



AUDITIONING FOR THE 2011-2012 SEASON

Welcome to Honors Choirs!

We are delighted that you are interested in singing with us for the 2011-2012 season. These pages will tell you a little about the organization and about auditioning. We encourage you to explore our website as there is a great deal of information there about our current season which will help you to know what to expect next year.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to promote the highest standard of excellence in the preparation and performance of choral music, seeking to provide artistic challenge and growth opportunities for youth throughout the region and enjoyment for the community at large.

Our Choirs:

- Children's Chorus** - Amy Nelson, *conductor* - Boys & girls in grades 3 - 5
- Treble Choir** - Bill Nelson, *conductor* - Boys & girls in grades 5 and 6
- Chorale** - Jon Strommen Campbell, *conductor* - Boys & girls in grades 7 - 9
- Concert Choir** - Michael Culloton, *conductor* - Men & women in grades 10 - 12

Regular Rehearsals:

All four of the Honors Choirs ensembles rehearse on Sundays from September 11th through April 22nd. Rehearsals will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 Third Avenue SE, Rochester. Rehearsal times for the four choirs are as follows:

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|--------------------------|--|
| Children's Chorus | 3:30-4:45 p.m. |
| Treble Choir | 3:15-5:00 p.m. |
| Chorale | 5:00-7:00 p.m. (Voice part sectional rehearsals from 4:15 to 4:55 on a rotating basis) |
| Concert Choir | 5:00-7:30 p.m. (Voice part sectional rehearsals from 4:15 to 4:55 on a rotating basis) |

Performances:

Please Note: Singers should be aware that concert participation is REQUIRED. Please do not make plans for vacations or sign up for other activities that will keep you from singing in any concert.

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| Sun., November 6 | <i>Children's Choral Festival</i> (all afternoon) | Children's Chorus & Treble Choir |
| Sat., November 12 | <i>Harvest to Holiday</i> Benefit (evening) | Chorale & Concert Choir |
| Sun., December 4 | <i>Glad Tidings!</i> (4:00 p.m. concert) | All four choirs |
| Sun., February 19 | <i>Voices</i> (4:00 p.m. concert) | All four choirs |
| Sun., April 29 | <i>Spring Finale</i> (4:00 p.m. concert) | All four choirs |

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Other Important Dates

Wed., Aug. 24, 10:00-1:00 p.m.	Retreat at Bethel (optional)	Children's Chorus
Sun., Sept. 11	Rehearsals begin; Parent mtgs.	All four choirs
Sun., Sept. 18, 1:00-5:00 p.m.	Retreat at Bethel	Treble Choir
Sun., Sept. 25, 1:00-7:30	Retreat at Assisi Heights	Chorale & Concert Choir
Mon., Nov. 28	All-day outreach tour to area schools	Concert Choir
Dec. 3, Feb. 18, April 28	Saturday dress rehearsals	Children's Chorus, Treble Choir, Chorale
Sundays - Dec. 11, 18, 25, Jan. 1, April 1, 8	No rehearsals	All four choirs
Mon., April 23	All-day outreach tour to area schools	Treble Choir & Chorale

Attendance Policy:

To achieve our goal of the highest standard of excellence in the preparation and performance of choral music, we need a year-long commitment and faithful attendance throughout that year. Because our choirs rehearse only once a week, each rehearsal is precious and should not be missed. Conductors take great care in planning their rehearsals, and they count on every voice. Honors Choirs adheres to this attendance policy in order to offer every singer an unparalleled singing experience.

- Each singer is allowed a **maximum of three absences from Sept. to Dec.** and **three from Jan. to April.** A third absence automatically triggers the need for an appointment to sing for the conductor to be sure the singer knows his/her music. A fourth absence results in dismissal from the choir for the remainder of the semester.
- The allowed absences are primarily intended for illness. **All absences, even those for illness, family emergencies, or weather issues "count,"** so singers should not use them for events that should be scheduled for different times (e.g. birthday parties, trips, recitals, etc.).
- Once a singer accepts a position in a choir, he/she should not commit to other extra-curricular activities that will conflict with dates on the Honors Choirs calendar, especially performance dates.
- If a singer must miss a rehearsal, it is very important that he/she notify the conductor and the office.
- Singers may not miss any performances, or parts of them, for any reason other than illness.

Fees:

Tuition fees cover approximately 27% of the Honors Choirs budget. The remainder of our revenue comes from individual and corporate donations, grants, fundraisers, and ticket sales. For the fifth year in a row, our tuition will remain the same. Rates for 2011-2012 are as follows:

- Children's Chorus - \$276 per year
- Treble Choir - \$356 per year
- Chorale - \$436 per year
- Concert Choir - \$496 per year

Registration Fee and Payments: Upon acceptance into a choir, a singer pays a \$100 non-refundable registration fee (due by **June 2 for current singers** and **July 11 for new singers**), which is subtracted from the total tuition due for the year. The remaining balance will be divided into 4 payments. More detailed information about options for payment schedules and methods will be included in each singer's acceptance materials.

Concert Attire Cost:

- Children's Chorus, Treble Choir, and Chorale - \$60
- Treble Choir - \$60
- Chorale - \$60
- Concert Choir - \$95

Some used attire may be available. Payment for attire is due by the first rehearsal, September 11.

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Fundraisers: Honors Choirs sponsors two fundraisers for families during the year: the Butter Braid Frozen Pastry Sale in the fall and the Sargent's Nursery Voucher Sale in the spring. Families can designate the profits from these to pay tuition or to "bank" for future post-season tours. Both fundraisers are voluntary. (When a choir tours nationally or internationally, there is an extra cost for tour participation. No tours are planned for 2012, but it's possible that Concert Choir will tour in 2013.)

Scholarship: Two scholarship funds are available for singers with need, the Myatt Helmers Scholarship and the Diversity Scholarship. Information and applications for these are available on our website's "Auditions" page. Scroll down to the scholarship section. **Scholarship Applications are due no later than July 11, 2011.**

Audition Dates:

- All singers audition every year. Current singer auditions are held in April.
- New singer auditions are held in May and early June. We also hold August and December auditions on a space-available basis.

Audition Schedule:

Various dates and times will be available depending on the choir for which you are auditioning. Auditions begin the second week of May and finish by early-June.

To make your appointment, call (507) 252-0505.

Audition Location:

New singer auditions are held at our offices located at **Assisi Heights, 1001 14th Street NW, in Rochester.** This map shows where we are in the convent complex.

Preparing for an Audition:

Click here to link to a printable audition form [→ FORM ←](#). Fill that out ahead of time and bring it with you to your audition. Be sure that you have checked the calendar dates above and can commit to all rehearsals and performances.

Length of Auditions:

- For singers going into grades 3 through 6, plan on about 25 minutes.
- For singers going into grades 7 through 12, plan on about 45 minutes.

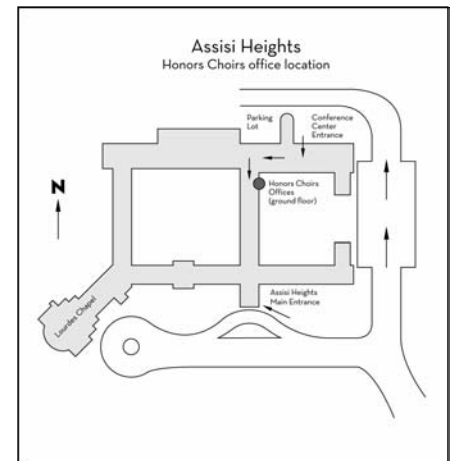
Audition Results:

For spring auditions, letters will be mailed by mid-June. Singers who audition in August or at mid-season will receive letters very soon after their audition dates.

What Happens at an Audition:

- Here's what will happen at your audition:
 1. **You'll check in at the Honors Choirs office and turn in your completed audition form.**
 2. **You'll sing for the conductor(s). Note – all grades listed are what you'll be in fall 2011.**
 - 3rd and 4th graders-to-be sing for Amy Nelson.
 - 5th graders-to-be sing for both Amy Nelson and Bill Nelson. Since both of our younger choirs have 5th graders, it will be up to the two conductors to decide which choir is the better place for you.
 - 6th graders-to-be sing for Bill Nelson.
 - 7th through 9th graders-to-be sing for Jon Strommen Campbell.
 - 10th through 12th graders-to-be sing for Michael Culloton.

(Note: Parents do not go into the actual audition with the singer.)
 3. **The conductors will ask singers to do several things, depending on their ages.** Find your fall 2011 grade on the chart below and see what boxes are checked to determine what your conductor will ask of you:



	3 rd & 4 th graders-to-be	5 th & 6 th graders-to-be	7 th - 9 th graders-to-be	10 th -12 th graders-to-be
Sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee"	✓	✓		
Sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "Amazing Grace," OR "Silent Night"			✓	✓
Echo random notes and ascending & descending scales played on the piano by the conductor	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sing scales & match pitches played on the piano to gauge singing range, listening ability, and tonal memory	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sing a simple, step-wise melodic example to gauge ability to follow a musical line		✓		
Read (not sing) a simple paragraph and/or poem to assess reading ability and expression (readings will be provided)	✓	✓		
Tap out or sing simple rhythms from printed music to gauge knowledge of note values		✓	✓	✓
Sight-sing a short melody of the conductor's choosing (need not be a perfect sight singer - done to see how you handle a piece of unfamiliar music)			✓	✓
Written Assessment of Music Knowledge: note and rest values, note reading on both the treble clef staff and bass clef staff, and music terminology including dynamics. SCORE DOES NOT AFFECT ACCEPTANCE INTO A CHOIR			✓	✓

Please Note: Our conductors work hard to make each audition as non-threatening as possible.

Committing to be an Honors Choirs Singer:

If you are offered a position in one of the choirs, you will receive an acceptance letter, instructions about ordering concert attire, and a contract. You and your parents must sign the contract to reserve your place. **This contract and a non-refundable registration fee of \$100 must be received in the Honors Choirs office by July 11th.**

Committing to be an Honors Choirs Parent:

As with any other non-profit organization for youth, we welcome and depend on parent volunteers. Thankfully, we have many willing parents, and when everyone does **something**, no one has to do **everything**! In the fall you will receive a Parent Volunteer survey so that you can indicate where you would like to help.

We have one major fundraiser in the fall, our *Harvest to Holiday Benefit and Silent Auction*. Concert Choir and Chorale families are expected to contribute an item for the auction. We encourage parents of younger singers to attend the event to support the organization.

Questions?

To get more information and make your audition appointment, call the Honors Choirs office at **507-252-0505**. We're open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. all year.