



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 -**

Here we go, this Sunday brings us to the middle of Advent, the season of light and preparation for new beginnings, for new creation and unlimited possibilities.

At this stage of the pandemic,
this seems more vital than I can remember.
Put on your armor of light,
renew hope and faith in Love and REJOICE.

This Sunday known as Rose Sunday for the pink candle
in the Advent Wreath bears the theme
GAUDATE - or - REJOICE.

I rejoice in you, in our community and that together in Love
we can heal the world and let our light shine. Love, p.

Give the gift of a smile today and watch the light grow brighter.
Fa la la la la and Joy to the world.

***THIS WEEKEND:**

Saturday 11 December: 1:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Dress Rehearsal for Britten Evensong - "A Ceremony of Carols"
ALL SENIOR GIRLS REQUIRED
All HS Singers/Alumni singing need to attend this rehearsal
In the Church - enter through the main doors
1:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Sunday: 12 December morning, The Choir of Men and Boys
(Required for all Senior Choristers, Novice and Junior Choristers optional)

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

Warm Up will be in the Church.
11:00 Service done around 12:15.
No Lunch or afternoon rehearsal.

**Sunday: 12 December afternoon, The Girls' Choir with HS Singers/Alumni and
Adults Women from the Adult and Parish Choirs.**
Britten, A Ceremony of Carols, Evensong.
4:00 p.m. service in the church.
All Seniors Required.
All Novice and Junior Girls should attend and listen with their families.
Senior Call at 2:15 p.m.
Enter through the main doors on Broadway.

The Virtual Thanksgiving Pie Sale 2021

**Please join me in thanking Karen Gorman and Sunshine Gola for chairing our annual
November fundraiser for the Choir Special Projects Fund.**

**In our second pandemic season effort, The Virtual Pie Sale is High Tech and 0
Calories as it grows the resources of the Special Projects Fund to support
opportunities for the Choristers. Every Choir Family is supported by this fund.**

**Send the link and the opportunity to join in the fun and support of the choirs to
everyone you know!**

NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday:

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

7:20 - 8:10 a.m. Senior Boy Rehearsal (Girls Welcome)

All Choir Afternoon Activities are on recess until January.

We started doing this years ago to pace ourselves and all the youngest choristers through the holidays to keep everyone in good cheer, good health and to really enjoy all the special opportunities that break forth this time of year.

Wednesday:

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

7:20 - 8:10 a.m. Senior Girls Rehearsal (Boys Welcome)

Thursday:

All morning practices are completed for 2021. You did it! Bravo everyone.

You are the covid pioneers! You are the foundation for the future as we heal and grow back from this time of pandemic.

Thursday:

Dress Rehearsal for the 12/24 Carol Service.

REQUIRED OF ALL SENIOR CHORISTERS, HS SINGERS and ALUMNI

Who will sing the service. It is essential you be present.

Call for everyone is 5:45. Enter at 802 Broadway.

If you will be late - make a plan for how to enter with P. Allen. 917.733.5117.

Rehearsal ends at 9:00 p.m.

Pick up at 802 Broadway.

NEXT NEXT WEEK:

Friday 12/24, Christmas Eve.

Call for the Carol Service is 6:45 p.m.

8:00 p.m. Service.

COMING UP:

Saturday 11 December, Dress Rehearsal for the Britten Evensong, all Girl choristers singing the Evensong, required. 1:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Sunday 12 December, The Choir of Men and Boys singing at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday 12 December, A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten

The Girls' Choir with HS Singers, Alumni and Adults, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday 16 December, DRESS REHEARSAL REQUIRED for ALL Senior Choristers, HS Singers and Alumni who will sing the Carol Service at 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve.

5:45 - 9:00 p.m. in the Church.

Friday 24 December at 8:00 p.m. A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

ALL SENIOR CHORISTERS REQUIRED, H.S Singers and Alumni

6:45 p.m. Call in the Church.

THOUGHTS ON REHEARSAL ATTITUDE AND DISCIPLINE, COMING OUT OF LOCK DOWN AND LIVING INTO AND PAST THE PANDEMIC...

Flexibility and Participation: As we live into the flexibility built into the training program to support our contemporary lifestyle, it is important to remember the

benefits of regular work and training discipline.

Covid blew it all away, we went very relaxed to keep connections and momentum alive during the height of the pandemic.

As things begin to transition to the new normal we all need to be conscious about rebuilding and teaching as the rhythm resumes and takes its new form.

Please take good care that we not get so flexible that we throw the baby out with the bath water. I don't ask for time we don't need. Starting late, cutting short doesn't work in choir as there is no make up possible. Once lost, the opportunity is lost. The voice isn't trained, the music doesn't get learned.

Our tradition is one of constant offering, we may be described as a repertoire choir. The music blooms day in, day out, week end, week out, never ceasing.

The music being learned isn't for one time at end of term, but is repertoire offered at home and abroad over generations, that is part of what builds the strength of the choir and this special tradition. Within the repetition comes new voices that make it their own and of course new compositions to grow the repertoire.

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC FOR TREBLE VOICES 1-6 FEBRUARY, 2022

Festival of Music for Treble Voices with Dr. Barry Rose
February 1 - 6 2022

I'd like to make this post lock down revival of the festival special this year and ask everyone to do their best to participate.
EVERYONE.

With the young age of the choir right now, we are rebuilding our team, our sound, our repertoire.

Many have not experienced Dr. Rose or the Festival.
SO.....this year all choristers are hoped for.

In the past Seniors mentored, but it was totally focused on the Novices and Juniors. This year we will focus on everyone. So, mark the week on your calendar. The preliminary details under the old model were in your orientation materials.

Here is the revised, hoped for schedule:

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

Tuesday:

3:00 – 4:15 Second, Third Grade Choristers
5:00 – 6:30 Fourth through every Grade Above 3rd Choristers

Wednesday to Friday

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

Fourth through every Grade Above 3rd Choristers
3:20 – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:45 – Noon

Dress Rehearsal for Concert – All Choristers Singing
Absolutely required to be able to sing the concert.

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

HS Singers invited to participate and mentor as much as they are able.
Let me know when you are coming (even day of)
so I can be prepared with your music and seat.

How I met Dr. Rose, a little more info.....

SUMMER TOUR CORNER:

The Summer Tour planning process has begun.

Out dates:

Assembling in the designated location for an opening dinner on 17 June.

Final dinner before departure on 24 June.

The winning destinations: Berlin - Krakow

Our Tour Company is working on the concert venues at the moment, a little slow due to many places still adjusting their Covid opening up/closing down/reopening up and trying to anticipate next summer's possibilities.

Once we have done some polishing and other work and have important dates and information a kick off meeting either live or via zoom (tbd) will be announced.

Please be thinking if your family will participate.

Ask P. Allen and members of our Mighty Tour Planning Committee lots of questions, don't be shy. The more we communicate the better the planning and quicker the planning will go.

Big Shout Out to our Planning Committee!

Marlaine Olinick

Karen Gorman

Mary Cannon

Veronica Maginnis

Tunde Csonka

The Tour Committee oversees and coordinates, we all participate in the work and offering of the tour, so see them as your resource and be prepared to volunteer to help with the many tasks involved in producing a concert tour. It's so fun!

*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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