the building. **There will be a sign up genius page for this.**

Seniors

g. For Senior Morning Rehearsals.

These will be coordinated with GCS as they establish their opening time. We will begin at an appropriate time before school to have enough time for a rehearsal. Tuesday through Friday morning.

*No Breakfast Club until the pandemic is over. Enter at the Broadway Gate for the Chantry.

*All Choir Activities are optional until the end of the pandemic. Roll is taken for contact tracing reasons.

*The seating in the Chantry for Senior Rehearsals is limited to 10 choristers on each side of the piano for a maximum of 20. With the anticipated staggered schedule for choristers we should have no trouble accommodating boys and girls all days they are scheduled to be in school. It is hoped every senior can attend two morning rehearsals each week.

*Rehearsals will end to dismiss appropriate grades to school to follow the planned staggered opening. Students should follow GCS check in procedures even though they have been checked in at choir.

Parents - I will need help before and after rehearsals each morning and afternoon to help with

social distancing, pacing hand watching, and helping the choristers with best safe practice.
It's a 20 minute or so window of support.

Juniors

*Tuesday Junior Rehearsals will take place in the South Transept of the Church.

h. For Junior Tuesday Rehearsals.

Since there are no after school activities/sports currently planned for GCS this autumn, we will move the Junior Boy/Girl Rehearsal to after school dismissal on Tuesday. It will end at 4:15 p.m.
Choristers at GCS will be dismissed to the Honor Room.

DO NOT COME THROUGH THE SCHOOL - they will be cleaning and preparing for the next day.

Parents - I will need help before and after rehearsals each morning and afternoon to help with social distancing, pacing hand watching, and helping the choristers with best safe practice.
It's a 20 minute or so window of support.

Novices

i. For Wednesday Girl and Thursday Boy Novice Rehearsals.

Dismissal from GCS into the Honor Room. Students from outside GCS enter at the Broadway Chantry Gate and come to the Honor room for check in. Everyone washes their hands and carefully moves to their assigned seats in the Chantry.

Parents - I will need help before and after rehearsals each morning and afternoon to help with social distancing, pacing hand watching, and helping the choristers with best safe practice.
It's a 20 minute or so window of support.

Pandemic Rehearsal Procedure and Schedule Recap: Masks and Face Shields Required.

Entrance:

From Outside: Broadway Chantry Gate to the Honor Room.
If already checked into GCS: into the stairwell to the Honor Room.

Exit:

To GCS: from Honor Room into stairwell entrance of school - follow school check in procedures even if already checked in.

To Outside: from Honor Room to Huntington Close and out the Broadway Gate.

Once GCS Closes - do not go back in, they will be cleaning and making it safe for you.

Sundays - when it happens - Enter and exit from the Honor Room - use the Broadway Chantry Gate

Senior Rehearsals will begin Tuesday 15 September

Junior Rehearsals will begin Tuesday 22 September

Novice Rehearsals will begin Wednesday and Thursday 23 and 24 September

After School Vocal Coaching will begin Friday 25 September

Tuesday - Friday morning Senior Rehearsals.

Start time tbd as GCS announces starting times for each grade.

Dismissal to school staggered to support staggered GCS schedule.

Boys and Girls combined, attend on the days you are scheduled to be in school.

Limited to 20 choristers each morning.

Tuesday Junior Boy and Girl Chorister Rehearsal.

Tuesday at dismissal of GCS, enter from school into the Honor Room.

Non GCS Choristers enter from Broadway Chantry Gate to Honor Room.

Wash Hands, take your seat in the South Transept.

End at 4:15 p.m. Pick up from seats in the South Transept.

Wednesday at dismissal of GCS, Novice Girl Rehearsal

Enter from school into the Honor Room.
Non GCS Choristers enter from Broadway Chantry Gate to Honor Room.
Wash hands, take seat in the Chantry.
4:15 dismissal from seats in the Chantry.
Limit of new choristers during pandemic - 12

Thursday at dismissal of GCS, Novice Boy Rehearsal

Enter from school into the Honor Room.
Non GCS Choristers enter from Broadway Chantry Gate to Honor Room.
Wash hands, take seat in the Chantry.
4:15 dismissal from seats in the Chantry.
Limit of new choristers during pandemic - 12

Friday After School Vocal Coaching for Seniors

Sign up on Sign up Genius.
Limited to 8 - all pandemic procedures in effect.
Enter from school into the Honor Room.
Dismissal through the Honor Room to Huntington Close and out the Broadway Gate of the Chantry.

All Seniors are welcome to mentor at all rehearsals.
Please email or let P Allen know so careful spacing and seating/music can be prepared for safety.

Singing at Services. The Second Part of the Plan.....

At this time we are focusing on the live start up of rehearsals. It is important to watch how this goes - how our health safety fares. If everything goes well and we feel confident in the results, the next step would be entering into Sunday musical offerings.

The plan at that time would be to keep our established Sunday boy and girl alternation - choristers without vestments, no processions and seated in the south transept with appropriate distance.
We will have this seating tested and practiced before attempting it in a service.

The adult singers would be seated without vestments, no processions on the opposite side of the church practicing safe distancing in the north transept.

Time will tell how this will work out. Small steps, careful observation and health safety will guide us through this time.

Some additional schedule notes:

Goggle Cal is up for 2020-2021 as is all the Sign Up Genius.
Please note - they are all set up for a normal season as a point of departure, that is the most complicated schedule.
For now, don't look - it isn't an active schedule - consider it a hoped for draft.

***SENIOR SUMMER HOMEWORK**

SUMMER HOMEWORK: Since we don't know what our schedule will be like in the fall. I'm placing links here for Seniors to "sing along" at home and keep the upcoming repertoire in their ears with the hopes the crisis will stabilize and we will be able to offer these beautiful works together soon.
[The music is all at this page](#)

Handel, Hallelujah!

[Tallis, If ye love me](#)

[Wesley, Lead me Lord](#)

Jacob, Brother James Air

[Mendelssohn, How lovely are the messengers](#)

[This is the day](#)

[Byrd, Haec dies](#)

[Batten, When the Lord...](#)
[Parker, Light's glittering m - too fast](#)
[Christus vincit - a little slow](#)
[BOYS - Rejoice in the Lamb](#)
[GIRLS: Te Deum in C](#)
[GIRLS: Haydn Insanne](#)
[Mathias Let the people....](#)
[Palestrina Ego sum](#)
[If ye love me, a little slow](#)
[Sing my Soul](#)
[Magnificat, Harold Friedell in F](#)
[Nunc Dimittis, Harold Friedell in F](#)

Has your chorister done their listening homework ? It's never too late. It would be great if they would listen some each week and get these wonderful pieces in their ears.

EVERYONE:

[Brand New Day from The Wiz Live](#)

[Brand New Day from "The Wiz" Movie version](#)

[Thomanerchor Leipzig "Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf" Johann Sebastian Bach](#)

[William Byrd "Sing Joyfully"](#)

FOR BOYS: Britten's [REJOICE IN THE LAMB](#)

FOR GIRLS: [Mendelssohn's Hear my prayer](#)

Britten's [A CEREMONY OF CAROLS](#)

*JUNIOR CHORISTER NEWS

What is a New Junior?

This is always a confusing time of year!
A New Junior is a 2nd grade Novice who has been promoted!
They keep the same schedule as before but now have a special title celebrating all their hard work.
In September they move to the "Junior" Tuesday schedule.
Please ask questions, I'm sorry it's so confusing.

HOMEWORK FOR ALL CHORISTERS: Look - Listen and Learn!

[LINK: The Concert on Sunday afternoon will be live streamed.](#)

[LINK: Sunday morning 11:00 live streamed.](#)

You can learn so much by listening and watching yourself in choir and.....enjoy your hard work and beautiful music making.
With parent's permission please listen and watch some of your work. You will learn a lot!

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***HIGH SCHOOL SINGER NEWS**

I hope you are all safe and sound and healthy. Take good care of yourselves and your families and listen to what they are saying. Please feel invited to tune in to the Zoom sessions when they are announced.

Young Ladies are welcome at all soprano rehearsals.

Young Men, write me, if you are interested we could make a special session for your voices and parts.

I miss you all!

***PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

SIGN UP GENIUS

Sign up genius has three links this year. Please note.

-Pandemic Parent Support for Rehearsals.

-Sunday and special choir event

Parent Helpers/Volunteers

-Tuesday Evensong choir parent helpers

-After School Vocal Coaching.

The links may be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

***SOCIAL MEDIA:**

INSTAGRAM

If you are interested in contributing to the choir Instagram account (or possibly taking it over) please contact me.

FACEBOOK

Follow us on Facebook:

Music at Grace Church in New York

***RECRUITING IS NEVER OVER!**

This is our slogan, so if anyone asks, it is never too late to join the choir family and be part of this special community as the music blooms.

Recruiting is never over and normally we would be starting that phase of the season now. The brochure has been posted to school families. If you know of families not at GCS who should receive it, let me know and I'll will include them.

The brochure and letter invites interest and communication and let's people know we will do the public side in September.

Help me spread the word that families interested in joining should email or call me so I can put them on the mailing list for information and to get them in the loop.

CHOIR ESSENTIALS

The Choir Word for 2019-2020 - **TEAMWORK!**

The L's of Choir:

Look - Listen - Learn - Lead!

The C's of Choir

Courtesy - Confidence - Communication - Care - Commitment - Clarity - Concentration. All of these build and care for our Choir C

Here is where you find all the Choir Schedules just click!

[Goggle Cal Link to all Choir Schedules](#)

Important Links:

[The Goggle Choir Schedule Calendar Link](#)

[Sign Up Genius for Choir Parent Volunteer Sign Link](#)

[Sign Up Genius for After School Vocal Coaching](#)

[Sign Up Genius Tuesday Night Parent Helpers](#)

LINK PANDEMIC PARENT SUPPORT FOR REHEARSALS SIGN UP GENIUS

Accessing the Secure Choir Family Area of the Music Website:

www.gracechurchnyc.org

CLICK: MUSIC

CLICK: login

User Name: helfenstein

Password:

Stanfordlives1894

Contact:

Patrick Allen

Music at Grace Church in New York

Facebook

Instagram

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A community for everyone celebrating
excellence in music and God's love for all!

The Reverend J. Donald Waring, Rector
The Reverend Julia Offinger, Associate Rector
The Reverend Thomas Szczerba, Assistant Rector
Patrick Allen, Organist and Master of Choristers
Rebecca Ehren, Organ Scholar

Contact the Choir
www.gracechurchnyc.org

STAY CONNECTED



Grace Church, 802 Broadway, New York, NY 10003

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