



2011-2012 Season Handbook

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Worcester Children's Chorus is to enrich the lives of children throughout Worcester County by providing a quality musical experience through training in choral singing. Membership offers professional-level instruction in vocal technique, music theory, sight singing, ear training, and presentation as well as exposure to a variety of choral styles. Involvement also enhances young people's lives, helping them to develop qualities of self-reliance, personal integrity, responsibility, compassion, and confidence in their abilities.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

One of the criteria for acceptance and continued membership in the Worcester Children's Chorus is the ability of the student to commit him or herself to a high standard of behavior. This discipline is every bit as important as a student's musical ability.

1. Students will exhibit exemplary behavior wherever they happen to be representatives of the Worcester Children's Chorus.
2. Students will demonstrate a commitment to musical excellence through a positive attitude and diligent effort in rehearsal and performance.
3. Students will work cooperatively with choir personnel at all times.
4. Students will treat one another with respect and dignity.
5. Students will treat the rehearsal and performance facility with respect and dignity.
6. Students will not possess alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, or weapons. Smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages and use of illegal drugs is not permitted when members are under staff supervision.
7. Students cannot dispense any type of medication to one another, such as Tylenol, Advil, Pepto Bismal, etc.
8. Students will have all the uniform items needed at any performance.
9. Any student whose behavior, work ethic and/or performance drop below the standard of the group may be reviewed at any time to maintain and protect the integrity of the ensemble. This review may result in dismissal.

FEES

Checks for tuition and fees should be made out to the **Worcester Children's Chorus**. A 50% refund is payable if a student drops out prior to kick-off weekend. After the season has started, there is NO refund. The only exception to this rule would come if you paid in full for the entire year, in which case, your second semester tuition will be refunded. Parents will be notified of checks returned due to insufficient funds. Payment, IN CASH, of the face value of the check plus a \$30 returned check fee is due upon receipt of the notification. All payments for the remainder of the choir season must be made in cash or money order. See registration form for fee schedule.

DONATIONS

We are always pleased to accept donations! Checks should be made out to the **Worcester Children's Chorus**. Please note that these donations cannot benefit a specific student. More information and specific levels of giving can be found at our website: www.worcesterchildrenschorus.org.

PARENT ASSOCIATION

As a not-for profit organization, the Worcester Children's Chorus depends on the many parents, grandparents, step-parents and siblings who volunteer their time and energy in support of the organization. All parents of students enrolled in one of the WCC ensembles are automatically in the Parent Association. The mission of the WCC Parent Association is two-fold. First, the Parent Association supports the WCC staff through volunteer activities essential to the operation of the organization. Such tasks include organizing social events and the receptions following our home concerts, coordinating carpools, helping with the end of year banquet, organizing ticket sales, and helping out with the administrative details of weekly rehearsals. Second, the Parent Association participates in fundraising to raise money for WCC operating expenses. Thanks you in advance for all of your help - we would not be successful without your support!

UNIFORM

Worcester Children's Chorus Polo Shirt

New members will be sized for their shirts at WCC Orientation. Shirts are not included in the price of tuition and will be a separate expense of \$20. *Please note that we may decide to order our shirts through Land's End, at which point each student would be responsible for ordering their own shirt. Details will follow later in the summer.*

WCC Pins

The cost of this pin is covered by the student's tuition. Students receive their first pin at the end of the choir year at the award banquet. These should be worn on the left side of the shirt above the choir emblem. For specific placement, speak with one of the staff members

Black Pants

Uniform pants must be purchased by the student's family. No stretch pants, jeans, baggy pants, or bell-bottoms. If you choose to wear a belt, it must be black.

Black Socks and Shoes

Black means very little or no colored markings on the main body of the shoe. It should look solid black and wrap around the foot. *No sandals, tennis shoes, open-toed shoes, or clogs.* Black socks that cover the ankle must be worn as well.

PERFORMANCE APPEARANCE

1. WCC members should have clean hair that is out of their faces. Long hair should be pulled back and secured with a clip or hair band. Hairstyle and color must be natural looking and fairly conservative. No hair bows or colored barrettes. Ponytail holders must be black. The idea is not to draw attention to your hair. A staff member may ask a student to change his or her hairstyle if it does not meet the standards.
2. No dangling earrings, visible necklaces, or bracelets. Keep rings small. Visible earrings can be worn only in ears. Remove any watches that make an audible signal.
3. Do not leave your cell phone in your pocket!
4. Make-up should be discreet. Nail polish should not be garish in color and should not be chipped.
5. Refrain from using perfume, cologne, scented lotion, scented hairspray, etc. The close quarters during performance make it very difficult for people to breathe, especially if they have allergies. Deodorant is a lovely idea!
6. Any singer arriving for a concert without a complete uniform may be unable to perform. This missed performance would count as an absence. Student's uniform should be in proper order until leaving the concert hall.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

1. Please plan to arrive a few minutes ahead of the scheduled rehearsal times in order to check in with the Parent Coordinator. Three absences per semester are allowed. Any rehearsal or performance missed, excused or unexcused, is considered an absence. The WCC office should be notified of the absence prior to rehearsal or as soon as possible the following day. An absence form is located on the WCC website or in the

Parent Coordinator file at Wednesday rehearsals. Exceeding your allowed number of absences could result in loss of membership.

2. Chronic tardiness or early check-out will be considered into the total number of absences. Be certain to check in with a staff member when arrive late or departing early.
3. All students must be checked out at the end of rehearsals and performances. Parents or guardians need to come into the building and see the Parent Coordinator before a student will be dismissed. Students who drive themselves to rehearsal do not need to be checked out by a parent.
4. All performances are required unless special permission has been given well in advance of the performance. The sooner the better so that we may plan accordingly. Requests must be submitted in writing (absence request form) and in a timely manner to the staff. An unexcused absence from a performance can result in dismissal from choir.
5. In case of severe weather, rehearsal will be cancelled if the Assumption College campus is closed. Feel free to call the choir office for confirmation.
6. Do not assume that rehearsal has been cancelled simply because your school is not in session. Consult the schedule in this book and the information that has been sent home.
7. Students lose their place in WCC if they drop out of school.
8. The membership of WCC students remains in good standing until high school graduation as long as they meet the standards set out in the handbook. There is no need to re-audition each year unless you would like to move into another ensemble within the Worcester Children's Chorus organization.

REHEARSAL POLICIES

1. Check in when arriving at rehearsal. Please arrive early enough to be in your seat, ready to rehearse by the start time of your rehearsal.
2. There are no bathroom breaks in WCC rehearsals. Please use the restroom before coming into rehearsal. Students are welcome and encouraged to bring water to rehearsal. Keeping your vocal cords hydrated during rehearsal is very important. Only water should be in your water bottle.
3. As a rule, all rehearsals are closed. No one may sit in on a rehearsal without receiving prior permission from the staff.
4. Frequently, printed information is sent home with the students. This information is also sent via email if you have given us an email address. Families will be held accountable for the contents of this information. If the student is absent, this information will be mailed to your home.
5. All choir members are allowed to take their music folders home. The singer is responsible for their folder and must remember to bring it back each week. Music should be marked in pencil only. No pictures, stickers, or decorations should be added

to any part of the folder or music. The music and folder must be returned at the end of the choir season. You will be charged for missing or damaged music. The replacement for fee for lost WCC folders is \$100.

6. No food, candy, gum, or drinks (other than water) are allowed during rehearsal.
7. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off or silenced during rehearsal. You are "working" during this time and are unavailable. If necessary, these items will be collected by the staff until the end of rehearsal.
8. Singers should be picked up promptly following rehearsals and performances. If for some reason you are unavoidably delayed, please call the Worcester Children's Chorus office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Worcester Children's Chorus Office

(508) 767-7077

wcchorus@gmail.com

Worcester Children's Chorus

Assumption College

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Worcester, MA 01609

www.worcesterchildrenschorus.org

WORCESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS 2011 - 2012 SEASON SCHEDULE

AUGUST

5 Fees Due

SEPTEMBER

10 Kick off Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.;
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - WCC Orientation/Ice Cream Social

14 Rehearsal

21 Rehearsal

28 Rehearsal

OCTOBER

5 Rehearsal

12 Rehearsal

19 Rehearsal - Season Ads due

26 Rehearsal

NOVEMBER

2 Rehearsal

9 Rehearsal

- 16 Rehearsal
- 23 NO REHEARSAL
- 30 Rehearsal

DECEMBER

- 4 *A Worcester Holiday with the WCC in the Chapel of the Assumption College campus; 1:30 call time, 3:00 performance, and reception to follow the performance.*

JANUARY

- 4 Rehearsal/*Fees Due*
- 11 Rehearsal
- 18 Rehearsal
- 25 Rehearsal

FEBRUARY

- 1 Rehearsal
- 8 Rehearsal
- 15 Rehearsal
- 22 NO REHEARSAL
- 29 Rehearsal

MARCH

- 7 Rehearsal
- 14 Rehearsal
- 21 Rehearsal
- 28 Rehearsal

APRIL

- 4 Rehearsal
- 11 Rehearsal
- 18 NO REHEARSAL
- 25 Rehearsal
- 27-28 WCC and Tour Chorus Auditions

MAY

- 2 Rehearsal
- 6 **WCC Spring Concert at First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury; 1:30 p.m. call time, 3:00 p.m. performance, and reception to follow the performance.**

****Please note that there could be additional performance dates added over the summer. If we have any additional dates added to our calendar, then we will have an updated copy available at the Kick-Off in September.**