



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



The Choir Family News

The Choirs of Grace Church in New York

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***P. Allen Greetings -**

Happy Friday and start to October everyone. I don't ever remember a September flying by so quickly. Try to slow down, be safe and careful. I don't know about you, but I find all the complexities of interaction more difficult now than a year ago. The number of wild cards has greatly increased. In my mind a vaccine makes you immune to a sickness, but this is different, the science keeps changing and while we are safer with the vaccine, we don't seem to be protected from getting the virus.

**Be especially careful with the socialization of the children.
If it's hard for us to grasp imagine what it's like for them.**

I find it difficult to keep them distanced at moments where it's critical for them like during snack when they take their masks down.

During our work time, they separate and fall into place perfectly. I'm so proud of them. Rehearsals are very exciting.

NOVICE FAMILIES - Love and prayers for safety and health as the second grade lives through their quarantine period. I hope everyone gets through safe and well. On Wednesday and Thursday next week October 6/7 you can **zoom into choir** between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. - with your parents permission.

Zoom Choir Room

Passcode if needed: 264442

Novice Song Book for Rehearsal

QUESTION for Senior Girl and HS/Alumni Girl Families:

We need to have the Sunday afternoon rehearsal on 31 October (1:00 - 3:00).

It's the big sing through with the Adult ladies of the Britten Ceremony of Carols, preparing for that offering in December.

Believe it or not, that is the only opportunity to have that rehearsal and having not offered it last year, it's essential.

If you think it a bad idea, please let me know.

We may have to postpone the Britten until 2023 if we don't have a strong enough turn out on the 31st.

Let me know your thoughts.

JUNIOR FAMILIES - Love and prayers to our fifth graders for healing, safety and wellness. With all the disruptions from Covid and the adjustments to work rhythm I'd like to postpone the formal start to offering Evensong on Tuesdays for a while.

Until Evensong resumes, please feel extra invited to come early for pick up and sit out in the church to meditate and listen to the choristers. I'll give a heads up when we are ready to begin Evensong, but small slow steps will grow the most beautiful musical and spiritual offerings. If your chorister is home next week they are welcome to **zoom into choir** on Wednesday and or Thursday and sing along!

HS young men - I'd love to start up the shaving club again and offer training for your new voices and learn old repertoire in the new registers and parts you will sing. Let me know of your interest and schedules and we can build something.

The Choir Steering Committee had a great meeting last Friday via Zoom. We began the preparation for a summer 2022 concert tour to Europe (Berlin/Poland) just after graduation/school closing and before the camp start ups, discussed the annual Thanksgiving Pie sale and what form it will take this season and as always

talked about recruiting which is never over. A fantastic meeting.

Thank you everyone.

New families, don't be shy to ask questions and to reach out to families with some choir history. We are building a new community rhythm this year, everyone has a part to play in giving it joy, smiles and life. Let the music bloom.

Enjoy this autumn weather, be safe and have a blessed Weekend.

Big hug, love and smiles, p.

***THIS WEEKEND: Sunday Morning 3 October**

Sunday 3 October, Senior Boys Only Singing (Required)

(In a few weeks we may begin including novice and junior boys)

10:00 Call, enter at the main doors of the church being sensitive to the people exiting from the 9:00 service.

Turn Right and come to the South Transept to Vest. I'll meet you there. Choristers who attended choir camp and Fridays rehearsal, your robes will be in the church, do not go in the honor room.

Choristers not yet vested, go into the honor room to be vested. Stay six feet apart.

Warm Up will be in the Church.

11:00 Service done around 12:15.

Lunch in the Honor Room/Huntington Close as weather permits.

Senior Boys Rehearsal in the Church until **2:00 p.m.** Exit from the main Broadway Doors.

NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday:

7:00 a.m. Enter at Chantry Broadway Gate.

7:20 - 8:10 a.m. Senior Boy Rehearsal

At GCS Dismissal, After School Vocal Coaching by sign up genius(see below) until 4:30 p.m.

4:45 - 5:00 p.m. Junior Chorister Snack time in the Honor Room.

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Junior Chorister Rehearsal (Boys and Girls 4 - 5th grades) with Senior Mentors. *(Enter and Exit, GCS Gate to Huntington Close and Broadway Chantry Gate)* (No Evensong)

Wednesday:

7:00 a.m. Enter at Chantry Broadway Gate.

7:20 - 8:10 a.m. Senior Girls Rehearsal

At GCS Dismissal, Novice Chorister Rehearsal in the Chantry to 4:00 p.m. (Girls, 2nd and 3rd grades) with Senior Mentors

Pick up in Huntington Close/Honor Room, enter at the Chantry Broadway Gate.

Thursday:

7:00 a.m. Enter at Chantry Broadway Gate.

7:20 - 8:10 a.m. **Junior** and Senior Boys Rehearsal

It is so important for the Junior Choristers to have this rehearsal time together with the Senior Choristers, please make an effort, all Junior Boys need to attend.

At GCS Dismissal, Novice Chorister Rehearsal in the Chantry to 4:00 p.m. (Boys, 2nd and 3rd grades) with Senior Mentors

Pick up in Huntington Close/Honor Room, enter at the Chantry Broadway Gate.

Friday:

7:00 a.m. Enter at Chantry Broadway Gate.

7:20 - 8:10 a.m. **Junior** and Senior Girls Rehearsal

It is so important for the Junior Choristers to have this rehearsal time together with the Senior Choristers, please make an effort, all Junior Girls need to attend.

No Afterschool Vocal Coaching today as it's a Holiday Weekend.

Sunday 10 October, GCS Holiday Weekend, Adult Choir singing

COMING UP:

Sunday 17 October, Senior Girls and HS Singers Only Singing (Required for Seniors)
(In a few weeks we may begin including novice and junior boys)

10:00 Call, enter at the main doors of the church being sensitive to the people exiting from the 9:00 service.

Turn Right and come to the South Transept to Vest. I'll meet you there. Choristers who attended choir camp and Fridays rehearsal, your robes will be in the church, do not go in the honor room.

Choristers not yet vested, go into the honor room to be vested. Stay six feet apart.

Warm Up will be in the Church.

11:00 Service done around 12:15.

Lunch in the Honor Room/Huntington Close as weather permits.

Senior Girls Rehearsal in the Church until **2:00 p.m.** Exit from the main Broadway Doors.

***All things Covid....**

We follow the guidelines and protocols established by Grace Church School.

* Everyone over the age of 12 must be vaccinated a minimum of two weeks prior to first rehearsal.

*Anyone ineligible for the vaccine or under 12 must have had a negative covid test not more than 72 hours prior to first rehearsal. If your child is a Grace Church School student, their school test submission is sufficient. If your child attends another school, please submit negative test results here.

Update from NY State via B. Reilly 28 August 2021

Covid Update from GCS, George Davison 24 August 2021

*Masks will be worn at all times indoors.

*When singing a six foot distance will be maintained between singers.

Important Links:

[General Choir Orientation Materials 2021-2022](#)

[Jr/Novice Orientation Materials 2021 - 2022](#)

[Senior Boys Information at a glance 2021 - 2022](#)

[Junior Boys Information at a glance 2021 - 2022](#)

[Novice Boys Information at a glance 2021 - 2022](#)

[Senior Girls Information at a glance 2021 - 2022](#)

[Junior Girls Information at a glance 2021 - 2022](#)

Novice Girls Information at a glance 2021 - 2022

The Choir Handbook.

The Handbook was created when we revised the whole training curriculum of the choir many years ago.

Creating the Handbook was the original reason to establish the Choir Steering Committee which has continued to be so much a part of our life since that time. It was once passed out each new season, but went green and onto the website where it still lives in the choir family area.

The Handbook defines our community, our purpose, who we are and how we are organized. At the time we thought that this would help focus our purpose and commitment to one another as the choir community and it worked brilliantly. It's content lies at the foundation of all we are and do. I just remind all of it's presence and purpose. It is always there for you to review.

***PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! SIGN UP GENIUS**

Sign up genius has three links this year.

- 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.

Help 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 2021-2022 - BEAUTY!

The Choir Words for 2020-2021 - SAFTEY and FLEXIBILITY!

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 Community.**

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

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

[Choir Handbook](#)

***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](#)

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](#)

[Contact the Choir](#)

A Community for everyone celebrating excellence in Music and God's love for all!



Grace Church | 802 Broadway, New York, NY 10003

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