



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 -**

Greetings and Happy Friday everyone.

It is with real sadness that I have to let you know Dr. Rose cannot be with us for the Festival next month. Taking everything into account he has made a wise decision not to travel from Somerset where he lives.

He and Mrs. Rose are doing very well, are safe and sound and the cows still go up and down the Milking Lane every day. All is good. Really - he lives on the Milking Lane of

his village.
It's beautiful there.

While we will miss him, we can do our part by making this the best festival ever and sing with all our hearts and love for what Dr. Rose has given us for these past 12 Festivals and all the lessons and rehearsals he has shared. We will do him proud and he will be able to watch and listen in on the live stream! See details below, we will make a few adjustments in the week to support the necessary changes to the festival.

Parents to make the revised festival safe and run smoothly I need your help.
Please consider signing up for an hour as a choir parent volunteer. I need help all week. We will need extra help on Saturday and Sunday putting on and hanging up our vestments for the photo shoot and concert.

The Choir Steering Committee had a magnificent meeting this morning. We discussed the Festival and our passionate support of all it brings to our lives and musical adventures together and we discussed the upcoming proposed Choir Tour. Look on Saturday for a special email blast with information and a survey for you to fill out about the tour.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday weekend. Light a candle for the Civil Rights Movement and do something over the holiday that makes that light brighter.

Love, hugs and so many smiles, Patrick

Most up to date Covid Protocol Information
(based on the communication issued by GCS this afternoon)

Return from Positive Test Quarantine

Fully vaccinated people who test positive for Covid-19 must quarantine and isolate. They may return to in-person after **five days** from the date of their positive test (day zero) if they are symptom free, have had no fever for 24 hours and are feeling well.

Counting days begins from the date of the positive test, which is day zero. On the sixth day, students may return if they are symptom free, have had no fever for 24 hours and are feeling well.

Return from Household Quarantine

If a fully vaccinated person lives with someone who tests positive for Covid-19, they can return after five days if they are symptom free AND present a negative test taken after the fifth day.

Exposure

Fully vaccinated choristers who are vaccinated and boosted who are exposed to Covid-19 by a contact from outside of their household do not have to quarantine. They must monitor their symptoms closely and get tested on the fifth day from exposure.

Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated people who are exposed as a close contact (indoors, unmasked for 15 or more minutes in a 24-hour period), must quarantine for 5 days.

Masking

Masks will continue to be required at all times. All members of the community should wear properly fitting KN95, N95, or surgical masks moving forward. The data suggest that these masks provide much more protection than cloth masks especially against the more contagious Omicron variant. These masks are readily available at drug stores and from online retailers.

***THIS WEEKEND:**

Sunday: 16 January:

Morning, The Adult Choir.

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.

At GCS Dismissal, After School Vocal Coaching by sign up genius(see below) until 4:00 p.m.

COMING UP:

Sunday 23 January, The Choir of Men and Boys singing at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday 30 January, The Combined Novice and Jr Choristers with Senior and HS Mentors singing at 11:00 a.m. The promotion of 3rd grade novices to Junior!

Sunday 6 February, The Adult Choir singing at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday 6 February, The Annual Concert of Music for Treble Voices with Dr. Barry Rose and the promotion of Third Grade Novices to Junior at 4:00 p.m.

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

Here is the revised, hoped for schedule:

The promotion of 3rd grade Novices to Juniors will take place at the 11:00 a.m. Service on Sunday 30 January rather than at the concert. The Novices and Juniors are already scheduled to sing that morning (2nd time of the 3!)

The Senior Girls were originally scheduled to sing on Sunday morning 6 February. That is cancelled, the Adults will sing in the morning. All Girls and HS Singers should sing and support the Festival Concert that afternoon.

There will be no morning rehearsals the week of February 1 - 4 we will put all our energy and focus into the afternoon sessions. All Choristers are expected to participate.

Parents to make the revised festival safe and run smoothly I need your help. Please consider signing up for an hour as a choir parent volunteer. I need help all week. We will need extra help on Saturday and Sunday putting on and hanging up our vestments for the photo shoot and concert.

Choristers coming from GCS during the week will enter from GCS, Huntington Close gate.

Choristers coming from outside GCS should enter at 802 Broadway and come into the Church via the font/north aisle door.

Pick up will be from the Honor Room into Huntington Close and out to the Broadway Gate. The Gate will be unlocked at both dismissal times but remain locked otherwise.

**Call, don't text, P. A.'s cell if you can't get in. He won't see texts.
917-733-5117**

**Revised 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 through Friday
All Novice Choristers (Grades 2 and 3) 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

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

Saturday 9:45 – Noon

Enter and Exit from the Broadway/Chantry Gate:

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

Annual Yearbook Photos to be taken towards the end of the rehearsal.

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

Enter and Exit from the main doors of the Church on Broadway

No Reception after the concert this year due to covid safety.

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.

Choir Parent Helper Sign up Link

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
Look on Saturday for a special email blast with information and a survey for you to fill out about the tour.

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.**

Most Recent Update: 7 January based on the communication issued today by GCS.

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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](#)

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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