Southern Kentucky Children's Chorus

Introduction

The Southern Kentucky (SOKY) Children’s Chorus is a community children’s chorus associated with Western Kentucky University. SOKY Children’s Chorus is founded with the intent to provide additional performance opportunities to supplement the programs offered in the local schools and churches. Emphasis will be placed upon learning age-appropriate choral literature and providing additional performance opportunities locally, regionally and nationally.

Goals

- Growth – To foster personal, social and musical growth of its choir members
- Education – To promote musical literacy and understanding of age-appropriate vocal production to the singers, their families and the community
- Excellence – To encourage excellence through performance, with goals to perform on a local, regional and national level

Mission

The mission of the Southern Kentucky Children’s Chorus is to provide age-appropriate music education through rehearsals and performances of quality music literature.

Relationship with Western Kentucky University

The SOKY Children’s Chorus is an ensemble supported by the WKU Department of Music and the WKU Division of Extended Learning and Outreach. Additionally, the founding director, Dr. Jennifer Adam, is an assistant professor of music within the Department of Music. In addition to university faculty, this chorus provides a valuable training and experience opportunity for WKU music education majors. Therefore, WKU students will be assisting with and observing rehearsals, special recitals and concerts. Assistant directors and accompanists for the choir will also be drawn from students participating in the music education program at WKU.

Dr. Jennifer Adam will supervise all artistic decisions regarding programming, rehearsing and conducting the ensemble during performances. Sharon Woodward, Division of Extended Learning and Outreach, will be responsible for administration issues, including marketing and tuition payments.

Membership

Membership is open to singers in 4th–7th grade. All singers will need to audition for membership in the ensemble. Auditions will be held every fall and spring semester for the upcoming term. Membership in the ensemble one semester does not guarantee membership in the next semester. Violation of policies discussed in handbook could result in student suspension from program.
Auditions

Auditions will be held at the Knicely Conference Center on WKU’s South Campus on advertised dates in November and December (for Spring semester membership) and in August (for Fall semester membership). Auditions will consist of the following:

- Reading a poem
- Singing “Happy Birthday” or “My Country ‘tis of Thee”
- Echoing rhythms and melodies
- Vocalizing to determine vocal range

A committee of conductors and educators will complete the evaluation and letters regarding membership will be mailed within days after the final auditions are held. Information regarding tuition payments and deadlines will be provided with that letter.

Tuition

Tuition fees for Fall 2012 are as follows:

- $ 150 per semester
- $ 125 per semester - reduced price offered to WKU Faculty/Staff, WKU Alumni, each additional child in program

Commitment to School and Church Music Programs

The SOKY Children’s Chorus is largely dependent upon the support of local music teachers and church choir directors. Singers in the chorus are expected to remain in good standing in their school and church choirs and to serve as leaders in those ensembles.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday nights from 6:00–7:30 PM at First Christian Church at 1106 State Street, Bowling Green, on schedule with the WKU spring and fall semesters. A more specific schedule will be provided at the beginning of each semester.

Rehearsal Conduct

Singers should arrive 5-10 minutes prior to rehearsal for attendance check-in and proceed to their assigned seat. The chorus will be singing literature appropriate to children’s voices. Rehearsals will consist of practice and activities related to musical concepts, culminating in performances of the literature. Singers are expected to participate in all rehearsal activities for the duration of the entire rehearsal. During rehearsals, singers are expected to conduct themselves in a calm, polite and professional manner. No aggressive behaviors such as hitting, kicking or yelling will be tolerated.
For weekly rehearsals, children will need their music folder, water and a sharpened or mechanical pencil. No beverages or snacks will be provided.

Attendance:

Membership in SOKY Children’s Chorus requires a commitment to consistent, focused and punctual attendance. Every rehearsal is critical to the individual and to the whole choir. Much is covered in rehearsals that cannot be remediated outside the regularly scheduled rehearsals, so should a singer be ill with a non-contagious condition, it is advisable to attend, listen and take notes.

Lack of attendance (more than 2 rehearsals a semester), lack of punctuality (numerous tardies), and habitually leaving early from rehearsals do not demonstrate a full commitment to the choir and can result in reconsideration of membership for future semesters, or even in dismissal from a current semester.

All dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory! Missing a concert would be akin to practicing every week for a sporting team and never playing the actual game.

Performances

Attendance is required for all scheduled performances! Regular performances will be held in conjunction with performances given by the WKU Men’s and Women’s Choirs. More specific information regarding dress rehearsals and call times for concerts will be provided with the rehearsal schedule.

Performance conduct:

Prior to performances, singers are asked to drink plenty of water in the 24 hours preceding the concert, to be well-rested and fed. Each of these items are to help ensure the singers can fully participate in the performance. During the performance, singers are expected to conduct themselves in a calm, polite and professional manner. No aggressive behaviors such as hitting, kicking or yelling will be tolerated.

Performance attire:

Singers should wear a plain white, button-down shirt and black pants, black socks or stockings and shoes for all performances, unless specifically instructed otherwise by the conductor.

Music

Music is purchased by the chorus and will remain the property of the SOKY Children’s Chorus. Selections will be performed by memory during the concert, so collection of music will occur prior to the performance. Parents will be responsible for paying for replacements for any damaged music.
Parental Involvement

Parental involvement during chorus rehearsals is expected. Parents are expected to assist as a chaperone and bathroom monitor during rehearsals on a rotating basis each semester. Parents not on rehearsal monitor rotation are expected to arrive by 7:25 PM to receive home practice instructions for their children each week. As guests of the First Christian Church, children will be expected to be respectful of the property and other events that may occur at the church during rehearsal time. Music for practice will be sent home with the child. Parents are expected to monitor home practice and assist children in keeping up with their assigned music folders.

Community Support/Sponsorship

WKU Department of Music
WKU Division of Extended Learning and Outreach
First Christian Church, Bowling Green
Bowling Green-Western Choral Society (Southern Kentucky Choral Society)