

August 2017

Dear choir parents,

Welcome to another exciting year of making music with the RAACHE Choir organization. We are praying that each family involved will enjoy a year of praising God with your voices. We are pleased to have your student(s) participating!

Please note that rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 7th at Calvary Evangelical Free Church (5500 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW) in Rochester. The detailed schedule is included in the body of this letter, so print a copy and transfer the dates to your calendar **TODAY**.

This letter also covers a variety of information that you will need throughout the course of the year so read it and keep it handy. It would be a good idea to start a choir folder in your email inbox. **Since our communication with you is primarily via email, this will be added to as the year progresses.** It will be a good place to go to for details. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your directors or Susan:

Suzy Johnson (Artistic Director for RAACHE Choirs, Director of Con Brio and Arioso) at (507) 356-8248 or [suzyj999@gmail.com](mailto:suzyj999@gmail.com)

Alissa Kludtke (Director of Cantabile) at (507) 251-5632 or [alissakludtke@frontiernet.net](mailto:alissakludtke@frontiernet.net)

Clavonne Holter (Director of Staccato) at (507) 282-2344 or [danclavonne@gmail.com](mailto:danclavonne@gmail.com)

Susan Kludtke (Administrative assistant) at (507) 775-6318 or [susankludtke@frontiernet.net](mailto:susankludtke@frontiernet.net)

Arioso, Cantabile, and Con Brio students, see you on **September 7th!** **October 5th** is the starting date for Staccato.

**Parent Mandatory Meeting on Sept. 7!** Please have a parent or grandparent attend the meetings which correspond with the choirs your family is participating in. (Younger students can attend with you.) We need everyone there, so we will be taking attendance. Notify your director(s) if you have a schedule conflict and cannot attend.

2:00-2:20 pm Con Brio meeting

3:15-3:35 pm Cantabile and Arioso meeting

**You are invited!** There will be a reception on the first day of choir following the Con Brio meeting. It will continue until 3:15. Cantabile and Arioso families are welcome to come before their meeting to enjoy some refreshments as well.

*Choir Visit Day* will occur on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Consider who you would like to invite to come and see what we are up to. ☺ An announcement will be put in the RAACHE newsletter, but you are our best advertisers.

Looking forward to a fantastic year,

*Suzy Johnson*

## Rehearsal Times and Locations

Con Brio: Meets in the Fellowship Hall from 2:00-3:00 most weeks. Extended rehearsals will be from 2:00-3:30.

Staccato: Meets in the Sunday School wing from 2:00-3:00 beginning October 5 through November 16 and then Feb. 22 through April 5. Staccato will not have any extended rehearsals. On the final rehearsal before the concert, they will meet at the performance church from 1:45-3:00.

Arioso: Meets in the Fellowship Hall from 3:15-4:45

Cantabile: Meets in the Youth Room (Room #200) from 3:15-4:45. (Directions to Youth Room: Walk straight through Fellowship Hall and through hallway. Take a left and take the stairs on the left up to second floor. Room #200 is on the right.)

## RAACHE Choir Concerts

**Harmonies concert**: Thursday and Friday, November 16 and 17, 7:00 pm at Zumbro Lutheran Church (624 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SW). We need ALL singers at BOTH concerts.

**Winter Serenade concert (featuring Arioso, Cantabile, and Con Brio)**: Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm at Christ United Methodist Church (400 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW).

**Spring concert and musical (featuring Con Brio and Staccato)**: Thursday, April 5, 7:00 pm at Zumbro Lutheran Church (624 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SW).

**Accelerando! Spring concert (featuring Arioso and Cantabile)**: Sunday, April 29 at 3:00 pm at Christ United Methodist Church (400 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW).

Additional performances for Arioso:

**A Cappella Festival:** Saturday, November 18 at Rochester Civic Center. There will be a concert in the evening which is open to the public. Details will be sent at a later date. )

## Schedule

Here is the schedule for the year. **Please put it on your calendars right away!! (Please print this off so you have a hard copy as well.)** All dates are set unless something unforeseen occurs.

Fall Semester Rehearsals: Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9\*, 16\*;

Additional rehearsal for Arioso only: Nov. 30

Spring Semester Rehearsals: Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15\*, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29\*, April 5\*.

Additional rehearsals for Arioso and Cantabile from 3:00-5:00 pm: April 12, 19, 26 (note extended time)

\*Indicates extended rehearsals. Here is what that means for the specific choirs:

- Con Brio rehearses from 2:00-3:30 these days. Staccato does not have extended rehearsals.
- Arioso and Cantabile rehearse from 3:15-5:00 on November 9 and 16 and February 15. Arioso will rehearse from 3:15-5:00, and Cantabile will rehearse from 3:30-4:45 pm on March 29 and April 5. Arioso and Cantabile will rehearse from 3:00-5:00 on April 12, 19, 26.

Dress Rehearsals:

- Monday, Nov. 13 (all groups) at 6:30 pm at *Madonna Towers* (4001 19th Ave NW)
- Tuesday, April 3 (Con Brio and Staccato only) at 6:30 pm at *The Homestead at Rochester* (1900 Ballington Blvd. NW)
- Arioso and Cantabile tour/dress rehearsal: Arioso will be on Wednesday, April 25; Cantabile local tour/dress rehearsal may need to be on a different day than Arioso's based on Miss Kludtke's work schedule. Approximately 3:15-5:30/6:00 pm.

Concerts:

- Thursday and Friday, Nov. 16 and 17 (all singers BOTH nights)
- Thursday, Feb. 15 (all but Staccato)
- Thursday, April 5 (Con Brio and Staccato)
- Sunday, April 29 (Arioso and Cantabile)

Additional Arioso only performances: Saturday, November 18 (A Capella Festival from approx. 3:00-10:00 pm) at Rochester Civic Center

Arioso Rehearsal and Meal (3:30-8:00): Late October/early November

Arioso Sectional Intensive rehearsals from 3:30-7:00: Monday, Jan. 29 and Mon., April 2

Arioso final local performances/tour from 3:15-5:30/6:00 pm on Thurs., May 3

Arioso choir tour to Chicago: May 20-27 (exact dates TBD)

Arioso Homecoming Concert: TBD

## Con Brio singing time assignment

Every Con Brio singer needs to sing for Suzy. It will only take a few moments, and it will be a simple song—part of *Jesus Loves Me* or *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. Students will also be asked to echo some pitches. Please have your students come at the following assigned time:

*Week 1, Sept. 7 1:30-1:45 last names A-D 1:45-2:00 last names E-H*

*Week 2, Sept 14 1:30-1:45 last names I-M 1:45-2:00 last names N-Z*

*If you need to switch because of conflicts, please do so.*

## Church Policy and Building Guidelines

**Please note:** The building manager has made it very clear that we are not to use rooms **at all** unless he has approved their usage (fill out a building request, give to him in advance, and wait for approval). **If people use rooms without approval, the entire choir organization may be asked to leave Calvary!** In light of this, we ask that parents remain in the building only when necessary (volunteering/assisting with a choir task or child needs you nearby). If you must stay, we have permission to be in the rehearsal areas, the library, nursery rooms #147-148, and room #129. Children not actively participating in choir must be **closely attended** to at all times. It is important that our presence does not interfere with the pastors', custodians', and office workers' tasks in any way—no noise and commotion or moving items that are set up for future

meetings/activities. Please emphasize to your children that they should conduct themselves with self control and wisdom while waiting outside to be picked up. In past years students were climbing on things and throwing parts of the asphalt and generally being disruptive at times. This cannot continue. Thank you for your careful respect regarding this critical issue.

Our goal as a choir organization is to be regarded as respectful of the property and the staff at the churches we rehearse and perform in. Calvary has heavy building use by its members and the community, and we are fortunate that they have given us reasonable rates and plenty of room. Therefore, we need to be mindful of the guidelines the church has requested we follow:

- **Students may arrive up to 15 minutes early for choir, but are not allowed to stay during another rehearsal once they are done.** So for instance, if you have a student in Con Brio and another in Arioso, they may arrive for their respective group up to 15 minutes early, but cannot come earlier or stay during the other sibling's rehearsal unless a parent is there with them. If this is a hardship for you, let us know and we might be able to work something out, such as finding a job that your student could do during this time.
- For rehearsals, Con Brio, Arioso, and Cantabile students should enter the building through door #4 (kitchen door). Staccato students should enter the building through door #6.
- Please use the bathrooms located in the gym.
- We have specifically been asked to prohibit students from wandering in the building. Please make sure your student is aware of this.
- Those moms and students who would like to socialize after choir should move outside to do so. This will eliminate children playing in the gym and allow the building manager to prepare the area (and others) for the next groups that come in shortly after we leave.
- Water is permitted in rehearsal, but please do not bring food.
- Pick up your child promptly after rehearsal. Parents may come in to pick up students in the rehearsal room (please wait until the end of rehearsal to minimize distractions) or have them go out to the car. Please time your driving time/errands so that you are sure you will be back promptly to get your child—especially if your child is in a choir at the end of the day.
- Students should not be left in the building unattended!! If you have a conflict and must drop a child off early, contact a friend to see if you can work something out, or if that doesn't work, call Suzy (356-8248) in advance to find out if it is possible to accommodate this. Do not assume you can drop off a student earlier than 1:45.
- You may use the designated nursery room #147-148 (in the Sunday School hallway). Each parent is responsible for his own child(ren); there is no babysitter. At the request of the building manager, limit the snacks that you bring for your child to crackers and water. And remember to tidy up before you leave. Please have someone clean the carpet at the end of

your time in there and disinfect the toys. If you have older children in the nursery with you, attend them carefully. There have been noise concerns as well as problems with bigger children being hard on toys that are intended for use by smaller children.

- **IMPORTANT!! Building use is for choir activities only. We are to use only those rooms we have rented. If you would like to use a room at the church during choir, you must contact Joel Minchinton to obtain a building request form.**
- Please do not allow your child(ren) to play beyond the immediate area of the parking lot by the north door. Your child(ren) should not be running around the building—inside or out—while they are waiting to leave.
- We have permission to use the gorilla ball game. Please make sure your children are not walking on the top edge of it.
- We must be out of the building by 5:00!

## Attendance Policy

It is expected that your student will attend and participate in all his/her concerts unless there is an extenuating circumstance. (Inform your director(s) as soon as the circumstance arises.)

**Please make every effort to not miss rehearsals or come late** since EVERY voice is important to the WHOLE group. Please let your director know via a call or email when a child will be missing—a week or more in advance if possible.

The ideal number of rehearsal misses would be zero. If missing is unavoidable, please make sure absences do not exceed three in the fall, two in the winter, and three in the spring concert cycle. If your child misses this much, please contact the director to find out if you need to schedule a time to meet with her. Please note that it is extremely important to attend rehearsals right before the concerts, do not miss these.

If your student is contagious, please do not bring him/her to rehearsal.\* Contact the director so she is aware of the illness and can advise regarding what the student should work on once he/she is well. If he is just “under the weather”, it may be profitable for him to come, (sitting off to the side) to observe rehearsal and think through the music.

## Rehearsal Guidelines: Please review with your child.

To have effective rehearsals with minimal distractions and difficulties, the following rules should be observed. When you review these prior to the first rehearsal, remind your student(s) that the purpose of these is to ensure that we show respect to all the people involved in the choir and have the most fun possible. It is also important to be especially respectful of the staff at the church, since they willingly allow us to use the facility.

1. No chewing gum or eating.
2. Raise your hand; no talking unless called on.
3. No asking, "When are we done?" or "What time is it?"
4. Pay attention and participate fully for the whole rehearsal.
5. No poking or touching other children.
6. Watch the director and/or music at all times.
7. Be seated in your assigned seat ready to sing on time.
8. No running or playing in the halls or gym before/after rehearsal. Stay in the choir area only.
9. Take time to go to the restroom before rehearsal.
10. Address the director as Mrs.Holter/Johnson or Miss Kludtke.
11. Listen to and respectfully respond to adults that address you.
12. Wipe your feet off on your way into the building. Please do not wear muddy boots or shoes.

Also, please speak with your child on the importance of being self-controlled and quiet. He/She should be ready to follow the directions given, and SING. (Believe it or not, sometimes students don't open their mouths!)

We will have parent monitors in the room. Regarding discipline, we will use the 1-2-3 policy as follows: 1.) Speak to the child; 2.) Call the parents; then if the problem persists, 3.) Ask that the child wait to be in choir until he/she is willing to participate properly.

Please inform your director if there are health, concentration, or other issues that she should know to better prepare her to work with your child.

## Concert Dress

Arioso: Singers have been measured. Please contact Anne Jasper immediately if this is not the case at: [dan.annejasper@gmail.com](mailto:dan.annejasper@gmail.com) . Women should wear black close-toed shoes with nylons (knee high nylons are okay) with their dresses. Men should wear black dress shoes (no tennis shoes) with black dress socks. Singers should not wear any colored accessories as they draw attention away from the focal point—singers' faces.

Cantabile: Wear a solid white shirt with a sleeve (any length) and modest neckline and solid black pants or skirt. Skirt hemline should be at least to the kneecap. Make sure clothing is not too form-fitting. Avoid glittery/sparkly clothing and accessories. A scarf or tie will be provided to each choir member before a performance.

Con Brio: Girls wear black skirts (at least to kneecap) and white shirts/blouses. Boys wear black dress pants (no jeans) and white shirts. Shoes should be black or nearly black. Please do not have your sons wear ties or your daughters have any color accents (hair ribbons, etc.).

Staccato: Girls should wear their Sunday dress best (no pants or flip flops) and boys should wear a white shirt and black pants (optional tie).

## Miscellaneous

- On rare occasions choir may have to be cancelled. When this occurs, you will be notified either by a phone call or email message. Do not assume that we will cancel when Rochester Public Schools cancel; oftentimes, we still have choir.
- We need your help from time to time, so please be ready and willing to volunteer when you are contacted. If everyone pitches in, the load will be lightened for all.
- Music is valuable and sometimes difficult to replace, so it is critical that you make sure your child is careful not to lose or damage it. Each Arioso and Cantabile student will be given a green leather folder. Con Brio and Staccato families: Please provide a folder for your family and use it to keep the music safe while transporting it. Some music will be loaned to the student to use all semester, and some of it can be checked out from the library in the back of the rehearsal room and must be returned the following week. If the music is lost or damaged, there will be a replacement cost to the family.
- Approximately two weeks prior to the concert, you will receive an email with details about it. You will also receive an attachment that you can print off to use as invitations or posters. Please make an effort to encourage people to attend the concerts. It blesses both the singers and the audience to have many there!

Congratulations on reading this all the way through!  
Remember to print it off and put it in a location where you can refer to it as needed.