



YOUTH CHORUS OF KANSAS CITY

2018-2019 Handbook and Policies

Overview

Mission

To teach, to inspire, and to empower young singers to be lifelong music makers who seek excellence in everything they do.

The Youth Chorus of Kansas City is a registered 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization.

Artistic Leadership

Artistic Director | Ryan Main

Assistant Director | Bethany Unruh

Assistant Director | Jana Houston

Accompanist | Chad Willis

Board of Directors

President | Judy Frame

Treasurer | Joel Morrison

Secretary | Kim Sirridge

Executive Director | Ryan Main

Officers | Erik Hulse | Tami Morrow | Barb Jaekel

Contact

Youth Chorus of Kansas City leadership can be reached by phone or e-mail. Emails are typically answered within 24 hours.

Phone: 816.945.2965

Email: info@youthchoruskc.com

Rehearsals

Regular weekly rehearsals take place on Monday evenings beginning in September and ending in May. Rehearsals take place at St. Mary's Episcopal Church - [1307 Holmes St, Kansas City, MO 64106](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1307+Holmes+St,+Kansas+City,+MO+64106). See the calendar for details.

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Youth Chorus of Kansas City

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm - YCKC Singers

All dress rehearsals will be located at the performance location unless otherwise communicated.

Policies

Eligibility

- The Youth Chorus of Kansas City is open to students in grades 3-10
- Singers must pass an audition
- Students are expected to participate in their school music program if one is available
The Youth Chorus of Kansas City is not a replacement for a school music program. YCKC works in harmony with schools to help students develop skills and contribute in their home program at a higher level

Rehearsal Expectations - Students

- Show respect to others, to your director, and to the rehearsal space
- No food, gum or drinks (Exception: water in a water bottle is encouraged for all rehearsals)
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Be on time or early to rehearsal: 10 minutes is suggested
- Phones are silent or off during rehearsal
- Give your best effort and be an active participant
- Do not interrupt rehearsal or disrupt other students' opportunity to learn

Rehearsal Expectations - Parents and Families

- Show respect to others, to the Youth Chorus of Kansas City leadership, and to the rehearsal space
- Assure students are on time or early to rehearsal: 10 minutes suggested
- Pick students up on time
- To make focus and achievement a priority, distractions are minimized. Parents and families are invited to attend specific rehearsals. Parents who disrupt rehearsal may be asked to leave.

General Expectations - Students, Parents and Families

- YCKC singers and families demonstrate welcoming, positive attitudes: no bullying or negative peer behavior will be tolerated
- Discuss questions or concerns directly with the Youth Chorus of Kansas City leadership
- Communicate directly with the Youth Chorus of Kansas City leadership in regards to conflicts, absences, illness, etc. Please do not pass information through others.

The Youth Chorus of Kansas City policies promote a learning environment that is safe, positive, and respectful of all. Adherence is required for continual participation in the Youth Chorus of Kansas City.

Practice

Practice material is distributed to singers and families. Students are strongly encouraged to make practicing a part of their weekly routine, and students in the YCKC Singers will have practice assignments. Regular practice is essential in a choir that does not meet daily. Rehearsal is not for learning notes, it is for growing together and preparing for performance.

Rehearsal Attendance

100% should be the goal of every choir member. Choir members with more than three absences in a semester are subject to review and dismissal. Students with severe illness or other extenuating circumstances can ask to be placed on leave. Membership decisions are at the discretion of the the Youth Chorus of Kansas City leadership.

Parents and families are asked to provide advance notice for all absences, unless in the case of an emergency. Same day notification or no-show absences count as double except in cases of emergency.

Members of YCKC Singers who do not meet attendance expectations will be moved to another ensemble or dismissed. Students who miss rehearsals near performances will be unable to perform.

In the case of extenuating circumstances or emergencies, please call 816.945.2965. *Regular absence from rehearsal cannot be tolerated for any reason due to negative impacts on the group as a whole. The calendar should be fully reviewed and considered before committing to join the Youth Chorus of Kansas City.*

Performance Appearance

- The Youth Chorus of Kansas City will perform in:
 - Black slacks (not leggings)
 - Black dress shoes or flats (no heels)
 - Black socks for boys
 - Choir t-shirt - One choir t-shirt will be provided per student. Replacement t-shirts can be purchased if needed.

Check prior to the performance day to make sure all items are washed and ready, additionally:

- Hair needs to be pulled off of the face in either a black headband, ponytail with a black band, or black barrette. No bangs or hair hanging in or around face.
- No jewelry, including earrings, rings, bracelets, and watches
- No cologne or perfume due to allergies
- Wear deodorant if needed
- Attend to personal hygiene, including bathing and brushing teeth

Literature

The music for each ensemble is chosen at the discretion of the director and may include music from diverse religious and nonreligious cultures and traditions. Choir members and families are expected to accept and respect the choir's entire music repertoire from an educational standpoint. The Youth Chorus of Kansas City will never perform music with explicit lyrics or inappropriate content, nor promote any religious or political standpoint.

Each student is responsible for keeping borrowed music safe and in good condition. Families may be charged for sheet music that is not kept in good condition, or is lost.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2018-2019 season is paid on a monthly basis from September - May in \$50 increments, or can be paid up front for the year. The entire season cost is \$450. Scholarships are available based on financial need. Contact the Youth Chorus of Kansas City leadership for more information about scholarships.

\$25 is discounted for pre-paying for the 2018-2019 season
\$25 per family is discounted for each participating sibling in a family

There are limited additional fees:

- Replacement T-shirts: \$20
- Other items you are asked to provide:
 - Plain black folder
 - Pencils
 - Water bottle
 - Plain black performance pants
 - Plain black performance shoes (no tennis shoes please)
 - Honor choir audition and participation fees (when applicable)
 - Performance tickets (when applicable)

Monthly payments are made by credit or debit card only, and will be assessed a credit card fee. Payment for the entire season can be made by check only. Issues with late payments may affect membership.

There are no refunds for missed rehearsals. Students may cancel at any time, but any tuition paid cannot be refunded.