

WCA WAYNE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

E S T A B L I S H E D 1 9 7 3

CHILDREN'S CHORUS HANDBOOK | 2023-2024

Wayne Center for the Arts

237 South Walnut Street

Wooster, OH 44691

330.264.2787

Children's Chorus Staff

Mr. Alexander Looney, Director - alooney@westholmes.org

Mr. Brent Schloneger, Pianist/Assistant Director

The Wayne Center for the Arts Children's Chorus is a treble choral ensemble dedicated to striving for excellence in the art of choral music. This ensemble is open to students in grades 4 through 7 with unchanged or treble voices in the greater Wayne County and Northeast Ohio region. Students are placed in this ensemble through individual voice placements prior to the start of the school year. A voice placement provides the director with the opportunity to get to know each student, their voice, and their musical skills. The Children's Chorus rehearses once a week on Monday evenings from 6:00pm-7:30pm and performs 2 concerts per year. This ensemble will perform a wide variety of choral repertoire developmentally appropriate for children's voices. Emphasis will be placed on developing healthy vocal technique, music literacy skills, and choral ensemble skills. Through participation in the children's chorus, students will experience the joy of singing and develop skills to be lifelong independent choral musicians and supporters of the arts.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS GOALS

- to provide an advanced choral experience for students in grades 4 through 7 with unchanged voices in the greater Wayne county area
- to develop music literacy
- to develop healthy vocal technique
- to develop sophisticated choral performance skills
- to enhance social and intellectual development through music

VOICE PLACEMENTS

Students are placed in the Children's Chorus through individual voice placements in the spring prior to each school year. Voice placements are 10-15 minutes in length and provide a chance for the director to get to know each student, their voice, and their musical skills. A voice placement will include:

- Vocal exercises
- Brief rhythm and melodic reading exercises
- Sing *My Country 'Tis of Thee* in F major
 - Students are asked to prepare to sing this song from memory
 - Practice resources are located on the children's chorus website

REPERTOIRE

The choral music curriculum for the children's chorus will include quality choral music representative of the many historical and stylistic periods in music including art songs, folk songs, multicultural music, sacred and secular music, etc. The choral literature studied will be presented in an unbiased and objective manner. The instruction will be as part of the advancement of the students' knowledge of society's cultural and religious heritage, as well as provide an opportunity for students to perform a full range of music that is likely to be of interest to the students and the audience.

TUITION

- \$150 per year (\$75 for spring semester)
- For scholarship, financial aid, and payment options, please contact the Wayne Center for the Arts office.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Weekly rehearsals and concerts listed on the schedule are mandatory. The Children's Chorus is a 'team', and every rehearsal is vital for the ensemble to succeed.
- Excused absences include illness, family emergency, death in the family, school music performances/games, and other director approved absences.
- If a student must miss a rehearsal or concert for any reason, please complete the absence form located on the website as soon as possible.
 - Absence Form Link: <https://forms.gle/n8Et9HZTrd4uBHUAA>
 - In the event of an emergency, please feel free to email the director or call the Wayne Center for the Arts at 330-264-2787

- After 2 unexcused absences (either not approved or no prior notification), the student will be placed on probation and could be dismissed from the children's chorus
- If a student needs to arrange leaving early or arriving late for select rehearsals due to a conflict with a sport or extracurricular, please email or speak with the director.

MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

- Bring a pencil, music folder, and a water bottle to rehearsal each week
- No food/drink/gum in rehearsal, water is permitted
- Come to rehearsal ready to sing, learn, grow, and work hard
- Have a positive attitude and willingness to try new things
- Excellent behavior - disruption and excessive talking will not be tolerated
- Respect for director, staff, and fellow children's chorus members
- Dismissal note: The Wayne Center for the Arts reserves the right to dismiss a student from the Children's Chorus if the student has a behavioral and/or attendance problem. The director will follow steps to address the problem with the student and the parent/guardian. The behavioral expectations EXCEED those in the traditional public setting. Behavior problems, disruptions, disrespectful comments/behavior, bullying, etc. will be not tolerated. Singers who exhibit these behaviors may be dismissed from the chorus without a refund.

REHEARSAL/CONCERT CALENDAR

All rehearsals will take place at the Wayne Center for the Arts on Monday evenings from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Concerts will take place at First Presbyterian Church in Wooster.

FALL SEMESTER

Date	Event	Time	Location
Monday, September 25	Rehearsal Parent Meeting	6:00pm-7:30pm 7:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, October 2	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, October 9	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, October 16	Rehearsal (Bring-a-Friend Night)	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, October 23	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, October 30	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, November 6	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA

Monday, November 13	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, November 20	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, November 27	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, December 4	Dress Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	First Presbyterian Church in Wooster
Saturday, December 9	Children's Chorus Holiday Concert	2:30pm Call Time: 1:00pm	First Presbyterian Church in Wooster
Monday, December 11	Children's Chorus Holiday Movie Night	6:00pm-8:00pm	WCA

SPRING SEMESTER

Date	Event	Time	Location
Monday, February 5	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, February 12	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, February 26	Rehearsal (Bring-a-Friend Night)	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, March 18	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, March 25	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, April 1	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, April 8	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, April 15	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, April 22	Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA
Monday, April 29	Dress Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm	First Presbyterian Church in Wooster
Saturday, May 4	Children's Chorus Spring Concert	2:30pm Call Time: 1:00pm	First Presbyterian Church in Wooster
Monday, May 6	Children's Chorus Game Night	6:00pm-7:30pm	WCA

ATTIRE

Students will be expected to wear correct attire for concerts. Please see below for detailed concert attire. If you need assistance finding these items or have questions, please contact the director.

All Students:

- WCA Children's Chorus t-shirt (provided)
- Hair neatly groomed and out of face
- Use care with choice of hair spray, hair gel, and cologne/body spray

Boys:

- Pants: Solid Black Dress Pants
- Shoes: Solid Black Dress Shoes

Girls:

- Bottom:
 - Solid Black Skirt with solid black tights or leggings
 - Solid Black Dress Pants
- Shoes:
 - o Solid Black Closed Toe Dress Shoes (flats, minimal heel, etc.)
- Notes:
 - o Minimal jewelry and hair accessories are acceptable
 - o Length of skirt should be **directly above knee or below the** when standing (professional, conservative)

General Attire Notes:

- Black jeans, joggers, shorts are not permitted
- Black tennis shoes, converse, boots, and sandals are not permitted
- Please avoid large amounts of hair spray/perfume/cologne

COMMUNICATION

Email: The director will communicate primarily through email. Families are encouraged to check email frequently for important announcements, information and updates.

Website: The Children's Chorus website is the hub of all information and documents for the year. The website will be updated throughout the year with important information.

<https://waynartscenter.org/childrens-chorus/>