

YOUNG SINGERS

OF THE PALM BEACHES

2019 – 2020

SINGER & FAMILY HANDBOOK

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My Choir: _____

My Rehearsal Day & Time: _____

My Conductor: _____

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Young Singers of the Palm Beaches Board of Directors

board@yspb.org

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Frequently Asked Questions

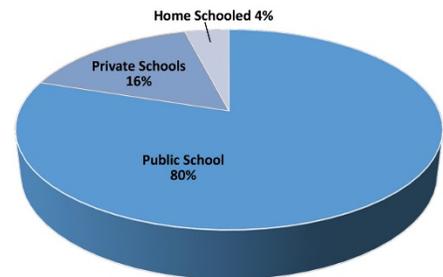
How will Young Singer Contact us?	All communications will come via TeamSnap email. Please make sure we have a valid email on file. If at any time you stop receiving weekly emails please contact the office immediately.
How do I pay Tuition?	Refer to Tuition Section on page 13.
How do I get Concert Tickets?	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.
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 TeamSnap email. Also a message will be available by calling 561-651-4429.
Where can parents wait during rehearsal?	Parents can wait in the lunch/break room on the 2 nd floor of the Cohen Pavilion where rehearsals are held unless notified before rehearsal due to a performance in Persson Hall. Parents are asked not to wait in the lobby on the 2 nd 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 and Treble Choir will be allowed to walk to or from the parking garage alone. Singers in 6 th grade or higher are released to the parking garage on their own. Parents must park in the garage. <u>Parents may not form a pick up line and block traffic.</u> <u>Singers may not be picked up via the valet loop in front of the Cohen Pavilion.</u>

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 3 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, December 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 8 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. In 2017 our Treble Singers participated in Disney Magic Music Days and our older choirs attended Sing A Mile High in Denver, Colorado 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 that 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 2 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 continued to receive support from Prime Time of Palm Beach County, Inc. to provide after school choral programs. Young Singers provides choral directors to more than fourteen sites in Palm Beach County. The students are introduced to basic choral concepts and music reading skills. The singers participate in culminating events. The Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County provides significant funding for the overall operations of the Prime Time program. The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department provides support for Prime Time's Middle School Out-of-School Time Initiative.

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 Center.

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 upper level 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. 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 with unchanged voices who are musically advanced. The repertoire will be challenging. 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. The singers should demonstrate strong sight reading skills as well as advanced level individual singing skills. 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.

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. Schedules are available on TeamSnap App and are available only to members of Young Singers.

Absences from Rehearsals:

Singers are allowed three (3) absences per semester. The Director of the choir must be notified **before** the rehearsal – as far in advance as possible. **To notify a Director of an absence indicate so in TeamSnap under the availability tab.** The notification will go directly to the Director of your choir. Young Singers staff or volunteers may still call to verify absences.

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 recorded at least two weeks in advance. Please indicate the absence in TeamSnap under the availability tab.

School Performances:

Children that are required to attend a mandatory school performance or rehearsal please record the absence in advance in TeamSnap under the availability tab.

Excessive Absences:

Excessive absences 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. Arrive at Young Singers with an attitude of respect for all: for your conductors, staff, interns, volunteers, fellow singers and parents. Disrespect toward anyone will NOT be tolerated.
2. Dress appropriately following dress code guidelines for both rehearsals and performances. Appearance is very important and conveys a message.
3. Bring your music, a pencil and water to rehearsal. No other food or drink is allowed. Please eat a nutritious meal or snack before rehearsal.
4. Be on time. On time = 15 minutes before rehearsal begins. Once you arrive, go to the restroom, get water, then go directly to your room and sign in with the Intern. Leave your Cell Phone in the designated zone as phones are not permitted during rehearsal or on break. Get your name tag and go to your seat. You may mingle in your rehearsal room, but not in halls or other rehearsal rooms. Do not roam the Cohen Pavilion or Kravis Center at any time.
5. Listen, sit quietly and follow directions. Raise your hand when asking a question.
6. Be a team player. A chorus is successful when we all work with and care for each other.
7. Respect your MUSIC. Great care should be taken of the music you are provided. Music must be brought to all rehearsals. Do not fold or roll music. Never write on the music without permission of the director. Do so lightly in pencil. All singers must know their music. Practice at home.

8. Use your time wisely in class. When a conductor is working with other sections, follow along with what other sections are working on, as you may have the same concepts to be worked on later.
9. Become familiar with Team Snap. Report tardiness and absences in advance. A message goes directly to your conductor. You will receive important messages through TeamSnap weekly. 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.
10. Sing from your heart, make a friend, leave no one alone. #Buildingcommunitythroughsong
11. Please turn in notes, payments, permission slips, etc. to the check-in table in the lobby.
12. If for any reason your singer cannot actively participate in a rehearsal, the singer should bring a note and observe quietly and attentively unless they are contagious or physically unable.
13. 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. Running, yelling, and rowdy behavior is not permitted at any time.
14. 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. Rosemary Square is nearby and provides great shopping and dining opportunities.

Dress Code Requirements for Rehearsals:

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 or cover with a jacket or sweatshirt.

Disruptive Behavior:

Cell Phones:

Cell phones are not permitted during rehearsal or breaks and must be turned off and placed in the numbered slots in the rehearsal room. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in consequences up to and including required parent pickup of electronics, parent conference.

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 the director and Artistic Director will be notified.

Third Offense – Removal from rehearsal/performance to 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, inappropriate sexual conduct 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 technical rehearsals immediately prior to the concert.

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 may not count against the singer.

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.
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.

Hair that is long enough must 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)

Encore, Bel Canto, 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)

Tuition:

Tuition for the 2019-2020 Season will be \$750.00 per singer. The payment schedule will be as follows. All tuition must be paid by Dec 1, 2019.

Date Due By	Payment Due
May 31, 2019	\$65 Non-Refundable Registration fee
July 1, 2019	Two Options: 1. Pay your balance of \$750.00 in full 2. Make 5 payments of \$150.00. All payments must be complete by Dec 1, 2019.

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

Fundraising:

In order to keep tuition as low as possible, 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, and the walk-a-thon. All donations will be tracked. If your family has not reached the fundraising goal by March 1, 2020 you will receive an invoice for the remaining balance must be paid by April 1, 2020.

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 office 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. All volunteers having direct contact with our singers must submit to fingerprinting and a background check.

Parents are asked to track their volunteer hours via the website. Tracking of these hours will assist in data for grants. The online form can be found under Singer Information at www.yspb.org.