

Kansas Youth Chorale Handbook 2024-25

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Kansas Youth Chorale is to expand the experiences of young singers in musical excellence, and to be united in the common goal of bringing joy to others through music.

REGULAR REHEARSALS ARE 4:45-6:15pm on Mondays at First Presbyterian Church at 817 SW Harrison St. WEBSITE is: www.kansasyouthchoraletopeka.org

ATTENDANCE

KANSAS YOUTH CHORALE (KYC) members are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance. The rehearsals are sequential, each building to the next, leading up to performances which cannot be complete without the voice of every choir member. In order to ensure the choir's success, the following Attendance Policy is in place.

1. For an anticipated absence, parents must notify the Director or Choir Manager by e-mail, text, or by note prior to the absence in order to be excused. For an absence due to sudden illness or emergency, the parents should notify the Director or Choir Manager as soon as possible.(same day)
2. Only two unexcused absences are allowed per semester. If there are more than two unexcused absences within a semester, the musician will face possible termination from the choir unless arrangements with the Director or Choir Manager are made. The Director will decide whether the musician is adequately prepared to continue in the choir and to perform in concerts.
3. Dress rehearsals and the Concerts are mandatory. Singers must attend the dress rehearsal in order to perform in a concert.
4. If the choir member has a stuffy nose or a scratchy voice and is fever free, he/she should still attend rehearsal even though he/she may not be singing.
5. Please arrive at rehearsals on time! Rehearsal can only be successful when everyone does their part to be there from the start. Tardiness can result in the choir member being dismissed from the choir at the discretion of the Director.
6. Choir members are eligible to perform or go on tour only if they are in compliance with the Attendance Policy and are current with tuition payments.

IN PERSON REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

1. Cell phones and other electronic devices will not be permitted during KYC rehearsals. Electronics will be placed in a designated area to be picked up at the end of rehearsal.
2. The restroom will be used prior to rehearsal time.
3. No gum or soda will be allowed at rehearsals. **Water bottles during rehearsal will be encouraged.**
4. Singers will be ready for rehearsal on time.
5. Singers will be respectful of the rehearsal **time**, of the **Director**, of **KYC staff** who are assisting during rehearsal AND **other singers**.
6. Appropriate concert etiquette will be addressed by the Director.

FEES

TUITION FEES help to cover expenses such as music and supplies, instrumentalists and general operating expenses. Tuition for the Kansas Youth Chorale is **\$275** for the year.

PAYMENT OPTIONS are as follows for 2024:

- One payment of \$275 will be due either at the Retreat on Aug. 24 or at rehearsal on Aug. 26 **OR** mail to **KANSAS YOUTH CHORALE**, PO Box 4931, Topeka, Kansas 66604. OR
- Two payments – one (\$175) due on Aug. 26 with the balance of \$100 due by Nov. 4, 2024.
 - **If your family is in need of scholarship assistance, contact Lisa Oyerly, (treasurer) at laoyerly@gmail.com or Connie Baer, (choir manager) at cbsing2me@gmail.com as soon as you can. We have forms for you to complete.
 - Two siblings= Full payment for 1st singer; 1/2 total payment for 2nd (or more) singers
 - A \$10.00 late charge may be assessed for each month that tuition is past due.

If for whatever reason, a singer resigns or is asked to leave the choir:

1. Prior to November 4, 2024 tuition will be refunded accordingly LESS \$20 for initial startup fees (music, folders, instruction, etc.), or
2. November 4, 2024 or after, no tuition refunds will be made.
Should extenuating circumstances arise, an appeal may be made to the Board. All accounts must be kept up-to-date according to the payment option. Failure to do so may result in the singer being denied the opportunity to participate in concerts. Contact Lisa Oyerly, laoyerly@gmail.com, (Treasurer) or Connie Baer cbsing@me@gmail.com (Choir Manager) if you need to adjust the payment options.

3. Other fees and expenses
 - a. Music folders must be returned to the director in a timely fashion at the conclusion of a concert. Music is expected to be in good condition. A replacement fee for missing or damaged music will be collected. Music is very costly!
 - b. Travel. Fundraising will cover as much as possible.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Formal concert attire will consist of the following:

- a vest and tie (provided by KYC),
- a white, long-sleeved (Oxford-style) button-down shirt with **button down collar**
Order online if unable to find locally.
- **black shoes (no white soles)** and **black socks**, and **black dress slacks**.
Girls are permitted to wear a **black skirt**, **black tights** and **black shoes**.
(The hemline of the skirt must be below the knees and **black tights** must be worn.)
- **Casual concert attire will consist of the following:**
- **KYC t-shirt and black slacks unless the director communicates otherwise.**
- If returning singers need a new size please advise us. We will use the same t-shirt as in previous years. New singers will be asked for sizing so that a group order can be made.

REPERTOIRE

The music for the choir is chosen at the discretion of the Director and may include music of diverse religious and non-religious cultures and traditions. Choir members are expected to accept and respect the choir's music repertoire from an artistic standpoint. All music will be memorized for performance.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If the Topeka USD 501 schools have closed or are closing due to bad weather, Kansas Youth Chorale rehearsals/performances will be cancelled as well. In a rare case whereby the weather and roads would get better by evening, make sure to check e-mail before heading out to a rehearsal and/or performance. If you travel more than 20 minutes to arrive at rehearsal, please contact the Director or Choir Manager before leaving home.

COMMUNICATION

In order to save on the environmental and financial cost of using paper, we will do most of our communicating with you via e-mail and the website. The manager will use texting during rehearsal time. **Please keep us informed of your most current contact information.**