

# Lafayette Children's Choir Manual 2018-2019

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## INTRODUCTION

### Vision Statement

The *Lafayette Children's Choir of the Lafayette Master Chorale* is an educational and artistic organization dedicated to enriching the intellectual, philosophical, and spiritual quality of life for our community for this and future generations, through the study, practice, and performance of choral music.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the *Lafayette Children's Choir* is to:

1. *Promote, support, and sustain* interest in choral music by providing opportunities for singers of all ages to learn and perform under the direction of professional musicians.
2. *Inspire* the citizens of Lafayette with programs featuring great choral repertoire performed at the highest artistic level.
3. *Educate* future generations by providing music education opportunities for children and youth in our community.
4. *Enrich* the lives of singers and audiences by linking them to diverse musical heritages.
5. *Lead* the arts community by creating opportunities to incorporate various art forms in our performances and to collaborate with other arts groups.

For more information visit our website  
–[www.lafayettechildrenschoir.org](http://www.lafayettechildrenschoir.org) or  
contact **Michelle Schmierer**  
[info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org](mailto:info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org)

## THE CHOIRS

**Young Voices** - This is our preparatory choir open to all students in Kindergarten and First Grade. It is designed to help young singers become “tuneful, beautiful, and artful” musicians with a focus on basic singing techniques and rhythm skills. Rehearsals will be based around John Feierabend’s First Steps in Music curriculum. This choir will rehearse for ten weeks in the fall and ten weeks in the spring. Both semesters will end in a performance with the entire Lafayette Children's Choir.

**Prelude Choir** - This choir, open to all students in Second and Third Grades, includes those who have a strong desire to sing and are eager to learn vocal technique, sight reading and performance skills. As these children explore their interest in singing, rehearsals will be focused on fun, with singing and movement as the primary guide to building musicianship. Additionally they will gain self-awareness and self-worth within a social structure of sharing musical experiences made lovingly together.

**Concert Choir** – Based on both ability and grade level, this choir is geared to students in Fourth through Sixth Grades and consists of children and youth who are able to produce a beautiful tone quality, have a good ability to read music, and are able to sing harmony independently. They will sing challenging, quality musical literature chosen to delight both themselves and their audiences. They must have the maturity to conduct themselves in a professional manner during rehearsal and performance. They must also have high integrity with regard to commitment to their choir.

**Youth Chorus**– The most elite of our choirs, this ensemble consists of our most advanced singers in Sixth Grade and up. As our top ensemble, the singers in Youth Chorus must have a high level of commitment as they are frequently called upon to sing at outreach concerts within our community. Such opportunities may include performances with the adult Chorale, touring, and singing at important community events.

**Adult Chorale (The Lafayette Master Chorale)**- The Chorale was formed in 1965 and currently consists of 40-60 adult singers from Lafayette, West Lafayette, and the surrounding areas. Membership is by audition. Although some of our singers have had formal training, many have not. All are bound by a love of choral music.

## **REPERTOIRE**

The composer, Zoltan Kodály, once said, “With sweets and candy one cannot rear healthy people. The food of the soul should also be simple and strength-giving. The masters have provided plenty of such nourishment. Feed on this.” At the Lafayette Children’s Choir we, like Zoltan Kodály, believe that children deserve only the best of children’s literature. Therefore the repertoire we choose will be from the long tested folk traditions of ours and other cultures, and artistically composed literature from history’s proven masters (Bach, Mozart, Britten, Copland, etc.)

Though we perform in a variety of venues, including some churches, we are a nonsectarian organization and it is our commitment to educate our performers and audiences, not to promote or intrude upon the beliefs of our singers and audiences. Therefore, we ask that all singers sing all music presented to them, whether or not it coincides with their personal beliefs. Great care will be taken to ensure that music will be of the highest quality.

## **VOCAL ASSESSMENTS**

All children from Kindergarten up will be invited to participate in one of the choirs of the Lafayette Children’s Choir regardless of ability level. However, all new singers in Second Grade and up should plan to attend a vocal assessment to ensure proper placement in one of our choirs. Vocal assessments will be held in August and January of each year. Returning singers will be reassessed each April. The vocal assessment consists of a one on one meeting with the director and it is asked that there be no prepared piece in advance. To arrange for a vocal assessment, please contact Michelle Schmierer at [info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org](mailto:info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org)

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Please read this handbook for basic information regarding the children’s choir program and expectations. For specific information not included, you may contact the Lafayette Master Chorale Office, 765-429-5151 or Michelle Schmierer, Choir Coordinator, at [info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org](mailto:info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org). Announcements and updates will be sent by email and posted on our website at [www.lafayettechildrenschoir.org](http://www.lafayettechildrenschoir.org).

Each singer is required to fill out a registration information form online. At the parent meeting, families will also receive a media waiver, emergency contact form, and singer contract that is to be returned in a timely manner at a date chosen by the choir coordinator.

Parents are welcome to observe their child's rehearsals at any time. However, ***we do require complete silence while observing.*** Disruptive siblings (or parents) will be asked to leave. Music and choral folders belong to the Lafayette Children's Choir. They will be assigned at the beginning of the season and should be used and handled with care. At close of season, if the folder and music is not returned, the singer will be charged a \$50 fee to replace the lost items.

## CALENDAR

### Choir Calendar/Schedule

A calendar for the year has been made available to you and may also be found online at our website. Please place the information on your family calendar immediately so that you can let Michelle Schmierer [info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org](mailto:info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org) know of any absences that you foresee.

Please arrive and check in 10 minutes, but not more than 15 minutes, before rehearsal time in order to go to the restroom, get a drink, find folders, etc.

**Young Voices** Mondays 5:45-6:45 p.m.

**Prelude Choir** Mondays 5:45-6:45 p.m.

**Concert Choir** Mondays 6:50 – 8:05 p.m.

**Youth Chorus** Mondays 6:50 – 8:15 p.m.

**Rehearsal Location - Grace United Methodist Church, 615 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Lafayette, Indiana**

### Special Rehearsals and Performances

Public performances are an important component of the Lafayette Children's Choir. Singers in Prelude Choir, Concert Choir, and Youth Chorus participate in three major concerts each year – a fall concert, holiday concert, and spring concert (students in Young Voices will participate in the fall and spring concerts only). Choristers can only experience the fruits of their labor by participating in the finished product. This opportunity to share their works with an audience in the concert/public setting is extremely valuable.

***Every chorister has a special voice and unique talent to contribute, and everyone is expected to give his or her best!***

The director will select activities and performances for the season. Other community outreach performances may be scheduled based on requests. These will be communicated to the chorister's families at the earliest opportunity. Transportation to all rehearsals and performances is the responsibility of the chorister's parent(s). ***All performances and dress rehearsals are mandatory and if a singer is not in attendance at the dress rehearsal, they will not be allowed to perform; however they will remain a member of the choir.***

## MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

### Attendance Policy

Each choir member holds a very important place in their choir. ***It is expected that rehearsals and performances take a very high priority in each child's life.***

When a child knows in advance of an absence, our choir coordinator, Michelle Schmierer, [info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org](mailto:info@lafayettechildrenschoir.org), should be notified at least two weeks prior to the missed rehearsal. School conflicts, major religious holidays, illness, and death in the family are considered excused absences. If a member has laryngitis but feels well, he or she is encouraged to attend rehearsal in a listening capacity. School holidays are excused as well, though if you are in town during the holiday we ask that you come to

rehearsal. ***There are two absences allowed per semester, including excused absences.*** If there are more than two, a singer hearing will be required in order to perform in the upcoming concert. Singer hearings will take place on Monday evenings after rehearsal, prior to the upcoming concert. The purpose of the hearings is to establish readiness. They are not punitive. Dress rehearsals are mandatory. ***Those who have not fulfilled the attendance requirement will not be allowed to sing the concert, but will remain a member of the choir.***

### **Behavior at rehearsal/performances**

Exemplary behavior is expected of all choristers, whether at rehearsals or performances, on stage and off stage. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and, after proper warning, will be grounds for dismissal. If a child is asked to leave rehearsal, the parent/guardian will be called to pick up their child at that time. If this happens on two separate occasions, the child will be removed from the Lafayette Children's Choir for the remainder of the year. **Tuition will not be reimbursed.**

### **Rehearsal Etiquette**

Please arrive to rehearsal and check in 10 minutes, but not more than 15 minutes, before rehearsal time. Before entering the rehearsal room drink water and go to the restroom because once you are in rehearsal, you are asked not to leave again until the rehearsal is over. Upon arrival in the rehearsal room, please have a seat and put your music in rehearsal order. You may talk quietly to your neighbors, but not wander around the room, until rehearsal has begun. Only water in a closed container is allowed at rehearsal. Please remember that we are guests in the **Grace United Methodist Church** building. Be good representatives of our choir. Running in the hallways and visiting areas that are not ours to use is strictly forbidden. A singer who is waiting for other singers should bring a quiet activity or homework.

### **Performance Procedures**

- Students should arrive 10 minutes prior to call time. **Call times will be announced by the last rehearsal, prior to the dress rehearsal.**
- Students should be well fed, but not overfed, prior to performance. Drink plenty of water the day of the performance and use the restroom prior to arrival.
- Punctuality is imperative. If a child is late to call time, it is possible they will be excluded from the performance.
- In order to sing in the concert, full uniform must be worn. Students should remain in uniform until they leave the performance site.
- We are on stage from the moment we arrive at the facility. Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner, including speaking in a quiet voice and silence when talking is not allowed. Students should be ever attentive to direction and should walk calmly.
- If a child is feeling ill during the concert, they should quietly sit on the risers in their place, until they feel better. If they still are not feeling well, they should leave the stage and go to our choir coordinator (Michelle Schmierer) who will wait for their parents in the lobby. Once a child leaves the stage, they may only return at the director's discretion.
- All questions from parents at call time should be asked of our choir coordinator, Michelle Schmierer. Directors should not be interrupted during rehearsal and prior to performance. The performance is very important to your child and to your child's director, and therefore distractions are to be avoided at all costs.

## **UNIFORMS**

### **Young Voices**

Singers in Young Voices will wear their Lafayette Children's Choir t-shirts, black bottoms (long skirt or pants), and black shoes for concerts. T-shirts will be distributed at rehearsal.

## Prelude Choir

Singers in Prelude Choir will wear long sleeved white shirts with long black bottoms (girls can choose either skirt or pants), black socks and black close-toed shoes (no high heels, please). Prelude singers will purchase their own uniforms from local retailers. If you already have, or plan to purchase, concert clothing not from the links below, that's no problem! We just ask that you bring them in to be approved by the director. To simplify the process of finding an appropriate outfit, here are links to items that have been approved by the director:

Girls -

<http://www.target.com/p/girls-long-sleeve-interlock-polo-shirt-cat-jack/-/A-50715722>

<http://www.target.com/p/girls-maxi-skirt-cat-jack-153-black/-/A-50873239>

<http://www.target.com/p/girls-ponte-knit-trousers-cat-jack-153-ebony/-/A-50714954>

Boys -

<http://www.target.com/p/boys-button-down-shirt-cat-jack-153-white/-/A-50888333>

<http://www.target.com/p/boys-long-sleeve-button-down-oxford-shirt-cat-jack-153-white/-/A-50793729>

<http://www.target.com/p/boys-reinforced-knee-flat-front-pant-cat-jack-153/-/A-50711258>

## Concert Choir

The cost of the uniform is included in tuition and the uniform will be property of the singer.

**Girls:** Blue performance knit top (bell sleeves and cowl neckline) and black palazzo pants with overlay, black, close-toed shoes (no tennis shoes)

**Boys:** Black dress pants, white collared shirt, blue bow tie and suspenders, black socks, black shoes (no tennis shoes)

## Youth Chorus

The cost of the uniform is included in tuition and the uniform will be property of the singer.

**Girl:** Black performance knit top (bell sleeves and cowl neckline) and black palazzo pants with overlay, black, close-toed shoes (no tennis shoes)

**Boy:** Black dress pants, black collared shirt, black necktie, black socks, black shoes (no tennis shoes)

### Personal Appearance

Each chorister is responsible for looking their absolute best and should be dressed appropriately for each performance.

- Earring/facial piercings-studs only, no large dangling loops, gauges, etc
- No necklaces/bracelets
- No giant hair bows, headbands, sparkly/glitter items-hair accessories should match the color of the hair and be in good taste
- We ask that singers not wear perfume as it bothers kids with allergies (deodorant is okay).

Any chorister that does not come dressed appropriately for a performance will not be allowed to perform. A uniform appearance for our choir is important. Anything that draws attention toward an individual also draws attention away from our sound.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

A non-refundable tuition payment is due upon registration. If your child is in Young Voices or Prelude Choir, there is only one tuition price. If your child is in Concert or Youth, it will depend on their uniform needs.

### Plan A:

Full year tuition (including full, new uniform cost for Concert Choir and Youth Chorus) is:

- \$150 for Young Voices - plus cost black pants/skirts/shoes (t-shirt is provided)
- \$190 for Prelude Choir - plus purchase of uniform (approx. \$30),
- \$285 for Concert Choir
- \$320 for Youth Chorus

### Plan B:

Full year tuition for Concert and Youth singers who need only ONE new garment for the uniform (shirt OR pants) is:

- \$250 for Concert Choir
- \$285 for Youth Chorus
- If a singer needs a new set of suspenders or tie, these can be purchased separately.

### Plan C:

Full year tuition for Concert and Youth singers who do NOT need any new uniform pieces is:

- \$215 for Concert Choir
- \$250 for Youth Chorus

**Lafayette Children's Choir t-shirts are included in the tuition. New shirts will not be purchased for returning singers unless a size change is needed.**

The first installment of tuition is \$70 and is due at the first rehearsal. You may pay the remaining three equal installments due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, October, and November. We do take credit card payments (Visa, Master Card, Discover). Payment plans are on the back of this sheet.

Payments may be mailed to the Lafayette Master Chorale, (Lafayette Master Chorale, 839 Main St., Suite 540, Lafayette, IN, 47901-2830,) or may be given to the Choir Coordinator (Michelle Schmierer) at rehearsal. **Payments can also be made online on our Website under Members Info.** If you pay by check, include on each check the chorister's full name. If your check is to be used for more than one chorister or purpose, please attach a note itemizing the charges to be covered. Invoices will be sent at the end of the month to inform you of any past due payments and any upcoming payments.

**No child shall be excluded from participation in a Lafayette Children's Choir due to financial considerations.** If for any reason a singer's family is unable to pay the required tuition, they will be asked to fill out a scholarship request form. We require one hour of volunteer time per \$100 of scholarship awarded. Scholarship requests will be approved by the Lafayette Master Chorale Board of Directors.

### Sibling Discounts

If more than one child participates from within a family, \$25 will be deducted per child, for each additional child's tuition.

### Recruiting Discount

Singers who invite a friend to join, and their friend completes a full season, will receive a \$25 discount the following year.

**Plan A**

The payment plan would be as follows for Young Voices, Prelude, Concert (full uniform needed), and Youth (full uniform needed):

	Young Voices	Prelude Choir	Concert Choir	Youth Chorus
Amount due at first rehearsal	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70
Amount due by Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$26	\$40	\$71	\$83
Amount due by Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$27	\$40	\$72	\$83
Amount due by Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$27	\$40	\$72	\$84
Total	\$150	\$190	\$285	\$320

**Plan B**

For Concert and Youth Singers needing only one garment for their uniform, please use the following payment plan:

	Concert Choir	Youth Chorus
Amount due at first rehearsal	\$70	\$70
Amount due by Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$60	\$71
Amount due by Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$60	\$72
Amount due by Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$60	\$72
Total	\$250	\$285

**Plan C**

For Concert and Youth Singers that do not need any new uniform (the old one still fits and is the correct one for their choir), please use the following payment plan:

	Concert Choir	Youth Chorus
Amount due at first rehearsal	\$70	\$70
Amount due by Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$48	\$60
Amount due by Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$48	\$60
Amount due by Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$49	\$60
Total	\$215	\$250

**Special Ticket Package Offer for Parents/Guardians:** This offer is limited to two per family and is only available upon registering your child for the current season. For \$25, you can purchase one adult ticket to all three season concerts in which the LCC performs: the fall concert, Christmas concert, and spring concert. This is a \$40 value total if you were to buy the tickets at the door! The deadline to choose this option is September 11th, when the attached form is due. After that date, you will have to pay the original ticket prices at the door.

If you are interested in this offer, please check the box on the attached planning page and list if you would like one or two sets of tickets. The appropriate amount (either \$25 for one adult or \$50 for two adults) will be split evenly among your September, October, and November payments.

# **PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Parent Committee and Community of Volunteers**

Lafayette Children's Choir parents become participants in the success of the choir each year by accepting a volunteer support position. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the parent meeting which will be held at the beginning of the semester.

## **Chaperone**

- Oversees LCC singers for rehearsals (in absence of Coordinator,) concerts, community events, and travel.

## **Music Sorting/Filing**

- Assists with preparing folders and re-filing music following semester end/beginning.

## **Concert Set-up/Clean-up**

- Transport risers
- Set-up and teardown risers

## **Event Support**

- Video or CD recording
- Photography
- Equipment transport as needed

## **Social Committee**

- Initiate and coordinate social events to foster friendships between our singers.