

St. Joseph Youth Chorale Handbook

Policies and Procedures for Bel Canto and Lyric Singers

Members of the St. Joseph Youth Chorale...

- *Love to sing and perform***
- *Appreciate fine music including sacred, secular, classical, and folk compositions***
- *Can commit to participate fully in the rigorous rehearsal/performance schedule***
- *Are good community ambassadors***
- *Are open to learning new ideas***

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the St. Joseph Youth Chorale is a special privilege not to be taken lightly. Singers have been recommended by their music teachers or other community members and have auditioned for a place in a choir that will give them special relationships and memories that will last a lifetime. The meaning of commitment and responsibility are very real to members of this organization. The singers have a very special sense of pride in being part of a very special choir. Enrollment is for the semester and concludes with a final concert each season. The Lyric Singers semester may also include post-concert performances as scheduling and participation allows.

OUR COMMITMENT TO MUSIC PROGRAMS

We are keenly aware that the success of St. Joseph Youth Chorale is, in no small part, due to the cooperation of music teachers in the St. Joseph area. SJYC members are leaders in their school music classes and choirs. Performance in a school music program/concert is always encouraged.

AUDITIONS AND PROMOTIONS

Auditions for singers are held each year in August for singers entering grades 2-12, and in January for students currently enrolled in grades 2-12. Auditions are private, attended only by the choral director, accompanist, and auditioning singer. Additional auditions may be scheduled at the director's discretion. Returning singers do not need to audition unless they are seeking placement into another choir.

Singers who have successfully completed both the fall and spring semesters of their 5th grade year in Bel Canto may audition for the possibility of placement into Lyric Singers in the fall of their 6th grade year. Singers who have successfully completed the fall semester of their 6th grade year in Bel Canto may petition for advanced placement into Lyric Singers by requesting a January audition. Advancement is based on the vocal and musical development of the singer as well as recommendations from the Bel Canto Director regarding the singer's rehearsal and performance demeanor. **The final decision is based on musical ability and maturity, not age or grade. Promotions are based on consistent demonstration of vocal and musical development, as well as maturity and commitment to regular attendance and membership. Promotions are made at the discretion of the directors.**

Lyric Singers requires an audition for all new singers. The Director may waive the audition for a singer they have heard in a previous performance situation. Returning singers in good standing need not audition.

REHEARSALS

BEL CANTO – grades 2-6

Tuesdays, Rehearsals-6:15-7:30 P.M.

Wyatt Park Christian Church, 2623 Mitchell Ave., St. Joseph, MO

LYRIC SINGERS – grades 6-12

Tuesdays, Rehearsals-6:30-8:00 P.M. (Sectionals as needed- 6:00-6:30 P.M.)

Wyatt Park Christian Church, 2623 Mitchell Ave., St. Joseph, MO

- *Please drop off and pick up your singer promptly. There is NO supervision provided before or after class.
- * In order to develop independence and encourage undivided attention, parents and siblings are not permitted to attend rehearsals. Rehearsal visitors are welcome to wait outside the rehearsal area.
- *We will use the St. Joseph School District holiday and snow day schedule as a guideline only. For weather related cancellations, a final determination will be made based on early afternoon road conditions. If you are unsure as to a cancellation, please check the HOME page of our website, www.sjvcsings.org, or for an email or text message, for cancellation information.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

The following procedures are enforced for the singers' safety, to ensure orderly rehearsals, encourage respect and courtesy for one another, and achieve discipline and professionalism.

1. Arrive 5-10 minutes before rehearsal time and report directly to your choir room. Using the restroom and getting drinks of water should take place before reporting to your assigned seat. Singers do not leave the rehearsal room unless permission has been granted by the director.
2. Have paperwork, permission slips, payments, etc., ready to turn in when requested by your director.
3. Do not roam about the building at any time. Singers are limited to our designated rehearsal areas.
4. Do not bring food or drink into the rehearsal area. Water in non-spill, unbreakable bottles is allowed and encouraged.
5. Running, yelling, or rowdy behavior is not permitted in the building or on the grounds at any time.
6. Singers are responsible for taking home any handouts distributed at rehearsal. However, most communication will take place by email or text message.
7. A singer whose performance does not meet expectations will be withdrawn from membership at the completion of the semester.
8. At all times, show respect for each other, parent volunteers, assistants, staff, and facilities. Pay attention to the directors at all times.
9. Do not behave in a manner that is disruptive to the rehearsal, distracting to singers, directors, or accompanists, or which prohibits a positive and successful rehearsal. Disruptive behavior will result in the following:
 - *First offense- verbal warning.
 - *Second offense- removal from rehearsal. Parents and singer may be required to meet with the director in a private meeting.
 - *Third offense- Singer is removed from future rehearsals at a duration set by the director. The third offense may result in permanent removal from the choir.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE for LYRIC SINGERS

Membership in the St. Joseph Youth Chorale requires a commitment to faithful, consistent, and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsals take a high priority as each singer holds a valuable place in the choir. All rehearsals are mandatory unless indicated by the director. It is understandable that the choir rehearses/performs at its' best when all are in attendance. We encourage each singer to strive for a perfect attendance record.

Participation in a school music program/concert when the singer is a member of the performing group is not considered an absence and does not count against Perfect Attendance Awards. Absences are excused for illness or family emergency. For members whose schedule requires absences, the director and the singer may make a strategic plan for the singer to make-up rehearsals or rehearse on their own with vocal tracks to learn the music. They may also be required to perform the music for the director independently to confirm mastery.

Unexcused absences that count against Perfect Attendance Awards include but are not limited to; sporting events, talent shows, doctor/dentist appointments, family vacation, school science fairs, school carnivals, etc. Excessive absences may require a meeting with the singer and parents to determine "active" or "probationary" membership.

CONCERT/ DRESS REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all major performances and dress rehearsals is required. If a singer is absent from the dress rehearsal preceding a major performance, they should contact the director for permission to attend the performance. Some concerts/performances are considered voluntary and are scheduled only when a sufficient number of singers commit to perform. Such performances are not required but are encouraged.

SAFETY

SJYC is concerned about the safety of our young singers.

Please follow these guidelines for singers rehearsing at Wyatt Park Christian Church.

1. Drive up directly in front of the stairs leading to the entrance on the west side of the building. Pull forward enough as to not block the stairs. Do not park in front of the steps. Stop briefly to drop off your singer then exit the parking lot or park in a designated parking space.
2. If you have concerns about your singer finding their rehearsal area, please park and accompany them into the building.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are due on or before the first class/rehearsal of the semester. Bel Canto and Lyric Singers fees are \$100 per semester. Membership fees cover SJYC costs for educational supplies, music literature, directors and accompanists, rehearsal venue donations, etc. Payment may be made by PayPal, check or cash, and remitted along with the completed registration form when your singer arrives for the first rehearsal. You may also mail your check or money order and completed form to -

St. Joseph Youth Chorale
c/o Karen, Heyde-Lipanovich
PO Box 8624
St. Joseph, MO 64508

Please make sure that the postmark date insures that payment will arrive before the first rehearsal. You may also register on our secure PayPal shopping site through the SJYC website, www.sjycsings.org. Please click on the SHOP page and select the choir and number of memberships you are purchasing.

If your singer attended a "Bring-A-Friend" event and subsequently passed their audition while singing with their group, membership fees are expected before or on the 2nd rehearsal.

SCHOLARSHIPS

St. Joseph Youth Chorale strives to make the experience of singing in an advanced choral setting available to all qualified singers. To that end, both "Merit" and "Financial Aid" Scholarships are offered. Forms are available on the website and at registration before the first rehearsal/class. A limited amount of funds is secured each semester to support the scholarships, so returning completed forms in a timely manner is the responsibility of the parent/applicant. New singers will have a brief grace period in which to turn in their forms. Incomplete forms will not be considered. The SJYC Scholarship Committee will approve qualifying applications on a first-come, first-served basis in accordance with the existing scholarship funds available.