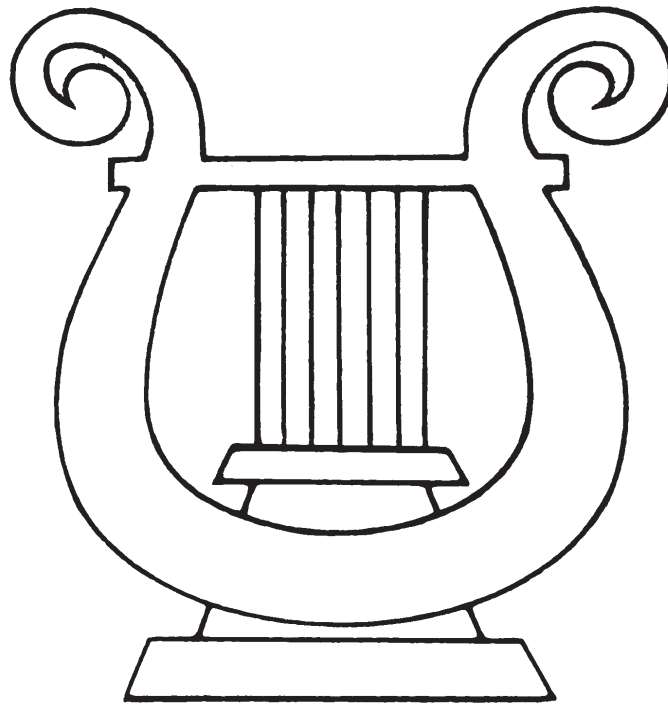


ST. PAUL'S CHOIR AND ST. PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL

HANDBOOK

2011-2012

Cantate Domino



Sing to the Lord!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6050 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR AND CHOIR SCHOOL HANDBOOK

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ST. PAUL'S CHOIR HANDBOOK

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6050 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

All information on the music program is located at www.stpaulsindy.org/ministries/music.

OUR PURPOSE

Welcome to all choir singers and choir families! This handbook is intended to help acquaint all with the operations of the music ministry at St. Paul's Church. The Choir Handbook is a useful source of information for anyone involved in the choir program at St. Paul's Church. It provides detailed information about the choir programs, its traditions and operational procedures. **The purpose of this handbook is to be taken home and read.**

Our vision for all who participate is that each person be integrated into a loving community of children and adults who serve the mission of St. Paul's Church. Every singer is taught to become a part of one strong voice of Christ's body through worship and outreach. In turn, our choir singers, representing all generations, invigorate and energize our worshiping congregation into a singing congregation.

The mission of the music program at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis is to engage and inspire all singers, bringing meaningful music to the worshiping life of the congregation. For many generations the Church has been a center for great musical experiences, bringing people into the Body of Christ and into God's fellowship. The music program at St. Paul's is dedicated to continuing this rich heritage of sacred choral music. St. Paul's Music Ministry proclaims God's word, using both choral and congregational music as a vehicle to enhance our Anglican worship and to enrich those outside our walls.

Of all the Christian traditions, the Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is the American manifestation, has nurtured one of the strongest traditions of worship led by choir. In this tradition the choir leads worship through the singing of service music, canticles, hymns, psalms, and anthems. This leadership requires a sincere commitment from the choir (see *guidelines pages 5 - 6*). As such, the choir performs a sacramental role in worship, offering their gifts from God to the people of God through sung prayer.

St. Paul's Choir and St. Paul's Choir School is a unique ministry involving musically trained boys and girls who sing with adults. Consistent with our congregation's vision of "Innovative Mission for Christ," St. Paul's Choir is a modern blending of mixed voices that has served as a model for choirs in Episcopal congregations throughout the country. The singers' time spent in rehearsals is intense preparation for a sacramental duty in the life of worship and prayer. When youth take on such enormous liturgical responsibility they create an atmosphere of vitality and life for the worshiping community. The young mind can accomplish these acts with remarkable ease, and youth respond readily to challenges, routine, structure, community, and above all, consistency.

It is an honor and a privilege for us to participate in this vibrant music ministry. Our parish supports excellent music and liturgy that is meant to uplift those who worship. Music has a significant role to play in the spiritual life of our community. It has the power to uplift, to teach, to unite, and is an integral part of inspiring worship.

The Motto of the Royal School of Church Music:

Psallam spiritu et mente, I will sing praises with inspiration and intelligence.
(1 Corinthians 14: 15)

Choristers' Prayer *(Prayed before all services)*

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.

St. Paul's Choir and Choir School are affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music in America. The Choir School is designed to teach children to be invaluable members to the community. Each level of training includes vital instruction in Christian Formation. The emphasis is on personal instruction for each child and adult who enters the program. Personal growth is achieved through the dedicated sharing of their musical gifts, serving as leaders of weekly worship on Sundays as well as monthly Choral Evensongs, and concerts with orchestra. All levels of the RSCM Program are designed to challenge each young musician on an individual basis, and give a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem. The key to advancement is achieving the musical knowledge necessary, especially by attending the required rehearsals, concerts, and services; for these are where the young musicians apply their art while giving their musical gifts to the Glory of God. St. Paul's choir has toured both U.S.A. and Great Britain where they have sung in many historic churches and cathedrals. These experiences give our singers an invaluable look at their world present and past.

ELIGIBILITY

Members in St. Paul's Choir need to have basic music reading skills and an enthusiasm for choral singing. Private music theory instruction is available for individuals who desire to develop or improve music reading skills provided a commitment is made toward choir participation. A singer does not need to be a member of the parish or the Episcopal Church. Those singers who participate need the awareness and desire to be a part of a rich religious tradition that involves music, liturgy and scripture.

The Choir School is open to children in third grade and above. Each child and adult who enters the music program receives individual instruction in music theory, vocal training and Christian Formation, including the traditions of our Anglican Faith. Previous musical experience is not necessary for children, since a thorough grounding in basic musicianship is given to boys and girls who enter the choir.

ENTRANCE AND LEAVE POLICY

Entrance into the choir occurs at the beginning of the program year in September. Singers may also enter the choir in January (during the semester break) at the discretion of the Director. If a singer needs to take a sabbatical, it needs to be worked out in advance with the Director of Music so that there is a clear understanding of the defined time. Sporadic attendance does not benefit the group as a whole. Consistent commitment from all singers is necessary for the growth of a healthy spiritual and musical community

WEEKLY CHOIR SCHEDULE

Monday:	Indianapolis Pro Musica	7:00 - 9:00p.m.
Tuesday:	<i>Facilities Open at 3:00 p.m. for refreshments and homework.</i>	
	Solo Club	4:15-4:45 p.m.
	<i>(Optional opportunity for private instruction and ribbon work)</i>	
	Choristers, Novices, Jr. and Sr. Singers	4:45-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	Adult Singers with Teen Boys	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Thursday:	<i>Facilities open at 3:00 p.m. for refreshments and homework.</i>	
	Beginning Boys and Girls	4:45 - 6:00 p.m.
	Choristers, Novices, Sr. and Jr. Singers	4:45 - 6:00 p.m.
	Dinner for all (<i>teens must arrive no later than 6:15</i>)	6:00 p.m.
	Choristers, Novices, Sr. and Jr. Singers	6:30 - 7:45 p.m.
	Teen Girls	6:30 - 8:20 p.m.
Saturday:	Voice Class (<i>as announced</i>)	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Sunday:	Vesting and preparation for 9:00 Choir	8:00 a.m.
	Rehearsal for 9:00 Service	8:15 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist	9:00 a.m.
	Vesting and preparation for 11:15 Choir	10:15 a.m.
	Rehearsal for 11:15 Service	10:30 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist	11:15 a.m.
	Choral Evensong on the Second Sunday of the month	4:00 p.m.
	<i>Singers meet at 2:45 p.m. Refer to Master Calendar</i>	

Voice Classes are offered periodically on Saturdays to allow a make-up time for missed rehearsals, and to provide additional help in musical preparation for special events. Adults or Youth Singers are invited to make use of this offer. Signing up ahead of time is required.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Clear and concise communication is the heart of any healthy community. Therefore, it is very important that we have your correct and updated personal information. Please send any change of phone number, address, or email to the Director, Assistant Director, and Marilyn Vargo. Our weekly choir updates are sent through email since this saves on postage. Email is used for informational purposes and is not a replacement for discussion. You are encouraged to ask questions to your choir section leader, assistant director, or director. Important conversations need to be done in person and by making an appointment.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Organist and Director of Music

Frank Boles, Fboles@stpaulsindy.org phone, 253-1277, ext 30

Assistant Organist and Director

Robert Richter, Rrichter@stpaulsindy.org phone: 253-1277, ext 29.

Marilyn Vargo, Mvargo@stpaulsindy.org

(Please communicate all informational changes in writing or on email.)

Music Desk (Diane Hayes), Musicdesk@stpaulsindy.org

(Please communicate all volunteer inquiries such as dinner or other signup activities.)

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 253-1277. Remember that the music office is located in a separate building from the church office. When leaving messages after hours you may enter the extension number immediately. Church Fax: 317-726-0569. **For extreme emergencies only, keep Frank's cell phone as an option for communication 509-3089.**

Music Department Days off are Friday and Saturday

Voice mail messages are usually picked up on Sunday morning before 8:15 a.m.

CHOIR CALENDAR

All families will receive a hard copy of the choir calendar. The choir calendar may also be viewed online at: www.stpaulsindy.org/calendar - Select 'Music' as an interest group using the drop box in the **upper right hand corner**. Future months may be selected using the drop box in the upper left hand corner. If you have any questions regarding the online calendar, contact rrichter@stpaulsindy.org

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

The regular choir season runs from September through June (Pentecost Sunday). The year is divided into two terms:

Fall Term: The first Sunday in September following Labor Day through Christmas Eve

Spring Term: January through May (or Pentecost Sunday).

Summer Term: June through August of each year.

This term invites any singer who wants to sing on any chosen Sunday. We also invite non-choir members who may be interested in singing.

Basic Choir Membership - All adult and youth singers are expected to sing scheduled evensongs, diocesan services, and concerts as listed on the master calendar (*see summary of events sheet on the Master Calendar*). Sunday services include both the service itself and the rehearsal immediately preceding the service. In order to have consistent commitment from all members, it is requested that singers miss no more than THREE (3) Sunday morning performances during the Fall Semester and FOUR (4) Sunday morning performances during the Spring Semester, barring illness, hazardous weather, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances. Two week advance notice is required for other absences.

Weekly rehearsals - Commitment to the choir requires attendance at weekly rehearsals. Missed rehearsals may be made up in consultation with the Director. Any singer missing 2 out of 3 consecutive rehearsal cannot sing a Sunday service until 2 consecutive rehearsals are attended. When in doubt, please talk to the Director before singing.

Adults - When absences are known in advance, adult singers are asked to check with the director to see if another singer is needed to cover their part for that Sunday (e.g., a 9:00 choir alto may ask an 11:15 choir alto to sing 2 services that day).

Youth - Youth are encouraged to participate in church retreats. Please keep in mind that these events do count toward the total absences for each semester; however, flexibility is exercised for absences due to illness and emergency situations.

CONCERTS AND EVENSONGS

The director will announce the attendance requirement prior to each concert or evensong. Singers who meet the required attendance guidelines are eligible for special events. The choir for concerts and evensongs is selected based upon attendance, past participation and choral balance. All Teens, Choral Scholars, Choristers, and Staff Singers provide the foundational leadership for additional services or concerts. **Dress Rehearsals are mandatory for all singers participating in concerts and special services.**

CHOIR SIGN-OUT BOOK FOR ABSENCES

In order to know our forces for each service or concert, it is important for singers and parents to sign out in the Red Sign-Out Book at least two weeks prior to the absence, except in the case of an emergency, e.g. illness, accident or family emergency. If you must miss a service or rehearsal unexpectedly, please notify the director after the fact. Repeatedly missing services or rehearsals are detrimental to one's participation, as well as the performance and morale of the entire choir.

For all youth under 16 years of age, parents are responsible for communicating absences to the directors.

For Emergency phone calls (*family emergency, illness, bereavement*) and after hour messages, use the voice mail box: 253-1277, ext. 30 for Frank and ext. 29 for Robert. If any of these happen, we appreciate communication even after the unplanned absence. Please do not call the director at home. **Music Department days off are Fri. and Sat.**

Youth Sign-Outs - Advance notice is required for all trebles and teens when absences are due to participation in sports, school activities, or other church events. Parents and youth should negotiate conflicts, taking into consideration the choir schedule and attendance standards. In order to become an integral member in the choir, regular participation is important.

Punctuality - Singers must be on time to all rehearsals, services and concerts. It is very disruptive to the director and other singers when someone arrives late. When a singer is tardy for rehearsal, please give an explanation to the director immediately following rehearsal. Punctual arrival is especially imperative for service rehearsals. Singers should plan to arrive at least 10 minutes before the rehearsal start time in order to robe for the service (when appropriate) and gather the music and other items needed for the rehearsal or service.

Scheduled rehearsal time means vested, music in place, and ready to sing: 8:15 a.m. for 9:00 service and 10:15 a.m. for 11:00 service.

Choir Commitment - St. Paul's Choir is like a sports team. It needs all of its members to operate at its best. Due to the enormous amount of music covered in just one month, it is hard for a singer not to fall behind even after missing only one rehearsal. Parents should help their child adhere to these rules - please don't put your child in the middle by failing to note a possible conflict in advance. It is understood that required job or academic obligations may require the singer to be absent from a rehearsal or an event. However, please understand that in making the commitment to the choir program the singer must choose to place their commitment to the choir above other extracurricular activities.

INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES

St. Paul's Choir will announce rehearsal cancellations due to snow or severe weather by 2:00 p.m. of the rehearsal day. The receptionist of the church office will have the most recent information concerning a decision. Sunday services are never cancelled.

CHOIR VOLUNTEERS

A strong volunteer base is vital for a successful music program. We have many dedicated volunteers who give their time and energy in support of our ministry each week.

Vestments: JoAnn Kumler

Choir Nurse: Becky Stoner

Choir Office Volunteers: Diane Hayes, Kate Appel, Ann Hinson, Becky Stoner

Birthday & Illness Cards: Nancy Utz & Ann Hinson

Choir School Committee: Nancy Utz, Harry Mamlin, Robert Richter, Frank Boles

DRESS AND BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

- It is important that certain standards of dress and behavior be followed for services so that we lead the congregation as a group and do not attract attention as individuals.
- Shoes must be dark navy, black, or brown. Tennis shoes may not be worn, unless they are all black. No sandals or open toe shoes should be worn. No platform shoes are allowed.
- Blue jeans should not show beneath the cassock (i.e., if worn to church, they must be rolled up or taken off).
- Earrings must not be large or dangle excessively.
- Hair styles and hair accessories should be simple and not large or stick out. Multi-colored, neon, or large bows are not to be worn.
- Gum chewing, unnecessary talking and note passing are not allowed.
- Choir members are not to wear hats in the church building during rehearsals or services.
- The director or assistant director will ask individuals wearing inappropriate items to remove them prior to the service. All dress is at the discretion of the Director.

TRAVELING TO OTHER VENUES

When St. Paul's choir travels to perform at other venues we are representing St. Paul's Church and must act and dress accordingly. Clothing should be neat and unobtrusive. No games or toys are allowed at other venues; behavior must be respectful and dignified. When traveling as a group, a designated choir uniform will be established ahead of time by the director.

CHOIR LOGISTICS

CARE OF MUSIC, HYMNAL, AND VESTMENTS

After each service, it is the responsibility of individual choir members to hang their vestments neatly and to turn in their music. The music should be placed in the appropriate pile on the long tables at the back of the choir room. All folders, notebooks and hymnals must be returned to the singer's assigned box. For youth singers, this is an integral part of the process of earning standards. Taking care of this simple task each week greatly assists our choral library coordinators.

CARE OF CHOIR ROOM, LOUNGE, AND CHURCH PROPER

All are asked to treat our choir space with care and respect. Do not leave personal belongings when you leave. Many people use the choir suite throughout the week. Therefore the music boxes and vesting rooms are not to be used for personal storage. After every rehearsal or service, please help by throwing away unneeded items such as tissues or water bottles. Only water bottles with caps are allowed at the music desks. No other beverages are allowed. Parents may also use the lounge or the church library when waiting during a rehearsal.

CHOIR ENTRANCE FOR REHEARSALS AND SERVICES

The main entrance and exit for choir rehearsals is the west garth door in front of the circular drive. This covered entrance is where parents drop off their children and pick them up following rehearsals. Parents may use the Burrows Commons when waiting for children. Parents, please arrange for picking up your children following a rehearsal in a timely manner. The Directors cannot leave the church until all have departed.

For extreme emergencies only, use Frank's cell phone as an option for communication: 509-3089.

CHOIR REFRESHMENTS FOR TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Refreshments for youth are in the Church Kitchen on Tuesdays and Thursdays following school and before rehearsals. The choir lounge is open at 3:00 p.m. for homework and fellowship. Refreshments are served on Sunday morning at 10:15 a.m. in the choir lounge. If your child is attending Church School, parents are responsible for getting them there on time.

CHOIR LOUNGE

This space is opened to all members Sunday through Thursday. On Sundays, refreshments are served between the 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. services. The lounge is available for singers who arrive early (3:00 p.m. on), or who need to remain at church during the day before an afternoon service or evensong. You may eat food in the lounge. Please help us keep this space, robing areas, and the rehearsal hall clean upon leaving the building.

CHURCH KITCHEN

This is located on the first floor just below the rehearsal hall. This kitchen is available to any singer who brings food on rehearsal days or service days. There is a refrigerator, microwave oven, and oven which singers may use on that day. Please do not leave food for the week because other groups do use this space

THURSDAY CHOIR DINNER INFORMATION

Persons in charge of dinners will purchase all food including milk (1 gal.) for dinner. Dinner should be ready to serve at 6:00 P.M. The church kitchen should be completely equipped. If you cannot find what you need, go to the parish hall kitchen. There are four glass casseroles for our use in the church kitchen. Silverware, plates and napkins should be set on the tables. It is recommended to serve the food to the boys and girls in the kitchen. The dinners are a very important aspect of the Thursday schedule and to the fellowship of the choir. Please let me know of suggestions or needs.

- At least one parent must be present at Thursday dinner serving 6:00- 6:30 p.m.; if the parent(s) supplying the food cannot stay, then they must make arrangements for another parent to be present to serve.
- Normal attendance is 25 trebles and 2 adults.
- You may cook two dinners at once and freeze one. We have a refrigerator and a full sized freezer for storage. If you do not find something you need in the kitchen, please let me know and the church will purchase this.
- Tables in the Lilly Room are set up by the sexton before rehearsals with paper place mats etc. Napkins, cups, plates and silver ware should be out. The sextons on duty will wash all dirty dishes and cook ware.
- Appliances available: Gas Oven, Refrigerator, Freezer, 4 quart glass baking pans. All silverware and dishes should be set out by the sexton, but are always in the church kitchen
- Thursday dinners may have a vegetarian option if you like. If you have not provided this, there are always vegetarian hamburgers and hotdogs in the church freezer which can be micro waved and ready in a few minutes.
- No second servings until everyone has been served once. Dessert is put out after everyone has been served dinner. Dessert is not necessary--fresh fruits are wonderful. If you serve a dessert please limit the amount--too much sugar tends to promote hyper-activity. Insist that each person clear his/her place at the table. When tables are cleared wipe clean with a damp cloth. Trash container is in the youth room and choir room. Heavy duty washing of flatware, serving dishes, cooking vessels will be finished by the sexton. Please put all utensils and pots in sink and soak them. It is usually wise to keep ALL trebles out of the kitchen before, during and after dinner. Lasagna or any similar casserole, Chili, Macaroni and Cheese, Sloppy Joes, Spaghetti, Tacos or other Mexican dishes, and Pizza (of course). The best kinds of vegetables the children eat are things such as celery stick, carrots, peppers and dip.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE RSCM GIRLS AND BOYS CHOIR

The adult leadership consists of the Organist and Choirmaster, the Associate Organist and Choirmaster. They are all an important part of the daily life of the St. Paul's Music Program.

St. Paul's Choir School for boys, girls, and adults is affiliated with the **Royal School of Church Music (RSCM)**. This training program emphasizes personal instruction for each child and adult singer, encouraging both musical and spiritual growth. The unique leadership provided by choristers in the church today is a precious gift we can give to the future life of the church.

St. Paul's RSCM program acknowledges different levels for singers through ribbons with medals. Each medal requires a standard of achievement in participation, music theory, vocal skills, musical repertoire, and Christian Formation. The training program is open to children in third grade and above. Each child receives individual instruction concerning the basic elements of music and liturgy. The boys and girls sing each Sunday as members of the 9:00 a.m. Choir.

During their first year, beginning boys and girls learn to read music through using *The Hymnal 1982*, acquire basic vocal techniques for singing, and become familiar with various parts of our Anglican liturgy by using *The Book of Common Prayer*. Each following year, the boys and girls acquire more advanced skills and earn ribbons that signify their accomplishments. During Solo Club the young singers have the opportunity to work individually on their musical skills with the director.

At the completion of the first year of training, the Beginning Singer receives a white cotta and light blue ribbon symbolizing full entrance into the choir and new title, Novice Singer. The consecutive levels of achievement are Junior Singer (dark blue ribbon), Senior Singer (red ribbon), and Chorister (gold ribbon). Singers who show responsibility and leadership have the opportunity to be a Head Chorister.

The St. Paul's training program for boys and girls embodies the essence of the Royal School of Church Music philosophy developing:

- teamwork and communication skills;
- self discipline, focus and concentration
- self-esteem and spiritual growth

These attributes will benefit the young singers throughout the rest of their lives.

The RSCM choir courses are valuable summer choral experiences held around the country as these young singers work and play with other young musicians from across the nation. The singers learn new music as they work with a renowned choral director. Each year the Director of Music will give suggestions for courses available.

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL TRAINING SCHEME

BEGINNING SINGER - During this learning period, boys and girls become familiar with liturgy and music through personal instruction and weekly participation in the Sunday 9:00 a.m. Choir. These young apprentices wear the red cassock symbolizing that they are in training. The goals of this training period are to form appropriate habits and responses necessary for musical leadership, as well as a right spirit and attitude for leading worship. The beginners learn to read music through using *The Hymnal 1982*, acquire basic vocal techniques for singing, and become familiar with various parts of our Anglican liturgy through participation in worship. Rehearsal for beginning singers is Thursdays, 4:45 - 6:00 p.m. Personal attention by the director, associate director and parent is very important at this entry level.

NOVICE - Boys and Girls who have completed their beginning training are commissioned into the choir as full members symbolized by receiving the white cotta and light blue ribbon. These trebles earn the title, *Novice*. Novices continue to develop their musical leadership through regular participation in rehearsal and worship. Rehearsals for these new members of the choir are Thursday: 4:45 - 6:00 p.m.; Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. These members are welcome to attend any Tuesday Rehearsal. In case of a necessary absence on Thursday, Tuesday rehearsals are used as make-up rehearsals.

JUNIOR SINGER - This level is designated by wearing a dark blue ribbon. The goals of this training period are to promote individual leadership, team work within the choir, and further musical knowledge. These elements are implemented through the anthems and service music they learn. The minimum requirements are attending the weekly Thursday Rehearsals: Thursday: 4:45 - 6:00 p.m.; Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. and singing all appointed services. These members are to attend one Tuesday rehearsal per month. In case of a necessary absence on Thursday, Tuesday rehearsals are to be used as make-up rehearsals.

SENIOR SINGER - This level is designated by wearing a red ribbon, symbolizing further musical leadership in the choir. The goal at this level is to further the singer's leadership skills in music and worship. As the Senior Singer gains increased competence, he or she is a team builder and a reliable helper to the Beginner and Junior Singer. The minimum requirements are attending the weekly Thursday rehearsals, 4:45-7:45 p.m., at least one Tuesday rehearsal per month, and singing all scheduled services. In case of a necessary absence on Thursday, Tuesday rehearsals are to be used as make-up.

CHORISTER - These singers receive a gold ribbon representing the highest level of musical achievement as a leader in the choir. They are able to sing capably all choral repertoire, demonstrate good sight singing and solo singing, and have shown a commitment to the church and to the choir. The minimum requirements are attending the weekly Thursday rehearsals, 4:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., at least two Tuesday rehearsals per month, and singing all scheduled services.

TEEN SINGERS are treated as adult members of the choir with the understanding that they follow adult singer guidelines.

SOLO CLUB - Singers who arrive early for rehearsal may participate in this private training on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is an opportunity for youth to improve their vocal and musical skills in an individual or small group setting and earn additional standards toward their next ribbon.

CHOIR YOUTH STANDARDS

Trebles are encouraged to come to more Tuesday rehearsals if possible. Ribbons are awarded when individual singers obtain enough standards for the next level. Extra standards are achieved by attending extra rehearsals, solo club, or singing extra services.

In order to know the forces for each service or concert, it is important for parents to provide two week advance notice, both in the Red sign-out book and verbally to the director.

STANDARDS

Standards are earned by singers as they participate in each rehearsal, service, and concert.

3 standards for **DISTINCTION** for excellent work, enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

2 standards for **CREDIT** for passing work and progress.

1 standard for **ATTENDANCE** with the need to participate fully.

Standards may be *deducted* for unexcused absences or tardiness.

Chorister (gold ribbon) status are to attend a minimum of 2 Tuesday rehearsals per month. Maintaining 24 standards per month.

Senior Singer (red ribbon) status are to attend a minimum of at least 1 Tuesday rehearsal per month. 180 standards for the year toward chorister level.

Junior Singers (dark blue ribbon) have the option to attend Tuesday rehearsals and are welcome. 160 standards for the year toward Senior level.

Novice (white cotta and light blue ribbon) earn a minimum of 160 standards toward Junior level.

Beginners (red cassock only) earn a minimum of 90 standards toward Novice level.

ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC SUMMER CHOIR COURSES

Junior and Senior Singers, Choristers, Teens and Adult Singers are encouraged to attend the various RSCM Summer Choir Courses. These week long courses bring choristers together from all over North America. The courses are highly organized with adult leadership supervising rehearsals, services and daily recreational activities. Singers who attend have the opportunity to meet and sing under many excellent guest choral conductors. These experiences continue to have a major impact on the musical and spiritual life of those who attend. All information is usually posted by early spring of each year on their web site at: <http://www.rscmamerica.org>. Scholarships are available for those attending an RSCM Course; these are given based on service, commitment and need.

THE CHORAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM OF ST. PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL

St. Paul's Choir School seeks to provide formation in conjunction with musical development through underwriting music lessons for worthy young singers who exhibit leadership within and commitment to the choir program. These scholarships (approximately \$2,000) are funded by *St. Paul's Music*, the outreach organization for the music program.

Scholarship students are expected to be leaders within the treble (youth) section of the choir. This leadership includes displaying positive, respectful behavior at all times to all choir members, Director and Assistant Director, helping other singers when needed and following the choir rules. The key to success in playing a musical instrument is consistent practice. Students are required to attend weekly lessons, practice their instruments, and participate in recitals according to their instructor's recommendation, including the two scheduled Choir School Recitals.

The Scholarship

Youth who participate in the St. Paul's Choir School Choral Scholar Program will receive professional musical instruction, both choral and on the instrument of choice. The value of this scholarship is approximately \$2,000 per scholar. Children whose families do not desire to receive the scholarship funds for private lessons are still welcome to participate in the choir program at the Choral Scholar's commitment level. The singers also have the opportunity to sing choral masterworks accompanied by professional orchestras. Participants in the Choral Scholar program have opportunities for travel on tour with the choir in the U.S. and England. They also receive funds to attend a Royal School of Church Music Course, week-long camps that bring choristers together from all over North America under an expert choral conductor.

This scholarship is based on fulfillment of a contractual agreement. Please refer to the written contract for further details.

Requirements of a Choral Scholar:

- High commitment and reliability to both choir program and practice for lessons
- Strong potential for musical and leadership growth
- Focused and well behaved
- Enthusiastic and eager to work
- Fulfillment of contractual agreement
- Daily practice on musical instrument and consistent weekly progress at lessons

Choral Scholar Weekly Schedule:

Tuesdays: *Facilities open at 3 p.m. for refreshments and homework*

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Solo Club

4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays: *Facilities open at 3 p.m. for refreshments and homework*

4:45 - 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sundays:

8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:00 a.m. Sung Service (*11:00 a.m. service may be needed occasionally*)

All Choral Evensongs and Concerts as Scheduled

Schedule Summary for a Year

- 36 week choir schedule - 2 semesters: 3 weekly Rehearsals (Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday morning)
- First Semester: 16 weeks, September through Christmas Eve
- Second Semester: 20 weeks, January through May
- One weekly Sunday service; All special services: Choral Evensongs, concerts, community events; could also include a weekday choral evensong on a Tuesday or Thursday once or twice each month, and Choir Tour when scheduled.

Each choral scholar is to limit himself or herself to two (2) missed weeks during the Fall Semester and three (3) missed weeks during the Spring Semester, barring illness, hazardous weather, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances. Two week advance notice is required for other absences.

Attendance is required at Easter Day, Christmas Eve, and all scheduled evensongs and concerts regardless of school vacation schedules.

It is understood that from time to time school programs which the student is required to attend for their school classes may require the student to be absent from a rehearsal. However, please understand that in making the commitment to the scholarship program the student must choose to place their commitment to the choir above other extracurricular activities.

Punctuality

Singers must be on time to all rehearsals, services and concerts. Due to preparation that is necessary before rehearsals and services and the layout of the choir room, it is very disruptive when a singer arrives late. Generally, students should arrive at least 10 minutes before the rehearsal start time in order to robe for the service (when appropriate) and gather the music and other items needed for the rehearsal or service.

Additionally, it is critical that students are picked up from rehearsals or services immediately at their ending time as there are no provisions for supervision for any student to stay beyond the rehearsal or service ending time.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE REQUIRED EVENTS

These are scheduled choir events in addition to the regular weekly rehearsals and Sunday morning services. This summary is also located on your Master calendar.

FALL TERM

Sunday, September 11: 4 p.m. Choral Evensong, All Singers meet at 2:45 p.m.

Sunday, October 9: 4 p.m. Choral Evensong, All Singers meet at 2:45 p.m.

Sunday, October 30 - November 10 **HOMEMADE MARKET SALE - ALL CHOIR FAMILIES PARTICIPATE**
St. Paul's Music Bake and Bazaar Sale. Everyone provides food items or crafts to sell.

Sunday, November 13: 5 p.m. The Service of Institution for The Reverend John Denson.
All Singers meet at 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22: 7:00 p.m. All Singers Rehearse.
This is a required combined rehearsal for Advent and Christmas.

Sunday, November 27: 11:15 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols for ALL Adult Singers, Choral Scholars, & Teens.

Saturday, December 17 at 1:00 p.m. Choir School Recital *All choir youth who take private lessons are encouraged.*

Thursday, December 22: 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols
(9:00 a.m. Choir and selected singers)

Saturday, December 24: 5:00 p.m.- Lessons and Carols, Singers meet at 4:00 p.m.
9:30 p.m. singers meet (Youth sign up). 10:20 Prelude for Festival Holy Eucharist

SPRING TERM **Week of January 4: Regular rehearsals resume**

Sunday, January 8: 4 p.m. Epiphany Lessons and Carols, All Singers meet at 2:45 p.m.

Sunday, February 12: 4 p.m. Choral Evensong, All Singers meet at 2:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: 6:30-8:15 p.m. Dress rehearsal, All Singers with Orchestra

Saturday, March 10: 9:00 a.m. - Noon Dress rehearsal All Singers with Orchestra

Sunday, March 11: 4 p.m. Choir Concert with orchestra All Singers meet at 2:45 p.m.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 1: All Teens and Adults Singers sing both 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. services.

Tuesday, April 3: 4:45-6 p.m. All Trebles **REQUIRED** depart at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 4: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. All Teens rehearse with Adults

Maundy Thursday, April 5: 4:45-6 p.m. All Trebles **REQUIRED** depart at 6:00 p.m. No dinner.
6:15: Adults and ALL TEENS Meet for 7:00 p.m. HE

Good Friday, April 6: Good Friday Service, Noon; 11:30 AM *Signed-up* singers meet

Easter Vigil, April 7: 6:00 p.m. Choir Dinner

7:00 p.m. Vigil Choir Meets. This is a *sign-up* choir. Service is at 8 p.m. Youth are welcome.

Easter Day, Sunday, April 8:

All Singers meet at 8:00 a.m. Sing 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. services. Choir Brunch at 10:15 a.m.

Saturday, May 5, All singers. Three Choir Festival Dress Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 6, All singers meet at 2:30 p.m. Three Choir Festival Evensong

Saturday, May 19: St. Paul's Music - British Soiree and Silent Auction: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

A St. Paul's Music Fund Raiser. All choir families participate in providing items.

Wednesday, May 23: 7:00 p.m. Choir School Recital *All choir youth who take private lessons are encouraged.*