



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

- *P. Allen Greetings**
- *This Weekend - Sunday 9 January**
- *Most up to date Covid Information**
- *Next Week**
- *Thoughts on rehearsal attitude and discipline**
- *Festival of Music for Treble Voices 1 - 6 February, 2022**
- *Summer Concert Tour 2022 Info Corner**
- *All things Covid**
- *Recruiting Season for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023**
- *Choir Schedules**
- *Parent Volunteers Needed! Sign Up Genius**
- *Social Media: Instagram & Facebook**
- *Recruiting**
- *Essentials**
- *Important Links**

***P. Allen Greetings -**

Happy New Year to all and love and prayers for a Holy and Brilliant Season of Epiphany.

Yesterday, 6 January is celebrated by the church as the Feast of the Epiphany.

For some, Orthodox Christmas, for some the day by tradition when the Three Kings arrived at the manger and presented the infant Jesus with their gifts.

It is the season of Light and Revelation for all.

At this time when so many are struggling with the darkness of the pandemic and all that goes with it, I pray for you all to be agents of beauty and light and to turn it into a time of meditation and revelation. Be inspired for all things to become new, refreshed and find the silver lining in these challenging days. These revelations and blessings are everywhere and abundant.

I see and experience them in each of you!

I know reading emails are a challenge, in these days ahead we will be fast on our feet and things will adjust quickly so we can thrive and stay safe and well. Keep an eye on the schedule!

Big hug, love, smiles and warmest wishes for the best new year yet.
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: 9 January:

Morning, The Adult Choir, No Choristers as previously schedule.

NO Lunch today.

Afternoon: 1:00 - 3:00 in the Church.

Senior Boy and Girl with HS Singers combined rehearsal.

Enter and leave the Church 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.

At GCS Dismissal, After School Vocal Coaching by sign up genius(see below) until

4:00 p.m. Usually we cancel on Holiday Weekends, but if anyone (at least two) want to work, I would love to offer it.

COMING UP:

Sunday 16 January, The Adult Choir singing at 11:00 a.m.

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.

Sunday 6 February, The Girls' Choir, HS Singers with Adults 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

**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.**

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

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.

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

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by gracechoir1894@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!