



CHILDREN'S CHORUS



Member Handbook

The mission of the Greenville Choral Society is to foster excellence in the art of choral singing and to provide music education, cultural enrichment, and entertainment for its members and the community.

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Student Contract

Keep this copy for your records and return the full page version to GCS.



CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Introduction

Welcome to the Greenville Choral Society Children's Chorus. From its inception in 1969 as a community chorus, the Greenville Choral Society has expanded in scope encompassing four choirs. The Children's Chorus was founded in 1988. Though each choir has its particular focus, all are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in choral singing and to the provision of music education and cultural enrichment for its members and the community at large.

As a non-profit organization, the Greenville Choral Society supports itself through various means. These include fundraising and advertising campaigns, corporate and individual donations, grants, ticket sales, and honorariums. Each member is asked to participate in these activities in order to keep membership dues to a minimum. Without these fundraising efforts, membership dues would be prohibitively expensive in order to perform the works that are planned.

The **Children's Chorus** serves as an advanced chorus for children in 4th through 8th grades. The chorus sings quality choral literature with an emphasis on beauty of tone and musicianship. We aim to provide a musical opportunity that schools and churches often cannot provide.

The children's chorus has an advanced ensemble called ***Bella Voce Singers*** which means "beautiful voices." This group is selected from the Children's Chorus and Youth Chorale members and will perform advanced treble repertoire.

The following is an agreement between _____ (Student) and the Greenville Choral Society Children's Chorus.

I have read and understand the attendance/absence policies stated in the Parent Contract and have discussed them with my family. I understand the following additional policies and procedures are necessary for each singer's safety, for orderly rehearsals and performances, and for ensuring the discipline and professionalism for which GCS is known. As a singer, I acknowledge this commitment and agree to follow the points in this contract.

I understand that:

- Attendance is expected for all scheduled rehearsals and performances for the entire GCS year.
- Arrival on time to all rehearsals and performances is expected. I understand that coming in late is very disruptive.
- I understand that three unexcused absences will result in dismissal for the semester.
- Two tardies will result in (1) unexcused absence.
- I am to remain for the entire rehearsal.
- I will treat all GCS staff members and other class members with respect and understand that rude or disruptive behavior is not allowed at any time. I will respect the property of other people.
- I will hold my questions for an appropriate time as not to disrupt the rehearsal process.

I realize that if I fail to follow the rules, the following consequences will occur:

- 1st offense: warning from the Director
- 2nd offense: singer meets with the Director
- 3rd offense: Director or his designee calls parents for a conference
- 4th offense: singer is dismissed from GCS for the year

As a choral music student, I am committed to the above rules and to doing everything I can to make sure that I have a very successful year in the Greenville Choral Society Children's Chorus.

Parent Contract

Keep this copy for your records and return the full page version to GCS.

The following is an agreement between _____ (Parent) and the Greenville Choral Society Children's Chorus.

I understand that the following policies and procedures are necessary for each singer's safety, for orderly rehearsals and performances, and for ensuring the discipline and professionalism for which GCS is known. As a parent, I acknowledge this commitment and agree to points in this contract. In addition, I will help my child understand all aspects of the **Singer Contract**.

I understand that:

- Regular rehearsal attendance is required and expected for the entire GCS year as noted above.
- Regular performance attendance is required and expected for the entire GCS year as noted above.
- The only absences that are recorded as **EXCUSED** are for (1) illness (2) family emergency (3) school function at which attendance is required. Excessive excused absences may prevent participation in performances and/or result in parent/singer/Director conference.
- All absences require a direct conference with the Director. This can be done by a personal phone call to 375-4673 and leave a message OR filling out a Prearranged Absence Form available at rehearsals.
- The Director must be notified **TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** for an absence due to a school function at which attendance is required.
- Failure to contact the Director in advance constitutes an **UNEXCUSED** absence. Messages sent by another parent or student will not be accepted.
- Three unexcused absences will result in a parent/singer/Director conference and may prevent participation in performances.
- The Director will evaluate any absence from a performance on a case-by-case basis. An unexcused absence from a performance may result in dismissal from the chorus.
- Tuition fees are due no later than the third rehearsal per season.
- Singers will not be able to participate in the chorus if tuition payment is not made on schedule.
- Tuition will not be refunded if a singer resigns or is dismissed from the chorus.

The chorus often takes an annual tour. Past tours include performances at the historic Bruton Parish Church, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, Washington D.C. and performances on special concert series in both Kinston, NC, Wilmington, NC and Charleston, SC.

Members of the Children's Chorus are offered the opportunity to grow vocally and musically like no other organization within our community. Many of our singers have found success in auditions for state and national honor choirs and musical theater performances. Some of the children's chorus members have gone on to continue their music education in high school and college. Some former singers have graduated with music degrees.

Music Director

Paul Flowers is in his twentieth season with the group. Mr. Flowers is an active clinician, conductor, and adjudicator for various choral clinics, honor choirs, workshops, and festivals throughout North Carolina.

Mr. Flowers has taught at all levels, pre-Kindergarten through high school. He is currently general music and chorus teacher at Hope Middle School, Greenville, where he is the school's 2007-2008 Teacher of the Year. Additionally, he was the 2015 NC Middle School Teacher of the Year presented to him by the North Carolina Music Educators' Association. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from East Carolina University in Church Music and Choral Conducting. While at ECU, Mr. Flowers was assistant conductor of the University Chorale and prepared groups for several major choral/orchestral works.

Mr. Flowers is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, National Association for Music Education and the North Carolina Music Educators Association where he serves the Middle School Section as NC Middle School Teacher of the Year Coordinator. His students have been selected for numerous NC All-State and Honor Choirs and participated in prestigious music camps. His choirs have been invited to participate in concert at Carnegie Hall, New York City in a performance of Saint Sains' *Christmas Oratorio*.

Parent Organization

One adult from each family is asked to participate in at least one of the activities listed below to support the chorus.

Parent Organization Activities:

Rehearsal monitors: Take attendance at rehearsals and performances. Remain in attendance during rehearsals until every child has been picked up. Assist director and singers prior to and during rehearsals and performances.

Uniforms: Help parents locate (at a reasonable price) any uniform requirements.

Fundraising: Plan and coordinate fundraising events and ticket sales for the chorus.

Photography/Scrapbook: Take photos of chorus activities. Create a scrapbook for the year.

Social: Plan and coordinate social functions for the chorus. Provide refreshments as needed for occasional special events, retreats or dress rehearsals.

Travel: Research and coordination of any trips.

Chaperones: Chaperone any away trips or events that require them.

Parents' Representative: Serve on the GCS Board of Directors as a representative of the Children's Chorus. Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7:00PM.

Historian: Research and prepare a written history of the Children's Chorus.

Policies and Procedures

The following procedures help us achieve the discipline and professionalism for which GCS is known. These procedures are enforced for the singers' safety and to ensure orderly rehearsals.

1. Arrive at rehearsal ahead of time, check in with rehearsal attendant, sit in assigned seat, and organize music. Singers do not leave the room after signing in unless there is an emergency or special permission has been granted. Please use the restroom **BEFORE** you sign in.
2. Do not interrupt the Director for non-emergency restroom breaks. There will be a break for personal needs and a short rest period. Singers are to conduct themselves in a polite and professional manner when using the restroom and walking in the halls, as others use the same facility and do not wish to be disturbed.
3. Do not roam the building at any time. Students should only be in the rehearsal area. Running, yelling, and rowdy behavior are not permitted in the building or on the grounds at any time.
4. Do not bring food or drinks into the rehearsal area.
5. Try to eat a nutritious meal or snack before you arrive.
6. Follow uniform policy for performances.
7. Always show respect for each other, parent volunteers, directors, staff and the facilities. Do not behave in a manner that disrupts the rehearsal or is distracting to students, directors, accompanist, or prohibits a positive and successful rehearsal.
8. Our basic means of communication will be through e-mail, written notices handed out in rehearsal and mailings. **PARENTS NEED TO ASK THEIR CHILD IF THEY WERE GIVEN ANY WRITTEN NOTICES DURING REHEARSAL.**
9. GCS staff and volunteers are not responsible for supervising children before or after rehearsals. Singers should not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to rehearsal and should be picked up no later than 5 minutes after rehearsal concludes. When dropping off or picking up singers, parents are urged to be aware of traffic and parking patterns. Singers are not permitted to wait outside the building unsupervised.

Please keep this policy and procedure manual where you can refer to it as needed. The contracts on the last two pages are to be signed and returned as soon as possible.

Performance Requirements

1. Singers should always eat a nutritious meal and get plenty of rest before a concert. Be sure the singer has used the restroom prior to arrival at the concert site.
2. Singers should arrive 10 minutes before the performance call and immediately check in with the rehearsal attendant.
3. Tardiness at a performance may exclude a singer from participation at that performance.
4. All performers must arrive attired in proper concert dress as stated in the uniform policy. Failure to wear proper concert dress will result in non-participation in the concert.
5. Singers should conduct themselves at all times in a calm, polite, and professional manner. They must give their undivided attention to the Director or performance coordinator at all times.
6. All singers must know the music. Each musician must have a confident command of the concert repertoire. Failure to demonstrate this at the final rehearsal may result in release from the corresponding concert commitment.
7. During a performance, if a singer feels ill, he/she should quietly sit down on the riser and rest for the remainder of the song. Then, if feeling better, the child may get up and sing again, or if not, quietly leave the stage. Rehearsal attendants and performance coordinators are always available and will help if necessary. Once a singer leaves the stage/performance area he or she may not return.

NOTE: Final dress rehearsals and pre-performance rehearsals are always closed to the audience, including families. Only designated attendants will be allowed in the rehearsal area prior to a performance. This allows the singer to concentrate on the music, the Director and the final instructions being given by those in charge.

- When attending a performance, try to arrive 15 minutes prior to the performance and remain for the entire performance.
- Please do not enter the performance hall or leave your seat while singers are performing.
- Parents and friends with small children should sit near an exit door.
- All cellular phones and beepers should be set for silent mode.

Concert Attire/Uniform Policy

When a uniform is worn it serves a greater purpose. It does not call attention to individuals, rather to the entire group as a whole. Therefore, anytime a singer wears the choir uniform he/she represents the entire group, and is expected to wear this uniform with pride and to display the proper behavior that this uniform requires.

1. Uniforms – GCS Children’s Chorus must purchase their own uniforms.
2. Boys- **Plain** black pants, black dress shoes, a belt, a GCS Children’s Chorus polo shirt.
3. Girls- **Plain** black pants, black dress shoes, a belt, a GCS Children’s Chorus polo shirt. No jewelry or distracting hairbows allowed
4. Hair- Clean, neatly combed hair is a must for all singers! If hair is long and must be pulled back, please use a small black hair tie/band.

Uniform fittings: Before each performance you will be asked to bring your black pants to be checked for appropriateness.

Personal Hygiene: Appropriate hygiene is expected, including the use of deodorant. Due to allergies and sensitivity, no perfume or cologne is to be worn.

Dress Rehearsals: Do not wear concert attire to dress rehearsals.

Communication

It is crucial to maintain an open line of communication with the Director. Please do not hesitate to call with a concern or a suggestion. We also appreciate any calls that affirm what we are doing! If your child is having a rough time at school, or is having trouble learning their music, or has any other myriad of concerns, please contact us so that we can work together with you on heading off potential problems. We love working with your children and consider it a privilege to have this opportunity to teach them.

You may contact Paul Flowers (Director) at
252-375-4673 or gcschildrenschorus@gmail.com.
You may contact Paula Mitra (GCS General Manager) at
252-412-7927 or gcsgeneralmanager@gmail.com.
Join us on the Remind App @96e79a