



## The Boys and Girls Choirs of Grace Church in New York

### *Choir Parent Orientation 2022 - 2022*

---

#### **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.

**A Note from P. Allen:** I want to thank every one of you for being part of the Choir Family. We are stewards of an amazing choral foundation! Our program is based on an ancient tradition, most recently in the past thousand years in England secured in the Cathedrals and Collegiate Chapels.

Our program is grounded in the Book of Common Prayer that affirms our respect of the dignity of all humanity. The choristers follow the ancient model of being the sopranos for professional choirs where adults sing the alto, tenor and bass parts. The experience a child receives in this type of training is unique and equips them in so many special ways for the rest of their life. With such a history, choirs over the past thousand years have experienced many challenges. This pandemic is ours at the moment. The structure of our daily choir life will support us all as we meet the challenges of the pandemic and the need for flexibility and change to keep everyone safe.

Part of what makes the program so special is the mentoring of the younger choristers by the older ones. That is why, throughout the program design, you will witness opportunities for the three training levels to overlap. That being written, please consider sending your novice or junior chorister in on a regular Sunday with the respective boys or girls senior choir several times a school term. That way, they can stand with the seniors and be immersed in the sound and practice of the older choristers.

I am also asking our Senior Families to send in their choristers to the novice and junior rehearsals several times each term, an/or to mentor a junior Evensong, a "junior" Sunday, or the Treble Concert. That "book buddy" musical relationship is essential for the musical and communal growth of our foundation. This is how we connect across the grades and years. It would be better if we can achieve this in spirit without rules than have to move towards more structure or required days.

Let's have fun, make great memories, and create beautiful music in this special anniversary season! It is once in all our lives to be part of this time! Let the music and fun flow! PA

## Program

### Three Tiers of Choristers

- Novices (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)
- Junior Choristers (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys)
- Senior Choristers Old and New (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys)

### Officers

- Optimus/Optima (Experienced older choristers who head their respective choirs)
- Lead Choristers (Experienced older choristers who support the Optimi)
- 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/ Assistant Organist* - under development

### Rehearsal, Services, and Concert Schedule

#### Pre-Season

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

**CHOIR CAMP, 2:00 to 6:30 pm. Strongly encouraged for all choristers who are back in town.**

The day starts with ice cream in the Yard. Come to 802 Broadway to enter and exit the building for Choir Camp.

and

**Parent Orientation Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Strongly encouraged for 1 parent.** Enter at 802 Broadway and meet in the Reception Room.

#### Rehearsal Schedule

##### Seniors

##### *Regular Schedule*

*Treble Boys:* Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:15-8:10am.

*Tenor and Bass Boys:* tbd. HS Boys talk to PA about what can work.

*Girls:* Wednesdays and Fridays 7:15-8:10am.

*Treble Boys and Girls:* Sundays 1:00-3:00 after most singing Sundays and some non-singing Sundays.

*High School Girls:* Sundays 1:00 - 3:00 when Senior Girls are having Sunday afternoon Rehearsals.

##### *Special Rehearsals:*

*Girls Only:* October 31, 1:00 - 3:00 for Britten Evensong and

December 11 1:15-3:30 Dress Reh. With Harp for Britten Evensong

*Senior Boys and Girls:* Thursday December 16 5:45-9:00pm for Christmas Eve,

Saturday April 16 8:45-10:30 am for Easter,

Sunday April 24 1:00 - 3:00 Concert Reh.,

Thursday April 28 5:45-9:00 pm for Concert.

May 1 & 22 1:00 - 3:00 for the Summer Concert Tour and Sunday morning June 5, Summer Tour

Choir sings the 11:00 a.m. service, 9:45 call.

## Juniors

### **Regular Schedule**

All: Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 Rehearsal, including most Tuesdays Evensong from 6:00-6:30

4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys: Thursdays 7:15-8:10am.

4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls: Fridays 7:15-8:10am

## Novices

### **Regular Schedule**

Boys: Thursday: 3:10-4:15

Girls: Wednesday: 3:10 - 4:15

**Juniors and Novices: there will be a special rehearsal schedule February 1 - 6 for the Concert of Music for Treble Voices and the Promotion of 3rd grade Novices** in preparation for the concert on February 6 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):**
  1. September 12: Beginning of 127<sup>th</sup> Season of Choirs
  2. November 21: Grace Church Sunday
  3. May 8: Mother's Day and Elevation of new Seniors
  4. June 12: End of 127<sup>th</sup> 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/Novice Only Sunday Services:**
  1. December 5: Juniors and Novices with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Seniors
  2. January 30: Juniors and Novices with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Seniors
  3. February 6, 4:00pm: Concert of Music for Treble Voices, Juniors and Novices
  4. May 15: Juniors and Novices with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Seniors
- **Required Choral Evensong Services (Seniors sing; Juniors and Novices process and attend):**  
**GIRLS: December 12 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 Day April 17, 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:** February 6<sup>th</sup>: Annual Concert of Music for Treble Voices featuring Novice and Junior Choristers, Promotion of 3rd grade Novices.
- **Seniors:** April 29: The Annual Spring Choir Concert and Reception

## **After School Choir Coaching and Voice Lessons**

- **Vocal Coaching:** 4 sessions fall semester and 6 spring semester and mandatory for Seniors and Optional for Juniors.
- **Sessions Offered:** Sopranos: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 and Fridays after dismissal for an hour. Shaving Club: tbd. Advance sign-up required.
- **Senior Mentoring counts towards vocal coaching credit. Every Senior should mentor at least 10 times over the whole season. These count as vocal coaching also.**
- **Sign Up: Use the Vocal Coaching Sign Up Genius Link that will go active in September.**

(See Website for more details.)

### **Trips, Special Projects and Recordings**

- *Trips.* A trip is planned every two to three years so that every chorister has a chance to go on a special concert tour. The Choir just completed a wonderful tour to Spain, It is anticipated that the next European Tour will occur this summer of 2022.  
*Details will be announced as it comes together.*

*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 affect 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](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)

CLICK: MUSIC (top of page),

Click on the Blue Titanic Rose

CLICK: Home (top of page)

Click: Login to Choir Family

User Name: helfenstein

Password: Stanfordlives1894

**CHOIR SCHEDULES 2021 – 2022:** REMEMBER Kathy's Link to our Goggle Doc Schedules, they are ready to go <https://gchoirsched.info/>

**VOCAL COACHING SIGN UP GENIUS 2021 – 2022:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4ba4a628abf94-after>

**TUESDAY JUNIOR REHEARSAL AND EVENSONG, PARENT HELPER SIGNUP:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba8ab2da3fc1-grace2>

**CHOIR PARENT SUNDAY AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS HELPER SIGNUP:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba8ab2da3fc1-choir>

## Code of Conduct

### Attendance

- *General.* Call or email if you cannot come. 212-254-2004 or [gracechoir1894@gmail.com](mailto:gracechoir1894@gmail.com)
- *Absences or Lateness.* Penalties apply unless excused
- *Leave of Absence.* Consult Handbook
- *Dates of Required Attendance for All Choristers.* 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

- Year Round - Choir Parent Helpers: Service Choir Parent Helper and Sunday Lunch, Evensong Helper
- 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
- February- Special Junior Concert and Reception
- April - Annual Easter Breakfast and Annual Spring 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

Rehearsal Schedule for the Annual Concert of Music for Treble Voices  
February 1 - 6, 2022

Required for all Novice and Junior Choristers and  
Senior Mentors

Tuesday:

3:00 – 4:15 Second, Third Grade Choristers  
5:00 – 6:30 Fourth and Fifth Grade Choristers

Wednesday to Friday

All Novice Choristers 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.  
Junior Choristers  
3:20 – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:45 – Noon

Dress Rehearsal for Concert – All Choristers Singing

Sunday Call at 2:15, Concert at 4:00

Senior Choristers not mentoring should attend and listen!

## Required Sundays for all Novice and Junior Choristers

September 12 Beginning of 127th Season of Choirs

Sunday Morning Call: 10:15 a.m.

November 21 Grace Church Sunday

Sunday Morning Call: 10:15 a.m.

December 5 - Novice and Junior Choristers with Senior Mentors - Service

Sunday Morning Call: 9:45 a.m.

December 5 - The Annual Christmas Party in the GCS Dining Hall (not required, but really fun!) 6:00 p.m.

December 12 Britten Evensong (Girls only  
arrive in time for the 4:00 service and sit with your parents)

January 30 - Novice and Junior Only Service Sunday Morning Call: 10:15 a.m.

February 6 - 4:00 pm Concert of Music for Treble Voices and the  
Promotion of Third Grade Novices.

February 6th Call: 2:15 p.m.

April 29, The Annual Choir Concert All Choristers REQUIRED.

Juniors sit with your families.

May 15 - Novice and Junior Only Service Sunday Morning Call: 9:45 a.m.

June 12 End of 127th Season, Choir Appreciation Sunday and Church Picnic

Sunday Morning Call: 10:15 a.m.