

Trinity Youth Chorus

2023-2024
**Senior/Schola Chorister
Handbook**

The Trinity Youth Chorus

Melissa Attebury, Director, Music Education and Outreach
mattebury@trinitywallstreet.org
212-602-0798

<https://trinitywallstreet.org/music/music-education-outreach/trinity-youth-chorus>

Congratulations on being accepted into the Trinity Youth Chorus!

We hope that you will enjoy singing in this remarkable choir and that you will develop a love of choral music that will last forever.

This manual outlines the choir policies and procedures for you and your parents/guardian, updated to reflect the hybrid nature of the program as we begin to reopen. These policies enable the program to run smoothly and effectively, thus helping the choir to reach and maintain the absolute highest standard of excellence possible. It is *very important* that you and your parents read this manual, sign the commitment letter on-line, and agree to follow the policies and procedures.

Congratulations again on your acceptance!

The Trinity Youth Chorus Staff

Melissa Attebury, director

Peyton Marion, administrator and assistant conductor

Farrah Dupoux, pianist

Shanna Whitney, Anne Damassa Graff, Tahira Clayton, Aubrey Johnson,
Sheridan Stevens, Emma Hasselbach, Joel Esher, Zac Selissen, Louis Barker,
teaching artists

Rev. Michael Bird, Vicar

The Rev. Phillip Jackson, Rector

ABOUT THE TRINITY YOUTH CHORUS

2023-24 marks the 19th season of the Trinity Youth Chorus. By audition, K- 12th grade youth from various public and private schools throughout the New York City area are invited to join, all from diverse social and religious backgrounds. Their participation in the program will train them to be excellent musicians, singers and performers, as well as good citizens.

We distinguish ourselves among other music organizations with the following strengths:

- CHORISTERS** We excel at nurturing personal and group artistic growth in a joyful environment.
- COMMUNITY** We are a model of the highest standards of performance, organization, accountability and leadership.
- ARTISTRY** We are recognized for offering rich repertoire and programming based on cultural diversity, and we will provide services and performances that reflect our commitment to continuous improvement.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between staff and chorister families is of vital importance. All events and important deadlines are listed on a shared Google calendar for each group- Peppercorns, Juniors, Seniors, and Schola- which you will receive access to as soon as you register. This calendar can sync directly to your phone.

We also maintain a Trinity Youth Chorus website where you can register on-line, find this handbook and other important documents, and view the calendar. You can access the site here:

<https://trinitywallstreet.org/music/music-education-outreach/trinity-youth-chorus-communications>

E-mail alerts will be sent as needed to keep you up-to-date with information about changes in rehearsal schedules, added performances or administrative deadlines.

Please send any change of e-mail, phone number, or address to mattebury@trinitywallstreet.org or pmarion@trinitywallstreet.org

REHEARSAL/LESSON SCHEDULE

1. Group Rehearsal, Theory, Sight-singing-in-person

- Senior Choristers meet on Sundays 11:30-2:30pm
- Schola Choristers meet on Sundays 12:45-3:30pm

Locations for rehearsals to be announced and updated on Google calendar.

2. Individual/Small-Group Lessons/Masterclass series

- For the 2023-2024 season, interested Choristers may receive a weekly 30-minute individual or small-group lesson in voice or piano. A regular weekly lesson time will be scheduled directly with your assigned teacher at the beginning of the semester. Masterclasses will be scheduled throughout the season. Please refer to the participation policy/requirements.

3. Services:

- We will participate in 9 am Family Worship and the 11:15 Service on a rotating schedule. Christmas Eve and Easter Day (March 31) are highly encouraged for all choristers.

4. Concerts-call times and dress rehearsals to be confirmed

- **October 20th, 5pm** Schubert *Mass in G* with NOVUS NY, SPC
- **November 8-11** Benedict Sheenan *Akathist* world premiere and recording project and concerts with select treble choristers, Trinity Choir, NOVUS NY, Downtown Voices, Trinity Church
- **Dec. 22, 6pm** Britten *Ceremony of Carols*, SPC
- **March 10th, 5pm** Arnesen *Tuwayhun* with NOVUS, Trinity Church
- **April 8-14**, Luna Pearl Woolf *Number our Days*-world premiere with select trebles choristers, Perelman Center, NYC
- **May 19th, 3pm**- End of Season concert, all TYC ensembles, Trinity Church

5. Camp/Retreats

- Summer camp is August 20-24 at Incarnation Camp in Ivoryton, CT
- Winter retreat is January 19-21 at the Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, CT

PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular rehearsals, teamwork, and commitment encourage each chorister to develop personally and artistically in an enthusiastic and caring environment. To achieve these goals, to build skills, and to prepare music necessary for the high level of performance that distinguishes the choristers, regular attendance is expected and necessary for all choirs.

1. Please notify us in advance if your chorister will be absent from group rehearsal. For individual lessons, teaching artists must have 24 hours notice of a cancellation or schedule change. Rescheduling of missed private lessons is at the discretion of your teacher and may not be possible, so please be extra mindful of your lesson time. Continued unexcused absences will result in a discussion with the Director.
2. If attending lessons remotely, choristers should be in a location where video is able to be turned ON. Being able to see each other is crucial if we're unable to be in the same physical space.

LOCATIONS

All Trinity Youth Chorus activities for the 2023-24 season will be held at 76 Trinity Place, Trinity Church, or on occasion at St. Paul's Chapel (SPC.) Reminders will be sent, but please check your group's Google calendar to make sure you arrive on time to the right location on our large campus.

DRESS CODE

For 9 am services, casual church appropriate clothing is encouraged. When chorister wear their robes (High Feast Days, 11:15 services, and some concerts), all black dress shoes and socks are required. For some concerts we will wear "concert black" (all black, dressy, but formal not necessary).

CONDUCT POLICY

In the Trinity Youth Chorus program, we hold high expectations for chorister conduct as well as for artistic performance. We have four simple rules:

CHORISTER RULES

- Be kind.
- Be safe.
- Be respectful.
- Be responsible.

During your chorister's time with the program, we will use these rules as our guiding principles for positive conduct. The director will regularly remind choristers of these rules and will ask choristers to use them to self-monitor their conduct. Please talk with your choristers about the meaning and positive implications of kindness, safety, respect, and responsibility.

It takes all of us (choristers, director, staff, and parents) working together to create a positive, supportive environment that is conducive to learning and artistic achievement. Parents will be asked for help when necessary, but our emphasis will be on the chorister's personal growth and responsibility. The director will review our conduct expectations with choristers at the beginning of each year and throughout the year as necessary. If chorister behavior is not consistent with the Chorister Conduct Policy, the following actions may be taken:

- Chorister will be issued a verbal "conduct warning." This warning may come from a director, piano teacher, or any supervisory adult (chaperone, staff member, parent volunteer, etc.).
- After approximately three verbal warnings within one rehearsal or over the course of several rehearsals (or if a chorister is asked to leave a rehearsal because of conduct), parents will be contacted and informed of these warnings (or action). A meeting may be set up with parents, chorister, and director to address the chorister's conduct.
- Serious or repeated misconduct may result in a chorister being dismissed from the program.

FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

- Participants in the Chorister Program do not have to be Episcopalian or parishioners of Trinity Church.
- Each participant will be required to sign an activities waiver at the beginning of the season in the event that any in-person activities are attended.
- Due to the changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic, all Trinity Youth Chorus activities are subject to change.

SENIOR CHORISTERS

Entrance into Senior Choristers is by audition.

Audition will assess:

- Ability to consistently match pitch
- Vocal range
- Sight reading/music theory skills

SCHOLA CHORISTERS

Entrance into Schola Choristers is by invitation from the Director.

Member must show:

- Excellent sight-reading ability
- Ability to maintain melody and harmony lines
- Proficiency in music theory
- Responsibility and self-discipline
- Leadership and service to the choir