

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!



SPECIAL EDITION - JUNIOR/NOVICE START UP NEWS!
Wednesday 16 September 2020

Greetings all!
I hope your week is going smoothly.
Take time for extra rest, it's important during this period of transition and new beginnings.

On Tuesday 22 September The Junior Choristers will have their first afternoon rehearsal.
GCS Choristers will be dismissed with their classes and I or a Choir Parent will meet them at the Huntington Close Gate as they come out of the school. From there we will walk into the honor room to have our practice.

Practice will start with water and a snack and end at 4:00.

Choristers able to attend from outside GCS or GCS Choristers who are not at school that day should enter from Broadway at the Chantry Gate and come carefully into the honor room.

Step one: Wash your hands

Step two: Distancing come into the church and I or a Choir Parent Helper will seat you.

Step three: Your snack, water, music, pencil and face shield will be at the place I seat you having rested for 48-72 hours.

Please do not bring anything other than your school bag/laptop and a coat or sweater with you.

DO NOT place them in the honor room - take them to your seat as you are seated.

DO NOT come into the church until you have washed your hands.

KEEP YOUR MASK ON!

That is the end of the DO NOTS

THE DOS.....

Be safe

Enjoy being safely together

Go slow and respect safe distances

Let's pick up where we stopped and make music together.

TURN IN your participation waver form to PAllen, see below for the download.

PICK UP.....Parents see below for pick up. Basically we ask you to come to the church from Huntington Close, entering at the Honor Room Door to pick up your chorister.

They will be dismissed from their seats to avoid clumping and keep them at safe distances.

Once your chorister leaves GCS they cannot re enter until the next day. Parents should come to Huntington Close via the Broadway Gate. If it looks locked, push, it will be open. Please push it back as you enter to discourage anyone else from entering.

DETAILS:

Below is a list of the whole roll.

If anyone's name is missing or needs to be removed or corrected, just let me know.

I need to send an accurate copy to the teachers asap.

By Friday at noon, parents, please let me know if your child will attend Tuesday's rehearsal.

If plans change please email me when you know so I can notify GCS.

They will only dismiss approved choristers to me on Tuesday.

The Rehearsal will be Zoomed. If you can't make it, Zoom in!

Password if needed: 516484

You are also welcome to Zoom in the morning.

Password if needed: 922460

NOVICE NEWS: At the moment we have one boy novice signed up. This is understandable with all we have been through and all the transitions. Until we have more I'm going to ask him and his family to allow him to attend the Tuesday Jr. Rehearsal. Once we have a small group we can break out into sections again.

Should we have a really large group on Tuesday, I may open a second Jr. Rehearsal section to keep numbers smaller and ask the community to choose one day or another, but, we are not there yet.

ASK QUESTIONS, email, text and call. I love contact with you and it is the best way to find out what is planned, make suggestions and get the support you need. 917.733.5117

All my love and prayers, be safe, and relax into the new rhythms. Discover all the new possibilities that they bring. Look out for each other. Let your light shine. p

GIRLS Name	Grade
Eva Dixon	5th
Abby Gomez	5th
Annabelle Grace	5th
Grace Kepple	5th
Jun Ross	5th
Ainslie Theiss	5th
Kendall Theiss	5th
Lilly Coats	4th
Emily Goldthorpe	4th
Sofia Kirk Colombano	4th
Phebe Phojanakong	4th
Bellamy Stapleton	4th
Chloe Vincent	4th
Mila Blackwell	3rd
Nia Boyce	3rd
Cassie Chin	3rd
Mila Coats	3rd
Kiera Cryan	3rd
Lilly Dixon	3rd
Ruby Loening	3rd
Claire Min	3rd
Kaia Salvador-Bryers	3rd
Cece Whelan	3rd

BOYS Name	Grade	School
Pablo Bordes	4th	GCS-LS
Oliver Brown	4th	GCS-LS
Eamonn Hynes	4th	GCS-LS
Aditya Chanmugam	5th	Nord Anglia I.S.
Luca Viola	4th	GCS-LS
Cameron Fisser	3rd	GCS-LS
James Gomez	3rd	GCS-LS
Henry Moura	3rd	GCS-LS
Thatcher Olinick	3rd	GCS-LS
Luka Tanjga	3rd	GCS-LS
James West	3rd	GCS-LS
Jack Jedlicka	3rd	GCS-LS

BOYS Name	Grade	School
Grayson Hurd	2nd	GCS-LS

OLD MATERIAL FROM START UP NEWSLETTER FROM THIS POINT ON.....

Senior Chorister Mornings - begin Tuesday 15 September

Attend when you are on campus. You are divided into two "cohorts" by GCS.

Choristers who do not attend GCS are welcome anytime but parents, please email me by 5:00 p.m. the day before so I can prepare for the number of choristers attending each session. You are also welcome to identify with a "cohort" group to be on a regular schedule.

If you want to attend on a morning when you are "off campus" you are welcome as are all our choristers who do not attend GCS.

I only ask you email me the day before by 5:00 pm so I know the numbers and can be prepared for safe distancing for all.

We will begin using the Chantry, should our numbers prove too many for that space we will move into the church.

Enter at the Chantry Gate which will open at 7:15 a.m. (No Breakfast Club during the pandemic) Choir will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 8:25 a.m. You will depart the Chantry and walk around the block outside to enter the school and be checked in.

On your first day, your temperature will be taken as you enter and you will take a seat in the Chantry marked with a blue X.

Do not attempt to get your music or do anything else, we have to establish our "trails" of work so to speak.

Chantry Gate on Broadway opens at 7:15 a.m.

Choir begins at 7:30 a.m.

Chantry Gate is locked at 7:45 a.m.

Choir ends at 8:25, dismissal out the gate around the block to enter the school for check in.

When you arrive....

Enter the Chantry at the Huntington Close Honor Room Door, wash your hands in the bathroom, go to the Chantry and sit down on a blue X chair.

Do not bunch up, stay safe distanced.

Wear your mask and face shield.

We have extras if something goes wrong and you need one.

Keep anything you bring at your feet/chair, do not drop in the honor room.

Coats, etc. go on the back of the chair or around you. Not in the honor room.

Do not try to come in through the school.

If you have trouble getting in, call my cell phone: 917.733.5117, we will find you.

Afternoon Choir Sessions start Tuesday 22 September.

Each day they will begin after GCS dismissal. We are still working that procedure out.

Afternoon Choir will end each afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

Dismissal will be from the Honor Room to Huntington Close and out the Chantry Gate.

Once you leave GCS you must not attempt to re enter.

We continue to practice our flexible scheduling. If something doesn't work for you and something else can, be in touch and let's make a plan.

OLD Material from the last newsletter:

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.

EVEN OLDER ... REPEAT INFO from previous newsletters
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.

[Link for value pack \(you don't need to buy the value pack, they will sell you a small pack of 5\)](#)

https://www.amazon.com/Premium-Protective-Protect-Elastic-Comfort/dp/B087JVBI3J/ref=sr_1_4_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=face+shields&qid=1592068234&sr=8-4-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEzUTBNOU1DSU9GV0xNjY3J5cHRIZElkPUEwNjkyMjU3SUQ0RE9MWTJWV1U0jY3J5cHRIZEFkSWQ9QTA0MDQzMTgzN1FDQjdQQU9NN1ZQJndpZGldE5hbWU9c3BfYXRmJmEjZGlvbj1jbGlja1JZGlyZWNoJmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJlZQ==

[Link for 5 pack](#)

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08C9N1XYX/ref=sr_1_22_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=Premium+Face+Shield+with+Protective+Clear+Film+To+Protect+Eyes+and+Face+Full+Face+Shield+With+Elastic+Band+and+Comfort+Sponge+Dental+Face+Shield+For+Adults&qid=1595626862&sr=8-22-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEwNFNUWTRUQ1JlYkRNjY3J5cHRIZElkPUEwMDM2NTEwMTY0RjI1U0VoxTlM5RiZlbnNyeXB0ZWRRBZEikPUEwMjkyMTk2Mk1RSldPTTAxWlpBR53aWRnZXROYW1lPXNwX210ZiZlY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU="](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08C9N1XYX/ref=sr_1_22_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=Premium+Face+Shield+with+Protective+Clear+Film+To+Protect+Eyes+and+Face+Full+Face+Shield+With+Elastic+Band+and+Comfort+Sponge+Dental+Face+Shield+For+Adults&qid=1595626862&sr=8-22-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEwNFNUWTRUQ1JlYkRNjY3J5cHRIZElkPUEwMDM2NTEwMTY0RjI1U0VoxTlM5RiZlbnNyeXB0ZWRRBZEikPUEwMjkyMTk2Mk1RSldPTTAxWlpBR53aWRnZXROYW1lPXNwX210ZiZlY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU=)

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=L1lhNUFDMDjRXOFphSFpSdThWY1h2UT09>

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=OTBVVm01NXZqTVVyQ3RBOW8rVnRCZz09>

The pandemic period live choir training program will have two sides.

(1) 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.](#)

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 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.

***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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***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 Com

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

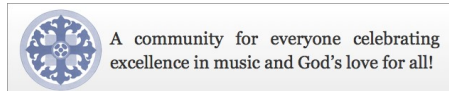
Contact:

Patrick Allen

Music at Grace Church in New York

Facebook

Instagram



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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