

ALL SOULS'

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHORISTER HANDBOOK
2019-2020

1475 CATALINA BLVD. SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA

THE MISSION OF THE ALL SOULS' CHORISTER PROGRAM IS TO:

- Provide solid musical instruction in a friendly and fun environment of mutual respect and achievement;
- Create an opportunity for children to grow in musical and spiritual strengths that nurture their growth;
- Provide children of diverse abilities and backgrounds with a program of music appreciation and choral performance that seeks to fulfill each child's musical potential.

BECOMING A CHORISTER

- Children may join at any time;
- New choristers enter as probationers then are promoted to full choristers upon showing a longstanding commitment to the program.
- Email the Director of the Music to arrange an informal audition and interview;
- No prior training or experience is expected or required;
- The program is offered at no cost to participating families who show commitment to the choir schedule;
- Children of any religious affiliation, or no affiliation, welcome;
- Regular attendance at rehearsals and scheduled services is expected;
- A small stipend, based on leadership and performance, is paid each chorister, emphasizing the seriousness of the commitment to the choir.

FAMILY SUPPORT OF THE CHORISTER

The All Souls' Chorister Program depends on parental support and encouragement is essential! During the course of the choir season, the chorister will experience many high points and exciting opportunities. Parents and family members can provide praise and share in the joy and satisfaction of these achievements.

Parents need to provide the chorister with encouragement and support during those times when he or she may be tired or need a boost in maintaining a positive attitude.

Parental attendance at chorister events is strongly encouraged as choristers seem to especially blossom when parents attend services and concerts in which they sing.

The chorister program is dependent on volunteers. Parents are invited to support by assisting with recruitment, vestment care, transportation, fundraising, and other such activities.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Weekly Thursdays: 4-5.30pm (Choir Room)

Occasionally, there are additional rehearsals planned to prepare for busy periods such as at Christmas and Holy Week/Easter. The Director of the Music will always make these rehearsals known well in advance.

CHOIR SINGING SUNDAYS

Singing Sundays are on the 3rd Sunday of every month. A Singing Sunday may be the Sunday morning Eucharist, or the afternoon Evensong.

COMMUNICATION AND ATTENDANCE

At no time is a child to be absent from any rehearsal or service without informing the Director of the Music. **Three unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the program.** We are a team and we are only complete when everyone is here. It is important not to let your teammates down! **Singing Sundays are mandatory.** A child may not miss a Sunday service for any reason other than illness or emergency without permission from the Director of the Music.

CONDUCT AT REHEARSALS AND SERVICES

- No talking during rehearsal;
- For important questions, raise your hand;
- Do your absolute best at all times;
- No food or drink (except water);
- Make sure you have the correct music before rehearsal begins;
- Arrive early for the beginning of rehearsals, and services;
- Put music away after end of rehearsal;
- Be respectful to all materials.
- Following services, all vestments must be put away neatly.
- Strive to be a helpful team leader at all times.
- Bullying and insubordinate behavior will not be tolerated, and may result in an immediate dismissal for the day.
- Electronic devices such as cell phones are not permitted during rehearsals or services. (*excluding an emergency*). If these items are discovered during rehearsals and services, they will be taken and may only be retrieved by a parent or guardian.

Immediate behavior concerns will be addressed via a phone call to parents.

PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS

Every chorister in the chorister program will receive up to 4 mini-voice lessons over a three-month period from one of the All Souls' staff voice instructors. These 5-10 minute lessons will be given during chorister rehearsals with the intent of exploring each child's vocal potential.

CHOIR TRIPS

Only choristers who have shown outstanding work will be invited to join the RSCM Northwestern Summer Course. *This special choir trip is paid for in FULL by the All Souls' chorister program.*

STANDARDS SYSTEM

The standards system reflects attendance, attitude, and the quality of participation in all chorister activities. A chorister may earn up to five standards at every rehearsal. *This system will determine the chorister's monthly stipend.*

- 5 Chorister is always focused, shows leadership and a positive attitude and sets a good example for other choristers.
- 4 Chorister is mostly focused, shows leadership and a positive attitude and sets a good example for other choristers.
- 3 Chorister is focused some of the time and needs to set a better example for other choristers.
- 2 Chorister is mostly unfocused and does not set a good example for others.
- 1 Chorister is in attendance but is uncooperative, unfocused and sets a poor example for other choristers.
- 0 Chorister is absent or is unwilling to comply with rules and follow directions.

PROMOTION

Choristers are guided and promoted through the program as they make progress. Promotion comes upon mastering specific skills and knowledge and meeting attendance and conduct requirements.

A CHORISTER'S PRAYER

*Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants,
who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips,
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts,
we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

This prayer is recited by the choristers at the conclusion of every rehearsal

CONTACT:

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