



YOUNG SINGERS

OF THE PALM BEACHES

2017 – 2018

SINGER & FAMILY HANDBOOK

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Email Contact: information@yspb.org

My Choir is: _____

My Rehearsal Day & Time is: _____

My Director is: _____

Young Singers of the Palm Beaches Staff

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Young Singers of the Palm Beaches Board of Directors

board@yspb.org

Hank Gonzalez, President
Bert Winkler, Vice President
Sue Llende - Treasurer
Ken Dwyer-Secretary
Larry Bernstein, Member
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Dave Frankland, Member
Brian R. Hanley, Member
Danielle Igoe, Member
Gary Lesser, Member
Victoria McCullogh, Member
Timothy J. McAlice, Member at Large

Frequently Asked Questions

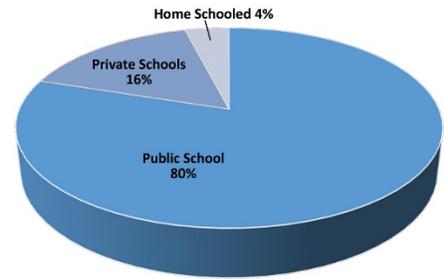
- How will Young Singer Contact us? All communications will come via email and Team Snap. Please make sure we have a valid email on file. If at any time you stop receiving weekly emails please contact the office immediately.
- How do I pay Tuition? Refer to Tuition Section on page 13.
- How do I get Concert Tickets? Kravis box office by calling 561-832-SHOW(7469) or by visiting www.kravis.org
- What if my child has to miss rehearsal? See pages 8 and 9.
- Where is the YSPB Office? Please visit us on the 3rd floor the Cohen Pavilion at the Kravis Center.
- Where can I find a schedule? Schedules are available on Team Snap. You must be invited to as a member to see schedules. Contact information@yspb.org if you have not received and invitation to join Team Snap.
- What do I do in inclement weather? In the event of inclement weather that would be dangerous for our families and singers, rehearsal will be cancelled. Notices of cancellation will be sent via email and through Team Snap. Also a message will be available by calling 561-659-2332.
- Where can parents wait during rehearsal? Parents can wait in the lunch/break room on the 2nd floor of the Cohen Pavilion where rehearsals are held unless notified before a performance. Parents are asked not to wait in the lobby on the 2nd floor. City Place provides many restaurants and shopping opportunities.
- Where do I drop my child off? Da Capo and Treble Choir parents are required to park and escort their singer to and from practice. No singer in Da Capo or Treble Choir will be allowed to walk to or from the parking garage alone.
- Singers in 6th grade or higher are released to the parking garage on their own. Parents must park in the garage. **Parents may not form a pick up line and block traffic. Singers may not be picked up via the valet loop in front of the Cohen Pavilion.**

About Young Singers

Program Overview

Young Singers of the Palm Beaches is Palm Beach County's premiere community-based children's choir. We are a multi-racial, multi-cultural arts education organization based centrally in West Palm Beach at the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. Young Singers of the Palm Beaches is comprised of singers in grades 2-12 from all parts of Palm Beach County's diverse racial, ethnic, geographic, and socio-economic communities.

Singers in our program learn all aspects of proper choral singing and vocal technique, which include posture, breathing, diction, vowel articulation, music reading, and sight singing. Members also learn interpretation; music history; rehearsal techniques; and performance techniques, presentation and etiquette. In addition, the children are exposed to the diversity of many cultures through music and through each other; and they learn communication, team-building and problem-solving skills. We nurture their creativity which fosters personal growth, self-esteem, and an appreciation of music as art; and we promote good citizenship by teaching the importance of "giving back" to our community and by developing civic pride when on tour nationally and internationally.



Young Singers represents students from 106 public and private schools in Palm Beach County as well as home school students

Our repertoire is selected by our Artistic Director, D. Shawn Berry, and his staff. These highly-trained music educators select challenging, skill-appropriate choral music for each choir with a focus on diversity. We have performed music encompassing many genres (folk, classical, sacred, spiritual/gospel, popular, etc.), many languages (English, Spanish, Creole, Latin, Hebrew, Japanese, French, Hawaiian, etc.), and diverse cultural celebrations (most notably Christmas and Hanukkah). Our concerts also feature instrumentalists and incorporate choreography.

Regular, formal rehearsals with our artistic staff are held weekly during the school year. These rehearsals are typically scheduled for 1-1/2 to 2- 1/4 hours, depending on the choir. Additional dress and technical rehearsals are held immediately before concerts. In addition, separate rehearsals are held for Ensemble, and for tours. Extended day workshops for all choir members are occasionally scheduled and these incorporate instructional and social activities.

Applicants are auditioned individually for basic vocal potential by one of our conductors. These auditions usually take place in June, August, and January, in the Cohen Pavilion at the Kravis Center. Singers are then placed into the appropriate choir based on age, ability, and experience. We currently have **7** choirs into which children can be placed:

- Da Capo Singers
- Treble Singers
- Bel Canto Choir
- Encore Ensemble
- Men's Choir
- Cantate Choir
- Lyric Ensemble

Young Singers provides many exceptional local, national, and international performance, educational, and cultural opportunities for our members. In addition to performances at prominent venues throughout Palm Beach County such as the Kravis Center, the Harriet Himmel Theater, the Eissey Theatre, and the Flagler Museum, we have performed at renowned venues such as Avery Fisher Hall in New York, the Salzburg Cathedral, and the Votivkirche in Vienna. Our singers have been fortunate to learn from our own staff of esteemed conductors, as well as from such notable guest conductors as Janos Czifra, Z. Randall Stroope, Francisco Núñez, Dr. Barbara Tagg and Dr. Sandra Snow.

Formal concerts are not the only performances in which we participate. Our singers are also invited to perform at local cultural, civic, and charitable events, and in professional productions with Palm Beach Opera and national theatrical touring companies. Young Singers also provides our members with an opportunity to showcase their many talents in an annual Talent Show. Our singers produce, direct, choreograph, and rehearse their own acts which include vocal, dance, instrumental, and dramatic performances. The acts are selected by the artistic staff at an audition.

History

Young Singers was established by several music educators in Palm Beach County, including Shawn Berry, Michael Yannette and Connie Drosakis. Each of these founders has extensive experience in music education, and enjoys local and national recognition for their accomplishments. They envisioned a children's choral organization that would not be constrained by school boundaries, religious affiliations, racial bias, socio-economic barriers, or funding cuts to arts education.

This dream was realized during the summer of 2003. Our first choir season began with 79 singers, in grades 4 through 12, assigned by grade level and ability to 2 choirs. Young Singers has grown from this grassroots concept to a viable force in the choral community. We have performed locally, nationally, and internationally.

In addition to our self-produced Holiday and Spring Concerts, which are held in Dreyfoos Hall at the Kravis Center, we have also performed locally at the Duncan Theater, the Eissey Theatre, the Flagler Museum, the Borland Center, the Harriet Himmel Theatre, CityPlace, the Preservation Foundation in Palm Beach, nursing homes, libraries, etc.

On tour nationally, our singers have performed in Boston in the National Festival of the States in June of 2005; in New York City on the stage of Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in the National Festival Children's Chorus in June of 2007; and The Pacific International Chorus Festival in Eugene, Oregon in 2009 and the Southwest Tour in Summer 2011, Crescent City Choral Festival. This Summer our Treble Singers will be participating in Disney Magic Music Days and our older choirs will attend the Sing A Mile High in Denver in June 2018.

In 2006, Young Singers received international recognition with an invitation to represent the state of Florida in Jubilate Mozart, an International Youth Choral Festival which was part of the year-long celebration in honor of the composer's 250th birthday. Our singers performed in concerts in Salzburg and Vienna. Young Singers Treble Choir was invited to perform at the Children In Harmony Choral Festival at Walt Disney World in May 2008.

Mission

Young Singers of the Palm Beaches believes that music education of children is a valuable resource in the development of productive participants in our society. Through it we can transform and enrich the lives of children and our community by:

- Breaking down social barriers - Young Singers brings together children from all the diverse cultural, ethnic, racial, and economic backgrounds of Palm Beach County in a positive, nurturing, and safe environment to experience and participate together in many kinds of choral music, while learning about each other.
- Developing life skills - Young Singers provides children in grades 3 through 12 with challenging, intensive, skill-appropriate music education and unique performance opportunities, through which we teach and put into action life skills such as communication, leadership, commitment, teamwork, loyalty, goal-setting, and the value of putting forth your best effort.
- Providing an outlet for creativity - Young Singers empowers children to discover, develop, and pursue their musical and interpersonal talents to facilitate creativity, personal growth, and self-esteem while cultivating an appreciation of music as an art form.
- Fostering good citizenship - Young Singers provides children with opportunities to share their gifts and talents throughout our community while teaching the importance of "giving back," in addition to teaching responsibility and to developing civic pride when representing Palm Beach County on tour nationally and internationally.

Additional Community Involvement

Building Learning Communities through Arts and Culture Grant

In August 2009, through a competitive grant process, Young Singers of the Palm Beaches embarked on a partnership with the Palm Beach Cultural Council to participate in the Building Learning Communities Through Arts and Culture (BLCTAC) grant to bring arts integration to Palm Beach County Middle schools. Young Singers saw the BLCTAC grant as a springboard to reintroduce choral singing and music education to Carver Middle School, while collaborating with teachers and staff to integrate music into the Social Studies Curriculum

Prime Time Enhancements - Summer 2011 - Current

From June 2011 to the present, Young Singers of the Palm Beaches has received grants from Prime Time of Palm Beach County to provide summer and after school choral enhancement programs to local summer camp programs. Young Singers provides choral directors to multiple sites in Palm Beach County. The students are introduced to basic choral concepts and music reading skills. During their time together they learn a musical program that focused on personal integrity, anti-bullying and literacy. The singers participate in culminating events.

Our Program

Da Capo Choir:

Our Da Capo Choir provides singers in grades 2 – 3 an introduction to choral singing. Emphasis will be placed on proper posture, breathing, tone production, basic solfege, performance etiquette and the tools and techniques necessary to move into a higher-level choir. Students in Da Capo Choir will perform in 2 major concerts a year on the stage of the Kravis.

Treble Choir:

Our Treble singers are singers in grades 4 – 5 with unchanged voices. The singers will develop their vocal skills as well as their musicianship and theory skills. They will perform 2 major concerts a year. Most repertoire consists of unison and basic two-part music.

Bel Canto:

Bel Canto singers are primarily young ladies and young men with unchanged voices in grades 6 – 8. This choir concentrates on developing proper tone, breath support, intonation and sight-reading skills. The singers perform in two major concerts a year, a few outside performances and their literature is 2 and 3-part music of various styles.

Encore:

Encore singers are young ladies and young men in grades 6 – 8 with unchanged voices who are musically advanced. The repertoire will be challenging upper level 2 and 3-part treble music. This group will perform 2 major concerts a year and numerous outside performance representing Young Singers.

Lyric:

Lyric singers are young ladies in grades 8 – 12 who are musically advanced. The singers should demonstrate strong sight-reading skills as well as advanced level individual singing skills. The repertoire will be challenging SSA and SSAA voicing. This group will perform in 2 major concerts a year. This group will also take on additional outside performances.

Cantate Choir:

Cantate singers are young ladies in grades 9 – 12. The repertoire performed is SSA and SSAA voicing. This group performs in 2 major concerts a year and performs for community events. Together with the Men's Chorus, they perform SATB music.

Men's Chorus:

Our Men's Chorus is an all-male choir of young men that perform TB, TTB and TTBB music. Their voices have changed or started to change and this is a safe environment to learn how to deal with the changing voice. The Men perform 2 concerts a year. Together with Cantate, they perform SATB music.

Singer Commitments & Requirements

Rehearsal Commitments:

Note: Transportation to and from rehearsals is the individual responsibility of the parents as are carpools.

Schedules are available on Team Snap App. These schedules are available only to member of Young Singers. You will be invited to join the YSPB Team Snap.

Attendance:

Membership in the Young Singers of the Palm Beaches is a commitment to faithful consistent and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsal take a very high priority in each child's life. Each singer holds a valuable place in his/her choir. All rehearsals are mandatory unless otherwise noted on the calendar.

Absences from Rehearsals:

Singers are allowed three (3) absences per semester. The Director of the choir must be notified **before** the rehearsal – we prefer as far in advance as possible. **To notify a Director of an absence fill out the online form found on the Young Singers website under Singers & Families.** The online form will go directly to our office, the attendance coordinator and the Director of your choir. Young Singers staff or volunteers may still call to verify absences.

Parents must submit a written excuse for Tardiness or Early Dismissal. A written excuse should include the child's name, choir name, reason for tardiness or dismissal, and a parent signature.

The final walk thru/tech rehearsal before a concert is very important. Tech Rehearsal is a **mandatory rehearsal.** Without prior arrangements for absence, it is possible that a singer will not be allowed to perform. Sound checks, staging, and other final details are handled at these rehearsals, and it is important that the directors know how many members to expect. These absences require the permission of the director of the individual choir and are rarely excused.

Religious Holidays:

Any singer absent due to a major religious holiday will not have an absence counted against him/her. These absences must be arranged at least two weeks in advance. Please see the Pre-Arranged Absence Form online or use the form included in this manual.

School Performances:

Children that are required to attend a mandatory school performance or rehearsal please record the absence in advance on the website absence form.

Unexcused Absences:

If no contact is made with the director prior to an absence (even if it is the same day), it is counted as an unexcused absence. An unexcused absence may jeopardize a singer's place in a choir. If a singer has an excessive number of absences whether excused or unexcused, removal from the program may be considered. Absences will be considered in choir placement for the next season.

Resignation:

Each Singer is expected to fulfill his/her commitment to participate for the entire season. However, in the event those circumstances prevent a singer from honoring his/her commitment, a personal conference between the director and the parents will be required before submitting a letter of resignation. **If a singer resigns, the parent is still responsible for the entire tuition fee.**

Rehearsal Etiquette:

The following procedures will help Young Singers achieve the discipline and professionalism necessary to produce an excellent learning environment and produce quality concerts. The procedures are to ensure the safety of the children, foster fairness and ensure the rehearsals are productive.

1. Singers will not be allowed to arrive at the Cohen Pavilion more than 15 minutes prior to rehearsal. They are to use the restroom, get a drink of water before signing in. Each singer must sign in with the attendance parent. Singers are to go directly to the rehearsal room and not hang out in the hallways.
2. Singers should always bring music, a pencil and water to rehearsal.
3. Please turn in notes, payments, permission slips, etc. to the attendance parent in the rehearsal room.
4. Do not roam the Cohen Pavilion at any time.
5. Do not bring food or drink except water into the rehearsal area. Please make sure singers eat a nutritious meal or snack before rehearsal.
6. If for any reason your singer can not actively participate in a rehearsal, the singer should bring a note and observe quietly and attentively.

7. **Singers are responsible for taking home any handouts distributed at rehearsals.** We will do our best to communicate via email but on occasion important notices will come home from rehearsal. It is the responsibility of the family to keep the Young Singers office informed of email address changes. If you are not receiving emails please check with our office immediately.
8. When dropping off and picking up singers:

Da Capo and Treble Choir: All Da Capo and Treble Choir singers **must be escorted** to and picked up on the 2nd floor of the Cohen Pavilion by an adult. No singer will be released to walk to the parking garage alone. Parents may not pull through the valet loop in front of the Kravis to pick up their singer. Parents may not form a pick-up line in the parking garage. This is very dangerous for our singers and could result in a ticket from the police and removal from the choir. Please consult the Kravis Center calendar and allow extra time to arrive during season as patrons are arriving for shows. Tardiness will not be excused for parking garage delays, please plan ahead.

Bel Canto, Encore, Men, Cantate, Lyric: Singers will be released on their own after rehearsal. Parents may not pull through the valet loop in front of the Kravis to pick up their singer. Parents may not form a pick-up line in the parking garage. This is very dangerous for our singers and could result in a ticket from the police and removal from the choir. Please consult the Kravis Center calendar and allow extra time to arrive during season as patrons are arriving for shows. Tardiness will not be excused for parking garage delays, please plan ahead.

Failing to follow parking instructions could result in dismissal of your child from the choir. Our major concern is the safety of our singers.

9. Singers are expected to show respect for each other, parent volunteers, directors, the staff and the Kravis Center at all times.
10. Running, yelling, and rowdy behavior is not permitted at any time.
11. Non-participating siblings must be supervised by parents/guardians at all times. Young Singers cannot be responsible for accident, injury or any altercation that may occur.
12. Parents may wait in the break room on the 2nd floor if there is not a performance in Persson Hall. Parents may not wait in the rotunda or hallways and sit on the floor. CityPlace is nearby and provides great shopping and dining opportunities.

Disruptive Behavior:

Cell Phones:

Cell phones must be turned off during rehearsal. Absolutely no texting is allowed during rehearsal. On first offense – phone will be taken away and **parent** will have to pick it up in the Young Singers office. Second Offense – a parent, student and director will have a parent conference. Third offense – possible removal from the program.

Music:

It is important to bring music to every rehearsal. If a singer does not have music:

- First offense a warning will be issued, noted in the attendance records, and a written notice sent home.
- For each additional offense a ½ absence will be recorded.

Other Behavior Issues – any of the following may apply:

First Offense – Verbal Warning – by conductor.

Second Offense – a verbal warning stating possible removal from rehearsal if the situation does not change immediately and Executive Director and Artistic Director will be notified.

Third Offense – Removal from rehearsal/performance to Executive Director's office. This will be recorded as an unexcused absence. Parents will be notified and a conference will be arranged.

If a singer is removed from rehearsal a second time it will result in a leave of absence from the program, it may also result in removal from the program.

Any singer with alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or any type of weapon will be immediately removed from the program.

Performances:

All performances are mandatory unless otherwise noted on the schedule and attendance is required. This includes the day of show rehearsals.

If a school performance conflict occurs, the absence must be reported to the director in writing at least two weeks prior to the performance. If procedures are followed the absence will not count against the singer.

Excused absences from a performance include:

- Illness
- Death in the Family
- School Music Performance

Note: Any unexcused absence from a mandatory performance may result in removal from the program.

Performance Procedures:

Performances require the best from our singers. Information about performance will be on the website under singer information, distributed at rehearsals and sent via email.

1. Singers should eat a nutritious meal and get plenty of rest before arrival to the performance.
2. Singers should arrive 10 minutes before the call time and immediately check in. Singers may not arrive more than 15 minutes before the call time.
3. Tardiness to a performance may exclude a singer from a performance.
4. All singers must arrive to a performance in the appropriate uniform following the dress code standards. Singers will remain in uniform until they have left the performance site.
5. While at a performance, singers should conduct themselves in a calm, polite and professional manner.
6. All singers must know their music. Failure to demonstrate this at the final rehearsal may result in being unable to perform in the concert.

Final dress rehearsal and pre-performance rehearsals are closed to the audience, including families. Only designated chaperones will be allowed in the rehearsal area prior to a performance. Singers must concentrate on the performance and final instructions from the director.

Dress Code Requirements:

Young Singers of the Palm Beaches is a professional children's chorus. Appearance is very important and conveys a message to the audience. Singers are expected to come to the performance well groomed. No short shorts (shorts should be at least fingertip length), halter tops, bare shoulders, bare midriffs, tank tops or revealing tops should be worn to Young Singers. If a singer is inappropriately dressed the singer may be asked to leave rehearsal.

Ladies hair should be pulled back in a high ponytail or bun fastened with a natural colored hair tie and barrettes. No unusual colored hair dyes, obvious make up or cosmetics are permitted. No colored nail polish is permitted. No jewelry of any type is permitted.

Any singer not properly dressed for an event will not be allowed to participate.

Da Capo & Treble Singers – Girls Uniform:

Royal Blue Formal Dress, Black Character Shoes, Black Opaque hose or knee highs

Da Capo & Treble Singers – Boys Uniform:

Black Shirt, Blue Tie, Black Pants – Dockers Black Pleated Dress Pants available at Sears, Black Belt, Black Shoes (lace up, no boots or sneakers)

Bel Canto, Encore, Cantate , Lyric Ladies Uniform:

Black Formal Short Sleeve Dress, 16" Pearl Necklace, Black Character Shoes, Black Opaque Hose

Men's Uniforms:

Black Suit, Blue Shirt, Blue Tie, Black Socks, Black Dress Shoes (lace ups, no boots or sneakers)

Music:

Great care should be taken of the music each singer is provided. It is the singer's responsibility to take proper care of the folder and music. If folders or the music is not returned at the end of the year, a singer will be charged \$50.00 for the cost of the music and folder.

1. Music must be brought to all rehearsals.
2. Never fold or roll music.
3. Never write on the music without the permission of the director. Do so lightly in pencil.

Tuition:

Tuition for the 2017-2018 Season will be \$700.00 per singer. The payment schedule will be different than in past years. All tuition must be paid by Dec 1, 2017. The schedule is as follows:

Date Due By	Payment Due
May 31, 2017	\$50 Non-Refundable Registration fee
July 1, 2017	\$200 - 1 st tuition payment due to secure your spot in the choir *this includes all singers applying for financial aid
August 1, 2017	Two Options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay your balance of \$500.00 in full 2. Make 5 payments of \$105.00. All payments must be complete by Dec 1, 2017 and be paid via auto-pay option on our website.

Payments may be made via our website using Visa, MC, or American Express.

Fundraising:

In order to not increase tuition, all families will be required to participate in fundraising. Each family is responsible for raising \$200.00. Families with multiple singers will be required to raise \$300.00. This can be done by participating in ad sales, auction donations, participation in the golf tournament and the 5K run/walk. All donations will be tracked. If your family has not reached the fundraising goal by March 15, 2018 you will receive an invoice for the remaining balance, which must be paid by April 1, 2018 in order for a singer to be able to perform in the spring concert.

Young Singers relies on the support of the community. We believe that forming strong partnerships can strengthen the organization. If you know of a potential funding source please contact our Executive Director, Beth Clark so that we can invite others to support Young Singers.

Volunteers:

Young Singers relies heavily on their families to volunteer. We have many opportunities for volunteers from office assistance, to chaperones, to fundraising coordinators. We welcome all interested parents to contact the office to see how you can be of service. Parents are asked to track their volunteer hours via the website. Tracking of these hours will assist in data for grants. The form can be found under Singers & Families at www.yspb.org.