



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 -**

**Good morning everyone, I hope your week back after the Holiday was smooth sailing. We have a fun and busy weekend ahead.**

**The Choral Society Concert tonight and tomorrow afternoon.**

Our annual Christmas Party back after a year off and reborn with good cheer and imagination - moved to Saturday afternoon at 4:30 in Huntington Close with warm cozy and delicious yummys and Caroling for all. 4:30 - enter at the Broadway Gate. See below for details.

Sunday morning at 11:00, the novice and junior boy and girl choristers take over the musical leadership of the morning service as the seniors participate in the GCS Tech Weekend preparations for the School play.

10:00 Call, same drill as GCS Sunday.

No lunch or senior rehearsal after church.

All Seniors not in the play along with HS Singers are most cheerfully invited to come sing and be our mentors. A very important leadership role.

4:00 p.m. Sunday, The Adult Choir will offer an Advent Procession with Carols in the Church. Come, meditate and enter into the season with this beautiful hour of prayer and music.

Then.....Next Week - the schedule changes - there are no afternoon choir activities/rehearsals until the new year. Over the years we have discovered together when things are added, something has to be taken away. With the holidays and all the traditions, performances, assemblies and all that everyone enjoys, something has to give to keep us safe, rested and sound.

Next Sunday at 4:00 p.m. A Ceremony of Carols will be offered during Choral Evensong by The Senior Girls with HS Singers, Alumni and Ladies from the Adult Choir. Nancy Allen (no relation but a great friend) will play the harp. Nancy is a member of the New York Philharmonic, a wonderful musician. It is a great honor to have her with us.

It's the season of light! So.....Let your light shine, heal the world with a smile. Big hug, smiles and love, have a beautiful day and sing a few fa la la la las. Love, p.

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**\*THIS WEEKEND:**

Saturday 4 December, 4:30 p.m. in Huntington Close.  
The Choir Christmas Party - see below! ho ho ho!

Sunday 5 December, Novice and Junior Choristers from The Choir of Men and Boys and the Girls' Choir with Senior and HS Mentors.  
(Required for all Novice and Junior Choristers)

10:00 Call, enter at the main doors of the church being sensitive to the people exiting from the 9:00 service. Follow the same drill we used for GCS Sunday.

Warm Up will be in the Church.  
11:00 Service done around 12:15.

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**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!

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**NEXT WEEK:**

**Tuesday:**

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

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

**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**

**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.**

**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.**

**Afternoon - Church Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - see pageant schedules.**

**Saturday:**

**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.**

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**THE CHOIR CHRISTMAS PARTY, SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER at 4:30 p.m.**

**Please join us for the Choir family Christmas party.  
This year we will be caroling in Huntington Close  
on Saturday, December 4th at 4:30pm.**

**Enter at the Broadway Gate to Huntington Close at the Chantry Sign**

**We will be having hot chocolate and treats to mark the occasion.**

**Please sign-up [here](#) to bring something and  
please RSVP to [vmagin@gmail.com](mailto:vmagin@gmail.com). Thank you!**

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#### **COMING UP:**

**Saturday 4 December, The Annual Choir Christmas Party  
in Huntington Close, 4:30 p.m.**

**Sunday 5 December, Novice and Junior Choristers leading the 11:00 a.m. service.  
Required for all novice and junior Choristers. Senior, HS and Alumni Mentors are  
most welcome.**

**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.**

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#### **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.**

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## 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.....

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### 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!

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\*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.

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**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

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### 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.

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### **\*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.

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### **\*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

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### **\*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.

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### **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](#)**

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**\*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](http://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!*



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