

Stockton Youth Chorale
Parent-Singer Handbook
2017-18 Season

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WELCOME!

Welcome to our singing school! You and your child are part of a very special community of musicians where each and every member is valued for their unique gifts and talents and is encouraged to contribute to the success of the group as a whole. We believe in developing in your child the knowledge, skills and values to help them become lifelong producers and consumers of beautiful music. We hope you enjoy the experience!

*Coming together is a beginning
Keeping together is progress;
Working together is success.
-Henry Ford*

Joan Calonico, Conductor

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Stockton Chorale Office: Blanca Frasier, Office Manager
stocktonchorale@att.net (209) 951-6494

Linda Levine, Liaison to the Youth Chorale
levine-l@sbcglobal.net (209) 957-4054

Joan Calonico, Conductor Treblemakers & Concert Choir
icalonico@lusd.net (209) 915-1139

Website: <http://www.stocktonchorale.org/syc>

"I like that the children learn proper vocal technique and that they are exposed to a wide variety of challenging choral music. The leaders provide the children with the perfect balance of discipline and fun. My daughter has participated for four years and she looks forward to every rehearsal and performance."

- Tory Sonstroem, parent

WHO ARE WE?

About the Youth Chorale...

The Stockton Youth Chorale, part of the Stockton Chorale organization, is dedicated to children who love to sing! It is an opportunity for young singers to share their talent and love for singing, sharpen their skills, increase their performance opportunities, learn cool new stuff about music, and make new friends.

Dr. Arthur J. Holton formed the Stockton Chorale in 1951. From its beginning as a double quartet, the Chorale grew to over 100 members over the years and has performed all over the world. The Master Chorale, a chamber choir that features more advanced singers, was added in the early 1960's. The Youth Chorale was founded in the mid-1980's.

The Youth Chorale performs with the Stockton Chorale, the Master Chorale, the Stockton Symphony and sometimes the Stockton Opera Association. The students have also been invited to sing at the Haggin Museum, carol in Lincoln Center, and perform the National Anthem for Stockton Ports home games.

About the Director...

Joan Calonico graduated from the University of Pacific Conservatory of Music in 1981 with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Since that time, she has been a General Music and Choral Specialist in Lincoln Unified School District. She served the district as Mentor Teacher and Music Teacher Specialist, coordinating the K-8 music program district-wide. She is currently the principal of Don Riggio School, where Visual & Performing Arts are an integral part of every student's education. This is her 15th year directing the Stockton Youth Chorale, and making music with kids is her favorite thing to do!

ENSEMBLES

- TREBLEMAKERS for 3rd-5th grade beginning singers
- CONCERT CHOIR for 6th – 8th grade intermediate singers

REHEARSALS

When?

A Rehearsal & Performance Schedule is published at the start of each semester, and is available from the Youth Chorale web page. Please keep it posted in an important place! Both groups rehearse Mondays & Thursdays, 5:00-6:30.

Please drop off and pick up your child promptly so that rehearsals can begin and end on time. There is an overlap in the scheduling of the two groups so that we may accomplish work on a variety of pieces and it is important to make good use of every minute!

Where?

Don Riggio School

3110 Brookside Road, Stockton 95219

The choir room is next to the Multi-use room on the east side of the campus (go through the gates on your right as you face the campus from the parking lot).

- Music and black binders are provided to the children and must be returned after a concert or at the end of the semester. Singers are responsible for keeping their binders in performance condition and replacing the binder if it falls apart before the end of the semester.

Expectations

During rehearsal, singers are expected to:

- Be prepared with music and a pencil out and ready to use
- Listen attentively
- Show respect for each other and the director
- Take good care of music and equipment

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all rehearsals is extremely important. Learning to work together as an ensemble is one of the goals of our organization, so an absence not only hurts the singer, but the rest of the group as well.

Schedule A rehearsal and concert schedule is given to each child at the beginning of each semester with updates added as necessary. Schedules and updates will also be posted on the website. Be sure to put the schedule in a place where you can refer to it. Parents are responsible for making sure students honor their commitment to the Chorale.

Absences Of course if your child is ill, it is a favor to him/her to keep him/her home until he/she is well and ready to function properly in the rehearsal setting – it is also a favor to the other students and adults in the room! If your child must miss a rehearsal because he/she is ill, please call the Director or Liaison to excuse the absence (see contact information on page 3).

Conflicts If your child has a conflict with a school activity or performance, this should be discussed with the director **in advance**. All singers will be required to sign a **commitment form**. *Singers are responsible for learning the material they have missed – please see the director on how this might be accomplished.*

Performance Requirement Singers that have missed three rehearsals will not be allowed to sing in the concert. This ensures that both the individual singer and the ensemble have a successful performing experience.

SEMESTER DUES

Registration/Info Night is required for new and returning parents.

Semester dues are \$175 for SYC ensembles. Additional siblings are \$50 less for each additional child. This includes the cost of a t-shirt and pizza for pizza nights. Payments may be made by check or on the website via Pay Pal. There are two payment options:

1. Pay total amount in September and January - get a \$10 discount (\$165).
2. Pay in 3 monthly installments of \$60, \$60, and \$55. First payment due at sign-ups, subsequent payments due Oct 1 and Nov 1 or Feb 1 and March 1.

Scholarships A scholarship can be requested and is granted for 50% of semester dues when requirements are met. Parents must sign an agreement requiring volunteer hours (at an effective rate of \$10 per hour or 7.5 hours per scholarship) to "pay" for remaining tuition. A list of volunteer activities will be given to parents that they may sign up for at the parent meeting. Volunteer activities will include helping in the office, volunteering at rehearsals, fundraisers and concerts, etc. Parents that fail to meet the volunteer requirements will be sent a bill for the portion of tuition that was not covered by volunteering.

COSTUME INFORMATION

All Boys

- White tuxedo shirt
- Black bow tie
- Black vest
- Black dress pants
- Black dress shoes (please no tennis shoes)
- Black socks

Treblemakers Girls

- Black dresses (we will order for you), hemmed to mid-calf length
- Black ballet flats or ballet slippers
- Bare legs or nude hose
- Hair ornaments are restricted to plain headbands or hair ribbons for ponytails. Please no flowers or giant bows – they distract from uniformity
- No neck jewelry

Concert Choir Girls

- Black formals (we will order for you)
- Black dress shoes – (we suggest ballet flats or ballet slippers)
- Hair ornaments are restricted to plain headbands or hair ribbons for ponytails. Please no flowers or giant bows – they distract from uniformity
- Jewelry: pearls will be provided

T-Shirts

- Stockton Youth Chorale t-shirts are worn for more casual concerts (Fall Festival, Ports Game). They are to be worn with *solid* dark blue or black jeans (no distress or holes, please)!

CONCERT INFORMATION

Concert venues We perform in many different locations, often in local churches. When we perform with the adult chorale, there are usually two performances, one in Stockton

and one in Lodi. All concerts locations are listed on the Rehearsal and Performance Schedule. Addresses of frequently used venues can be found later in this handbook.

Tickets

- When we perform on the Stockton Chorale concert series, the regular ticket price is \$25. Discount tickets *for parents only* are available at the Early Bird price of \$20 until September 30 for the Fall Semester (two concerts) and until January 20 for the Spring Semester (two concerts). Students and children receive free admission to all Chorale concerts.
- Tickets for other performances (such as the Stockton Symphony and the Opera) must be purchased separately.

Dress rehearsal Usually the day before a concert, the dress or concert rehearsal is the last chance to rehearse before the concert, but costume/concert attire is not to be worn.

Backstage At some concerts the children must wait behind the scenes while the adult Chorale performs; therefore, we may ask two or three parents to help backstage.

Audience behavior Whenever possible, the Youth Chorale members get to sit in the audience so they can hear the other performers. This is an important part of their music education. They are expected to show respect to other performers and audience members by:

- listening attentively
- knowing not to get up during a song i.e. if they need to use the restroom, they should only move in and out during applause or other transition time
- staying for the entirety of any concert in which they perform

Parent support

We invite parents to be involved whenever possible; encouragement of your child's music education is important to his or her success. *We do* ask that parents be sensitive to all rehearsal and performance situations, taking care not to be disruptive to or physically in the way of the directors or performers. Sometimes performances in the community may not allow us to include parents in the audience due to space and/or performance costs and we appreciate your understanding. We will do our best to communicate the details of each situation in advance.

We ask that parents do not use flash photography during concerts since it distracts singers and audience members. We also ask that parents and family members refrain from cheering, calling out the name of your child, or waving to your child while on stage and during all performances.

CONCERT VENUE LOCATIONS

The Youth Chorale may perform at any of the following locations during the season:

Cathedral of the Annunciation
425 West Magnolia, Stockton

Central United Methodist Church
3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton

Faye Spanos Concert Hall
University of the Pacific
3601 Pacific Avenue

St. John's Episcopal Church
1055 South Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi

Quail Lakes Baptist Church
1904 Quail Lakes Drive, Stockton

Warren Atherton Auditorium
San Joaquin Delta Community College
5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton

VOLUNTEERS

We encourage parent and family participation. Here are the volunteer positions we need to fill:

- Ticket Coordinator – sells tickets to concerts at SYC rehearsals until the Early Bird deadlines. This person collects money and distributes tickets. They also complete ticketing forms provided to them by the Stockton Chorale Treasurer.
- Costume Coordinator - collaborates with the Youth Chorale Assistant to procure proper sizing and fees for costumes. This person will also ensure that all students are properly attired for concerts, monitoring student costumes during the warm-up times before each performance.
- Librarian – assists with organization, distribution, and collection of music.
- Historian – takes still photography (without flash) at rehearsals and events, coordinating with the Directors and the SYC Assistant. This person also helps organize photos for marketing purposes.
- Fundraising Chairperson – plans and organizes fundraisers to help the Youth Chorale reach its goals
- Backstage Supervisors – supervise kids behind the scenes or in the audience while the adult chorale performs.
- Party Planner – coordinates get-togethers for the SYC organization on a semiannual basis. He/she will be in charge of setting up food sign ups for potlucks, coordinate activities, and generate flyers to distribute to singers and families about the events.

- Board Member – represents the Youth Chorale at monthly meetings of the Stockton Chorale Board of Directors
- Ushers – help seat people at concerts and sometimes help with audience surveys

You can also help by

- recruiting new singers!
- generating audience!
- helping us identify potential advertisers!
- helping us identify potential donors/grants!
- donating to the Chorale!
- supporting our fundraisers!

“Youth Chorale is making music, making friends, making memories that last.”
Albert Liang, singer