

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

### Choir Parent Orientation 2022 - 2023

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#### 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

## Rehearsal, Services, and Concert Schedule

### Pre-Season

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

**CHOIR CAMP, 1:30 to 4:30 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. On Zoom.**

### Rehearsal Schedule

#### Seniors

##### *Regular Schedule*

*Treble Boys:* Tuesdays and Thursdays Breakfast Club at 7:00 a.m., .7:20-8:10am.

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

*Girls:* Breakfast Club at 7:00 a.m., .7:20-8:10am.

*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:*

Boys Only: October 2, 1:00 - 3:00 for Britten Evensong

Girls Only: October 30, 1:00 – 3:00 for Britten Evensong and

*December 10, 1:15-3:30 Dress Reh.* With Harp for Britten Evensong

Senior Boys and Girls: Thursday December 15, 5:45-9:00pm for Christmas Eve, (HS Singers at 6:30).

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

Sunday April 16 & 23, 1:00 – 3:00 Concert Reh.,

Thursday April 27, 5:45-9:00 pm Dress Rehearsal for Concert.

(HS Singers at 6:30)

#### 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 Breakfast Club at 7:00 a.m., .7:20-8:10am.

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls: Fridays Breakfast Club at 7:00 a.m., .7:20-8:10am.

## Novices

### **Regular Schedule**

Boys: Thursday: 3:10-4:15

Girls: Wednesday: 3:10 – 4:15

*All Choristers: there will be a special rehearsal schedule February 7 - 12 for the Festival Concert of Music for Treble Voices and the Promotion of 3rd grade Novices in preparation for the concert on February 12 at 4:00.*

### **Service Attendance and Service Schedule**

- **Required Sundays for All Choristers (Seniors, Juniors and Novices):**
  1. September 11: Beginning of 128<sup>th</sup> Season of Choirs
  2. November 20: Grace Church Sunday
  3. February 12, 4:00pm: Festival Concert of Music for Treble Voices
  4. Friday 28 April, 7:00 p.m. Annual Spring Concert and Reception
  5. May 14: Mother's Day and Elevation of new Seniors
  6. June 11: End of 128<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 4: Juniors and Novices with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Seniors
  2. January 29: Juniors and Novices with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Seniors
  3. May 21: Juniors and Novices with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Seniors
  
- **Required Choral Evensong Services (Seniors sing; Juniors and Novices participate, process and attend):**

**BOYS: Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, Britten Rejoice in the Lamb 4:00 p.m., call at 2:45 p.m.**  
**GIRLS: December 12 Britten Ceremony of Carols 4:00 p.m., call at 2:45 p.m.**
  
- **Required Holiday Services (Seniors Only):**

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols December 24 8:00pm,  
Easter Day April 9, 9:00 and 11:00 am services.

### **Concerts (Required for all Choristers)**

February 12<sup>th</sup>: Annual Festival Concert of Music for Treble Voices and Promotion of 3rd grade Novices.  
April 28: 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 going to Ireland 17-24 June, 2022, It is anticipated that the next European Tour will occur this summer of 2025.

*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 2022 – 2023:** REMEMBER Kathy's Link to our Goggle Doc Schedules, they are ready to go <https://gchoirsched.info/>

**VOCAL COACHING SIGN UP GENIUS 2022 – 2023:**

<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 7 - 12, 2023  
Required for all Choristers

Tuesday:

3:00 – 4:30 Second, Third Grade Choristers  
5:00 – 6:30 Fourth - Eighth Grade Choristers

Wednesday to Friday

All Novice Choristers 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
Junior & Senior 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

**Safe Church - Grace Church is committed to providing its members, staff, and visitors a place that is free of abuse and harassment.**

**If you have observed, or personally experienced sexual or other forms of harassment, or other concerning behavior while attending activities, classes, or events held at Grace Church, or on our shared campus with Grace Church School, we encourage you to notify us.**

**Please visit <https://gracechurchnyc.org/safechurch/> where you will find a direct means of providing feedback.**

## Required Sundays for all Novice and Junior Choristers

September 11 Beginning of 128th Season of Choirs  
Sunday Morning Call: 10:15 a.m.

October 16 at 2:45 for 4:00 Evensong (Boys only)

November 20 Grace Church Sunday  
Sunday Morning Call: 10:15 a.m.

December 4 - Novice and Junior Choristers with Senior Mentors - Service  
Sunday Morning Call: 9:45 a.m.

December 4 - The Annual Christmas Party in the GCS Dining Hall (not required, but really fun!) 6:00 p.m.

December 7 - Wednesday, The Community Carol Sing in the Church  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.

December 11 Britten Evensong  
(Girls only, call at 2:45 for 4:00 Evensong)

January 29 - Novice and Junior Only Service Sunday Morning Call: 10:15 a.m.

February 12 - 4:00 pm Festival Concert of Music for Treble Voices and the  
Promotion of Third Grade Novices.  
Call: 2:15 p.m.

April 28, The Annual Choir Concert All Choristers  
call 5:45 p.m.

May 21 - Novice and Junior Only Service Sunday Morning Call: 9:45 a.m.

June 11 End of 128th Season, Choir Appreciation Sunday and Church Picnic  
Sunday Morning Call: 10:15 a.m.