



Chorister Program and Choir School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am excited about working with your children during this upcoming season. I sincerely believe that there are few experiences as meaningful and moving as hearing the combined voices of a harmonious, skillful, and energetic children's choir. Furthermore, participating in a children's choir develops virtues in kids such as teamwork, discipline, patience, sacrifice, and courage! This endeavor is worth our time.

My short-term goals for the choristers are:

- to develop excellent rehearsal habits such as good posture, starting on time, and good attendance;
- and to develop self-confidence, facial expression and communication, and pride in appearance.

My long-term goals for the choristers are:

- to develop voices that are well-supported and resonant;
- to develop a love of and respect for fine choral music;
- to develop a thorough understanding of musical notation and literacy;
- and to develop a sense of pride in the choir for our church community.

The following commitments are required to participate in the Choir School:

- **Participation in the program is a *privilege, not a right*.** Children are accepted with the understanding that they will contribute to the team, and not distract other choristers from being a phenomenal choir. If a chorister is consistently not behaving respectfully and/or not following directions, they will no longer be able to participate in this arts organization.
- Chorister must be present and on time for all rehearsals/performances. If chorister cannot be present at either, parent must contact the director 24 hrs. prior to rehearsal/performance. *Two missed rehearsals are allowed per semester, and one missed performance per year.* Extra rehearsals may be called as needed for special events. If absences exceed either of the above, chorister's participation in the ensemble will be brought under review, and the chorister may no longer be allowed to participate.
- A \$25 music and materials fee is required at the beginning of *each semester* (scholarships available upon request).
- For the good health of all children, a chorister must **NOT** attend rehearsal if the chorister has had a fever within the last 24 hrs. of a rehearsal. If a chorister complains of cold- or flu-like symptoms at rehearsal, the chorister will be immediately placed in a resting location at which time parent will be notified.
- On days when choristers sing, they should wear nice pants/skirt (no jeans), and nice shoes (no sneakers).

You as parent or guardian are the most important ingredient in the success of the choir.

If you would like to enroll your child in the choir school, please contact the director to schedule an informal audition to determine the chorister's ability to match pitch. Once this has been completed, please submit the following as soon as possible:

- *Signed Registration Form (below)*
- *\$25 Fee (Checks made out to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church)*

Your child will be considered officially registered when all of the above have been submitted. If you have any questions, please contact the director at 945.2832, ext. 306 or at mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org.

Yours musically,

Maury A. Castro
Organist & Choirmaster
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

THE CHOIR SCHOOL AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH REGISTRATION

Child Name: _____ Child Grade: _____

Child Birthday: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

E-mail address: _____

In addition to the above named parents, the following individuals are authorized to sign-out my child from rehearsals:

Enclosed check (made out to *St. Christopher's Episcopal Church* with a note in the memo: *Choir School*) or cash:

\$25 Music/Materials Fee

\$_____ Tax-deductible Donation to *St. Christopher's Choir School*

\$_____ **TOTAL**

Picture Use Permission:

I give St. Christopher's Episcopal Church permission to include photos/videos of my child for promotional use, including but not limited to the church website, and informational brochures.

Parent/Guardian Signature

I have read all of the rehearsal/performance dates and agree to all of the commitments as outlined above. Each of these commitments will help everyone be safe, learn a lot, and have a fun time!

Chorister Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature