



BELLEVUE YOUTH CHOIRS

PARENT & CHORISTER HANDBOOK

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© **2021 Bellevue Youth Choirs**

Rehearsal Address:

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
411 156th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98008

Mailing Address:

Bellevue Youth Choirs
PO BOX 747
Bellevue, WA 98009

www.bellevueyouthchoirs.org

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MISSION

"TO OFFER UNMATCHED MUSICIANSHIP TRAINING, INSPIRED PERFORMANCES, AND A JOYFUL, SPIRITED COMMUNITY FOR YOUTH."

MUSIC EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

SINGING IS UNIVERSAL

Singing with deep musical understanding, skill, and humanity is truly an art. When achieved, it expresses and affirms what it means to be human, across cultures and time. We believe everyone is capable of experiencing this on some level. The mission of Bellevue Youth Choirs is to provide the training and environment to attain the highest mastery of this art form.

EDUCATION IS PERSONAL

We want to know each student, find a connection with them, and to understand who they are and where they want to go. We believe each chorister must continuously strive for their personal best in order for the choral ensemble to grow. To foster this individual growth, our instructors set differentiated goals and challenges for choristers so they may feel the reward of contributing their skill attainment and musical understanding to the group performance.

ONLY THE VERY BEST IS ENOUGH FOR CHILDREN

Children must learn from masterful teachers, perform the highest quality repertoire alongside consummate musicians, in the most acoustically sublime venues.

BYC CHORISTERS ARE MUSICIANS

Truly attaining mastery of vocal technique, choir ensemble sensitivity and overall musicianship is no easy task. A top-notch choral ensemble requires that each student strive toward their personal best. Our goal for each student is to experience the full musical thought process in real musical time, which requires the student to be able to account for, prioritize and synthesize many complex layers and minute details within the written music score.

Instantaneously and continuously, the singer will connect the visual (reading music) to the aural (inner hearing before singing) to the oral (singing the music) and back to the aural (hearing/evaluating what they just sang). Being in an ensemble means that they are also able to do this and listen to another voice, analyze their performance and adjust their singing to create our ideal ensemble sound.

The Bellevue Youth Choirs curriculum is tailor-made for students of all ages and abilities to accomplish this musical thought process through the repertoire we perform and the sequential musicianship lessons.

**BELLEVUE
YOUTH
CHOIRS**

APPLICATION

DEPTH: CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

A deep understanding of choral concepts and choral skill acquisition is achieved when choristers experience them many times through various activities: singing, arranging, composing, conducting, teaching, performing, analyzing, playing an instrument, dictating, and improvising.

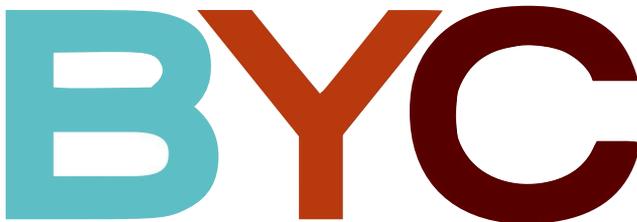
SEQUENCE

We approach education sequentially, parsing out each step and individual skill. When choristers reach mastery level, we combine it with another skill until choristers can manage all skills at once.

CHORAL REHEARSAL & MUSICIANSHIP

DEVELOPING MUSICIANSHIP

We believe that introducing choristers to new concepts in rehearsal and later digging into them in a classroom setting provides choristers with the opportunity to immediately apply skills in their music and reinforce this learning through repeated skill-building activities and performance.

The logo consists of the letters 'BYC' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'B' is light blue, the 'Y' is orange, and the 'C' is dark red.

1.

CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Bellevue Youth Choirs presents three (3) MainStage concerts each year. **Chorister attendance at these concerts is required.** In addition to these concerts, some choirs participate in community performances (benefits, churches, music festivals, etc.). Chorister participation in these community performances is expected. As a member of an ensemble, we reasonably expect that each chorister will understand and follow through on the commitment made to their fellow choristers. General Attendance Guidelines apply if a chorister is unable to participate in a community performance.

**"Mom, do you know how my heart was feeling when we
were on stage?
It was feeling like this is where I truly belong."
~ Aubriana, Intermediate Chorister**

CONCERT TICKETS

All MainStage concerts are ticketed. Tickets are available for purchase online prior to each MainStage Performance. Tickets are also available in person at the concerts on a space-available basis. Discount rates may be available for students, seniors, and groups. Community performances and concerts are often free to attend and do not require a ticket.

VIDEO & AUDIO RECORDING

Flash photography is prohibited during MainStage performances. Cameras distract performers and detract from the professionalism of the performance.

No video/audio recording is allowed due to copyright laws.

Archival recordings will be made available to performers.



2.

REHEARSAL

DROP-OFF & CHECK-IN

Parents are not allowed to sit in on their child's rehearsal, unless otherwise invited for a special presentation. Choristers need to be fully immersed and focused on the music-making and may be uncomfortable with adults they do not know in the room. All families must drop their chorister(s) off and then exit the church. The church has very limited space and we must allow for flow of movement for our choirs during check-in and any emergencies that may arise.

PRELUDE & Prima

1. You must park your car in the east lot (near the main entrance of the church), walk your chorister through the parking lot, preferably holding hands, and enter the main entrance of the church.
2. Have your chorister use the restroom AND wash their hands before rehearsal. It is important that choristers remain in rehearsal and will not be allowed to use the restroom unless it is an emergency.
3. Sign in your chorister at the front desk in the entryway. Please note on the sign-in sheet if someone other than the usual parent, caregiver, or carpool driver will pick up your chorister. Please also ask this person to make contact with the front desk staff member when they pick up your chorister after choir.

4. Parents are asked to return to their car. Choristers will remain in the entryway, supervised by staff. 5 minutes before class starts, the teacher will have the choristers line up in the entryway and follow them downstairs. If your chorister is late, please follow all procedures listed above. A staff member will escort them down to the MAC classroom.
5. BYC does not have permission to use the outside playground, as this belongs to the daycare. Please do not ask them to use the playground. Please do not step in the flower beds and do not climb on the columbarium in the front area of the church.
6. At the end of class, the teacher will line the choristers up and walk them up to the entryway to meet parents. If you need to pick your child up early, please let the teacher know prior to class starting and you may pick them up just outside of the classroom.
7. Prima Choir parents may enter the building to pick up their child 5 minutes before rehearsal ends, but no earlier. Waiting in the entryway for the entirety of rehearsal is not allowed.
8. After you pick up your chorister, you must walk your chorister through the parking lot, preferably holding hands.

Intermezzo

1. You must park your car in the east lot (near the main entrance of the church), and then walk your chorister through the parking lot, preferably holding hands, then enter the main entrance of the church.
2. Intermezzo Choristers are highly encouraged to use the restroom before rehearsal, since using the restroom during class is limited to emergencies.
3. Intermezzo Choristers will be dropped off by their parents no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal.

Bellevue Youth Choirs is not responsible for choristers who arrive earlier than 15 minutes prior to rehearsal.

4. Choristers must sign in when they arrive for rehearsals. In an emergency, this list will be used to make sure everyone is accounted for.
5. Intermezzo choristers may meet their parents in the entryway after rehearsal.
6. Intermezzo parents may enter the building to pick up their child 5 minutes before rehearsal ends. *Waiting in the entryway for the entirety of rehearsal is not allowed.*

CODA & Premier

1. Parents/drivers of Coda & Premier choristers may only park in the north lot and use the north entrance/exit to Cross of Christ).
2. You may choose to have your child walk to the main entrance on their own.
3. Coda and Premier Choristers are highly encouraged to use the restroom before rehearsal, since using the restroom during class is limited to emergencies.
4. Coda and Premier Choristers will be dropped off by their parents no earlier than 30 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal. Bellevue Youth Choirs is not responsible for choristers who arrive earlier than 30 minutes prior to rehearsal.
5. Choristers must sign in when they arrive for rehearsals. In an emergency, this list will be used to make sure everyone is accounted for.
6. Coda and Premier choristers may meet their parents in the entryway after rehearsal. Parents may enter the building to pick up their child 5 minutes before the end of rehearsal, but no earlier. Waiting in the entryway earlier is not allowed.

LATE PICK-UP

There is a 10-minute grace period for chorister pickup when rehearsal ends, after which you will be charged a late fee of \$40.

PICK-UP

The entryway of the church is the only space that families may briefly wait (15 minutes prior to drop off; 5 minutes prior to pick up) All families must drop their chorister off (according to their choir's procedure above) and immediately exit the church since we do not have room to accommodate waiting families. BYC does not have permission to use the playground during rehearsal time, as this belongs to the daycare. Please do not ask them to use the playground.

REHEARSAL FACILITY GUIDELINES

We are delighted that Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is our rehearsal space! This facility is truly home for us: a terrific location, perfectly sized classrooms, and a caring and supportive staff who are willing to share their sacred space with us. Please, from the first moment you step into this church, regardless of your personal beliefs, respect it as a sacred space by following these rules:

- No running/screaming/horseplay
- Leave the facility in the same or better condition than how you found it
- Children must be supervised by an adult at all times
- Please stay in our reserved areas:
 - **Parents/siblings:** Entryway and access to upstairs bathrooms.
 - **Choristers:** Entryway, designated classrooms and access to nearest bathrooms.

Especially sacred spaces at Cross of Christ:

The Sanctuary (through the double doors, to the left of the entryway)

The Columbarium (outside to the left, as you face the church entrance)

Shared Spaces at Cross of Christ:

The Ark Daycare uses much of the downstairs space and the playground at Cross of Christ while we are rehearsing. We have agreed to the following to respect their space, staff and children:

- We will drop off and pick up our choristers upstairs
- We will supervise children at all times: (especially siblings of choristers) in the entryway.
- We will not use the playground.



3.

WEATHER & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

SNOW CLOSURES

Bellevue Youth Choirs will close for snow according to the most conservative Bellevue snow closures (whichever closes earlier and stays closed longer), although rehearsals may be cancelled even if schools are in session, depending on afternoon road and weather conditions. Closures will be reported via email and on our website. In the event of a rehearsal cancellation due to weather or other emergency events, BYC will attempt to schedule make-up rehearsals whenever possible. Rescheduling is not guaranteed.

IN CASE OF ILLNESS

Before returning to choir rehearsal, a chorister must be free from fever for at least 24 hours. Please do not come to rehearsal if you have a cough or a fever. Mark your chorister(s) as absent on the member portal.

COVID-19 Statement of Agreement

If my child or any member of their immediate family is diagnosed with Coronavirus/COVID-19, or are experiencing any symptom of illness, such as cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste/smell, they may not attend rehearsals unless they have been cleared as non-contagious by a medical professional.

- I and my child are following all CDC recommended guidelines and limiting our exposure to the Coronavirus/ COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent Coronavirus/COVID-19. Unvaccinated participants are required to wear masks during rehearsals.

If your chorister must use a mask, we have masks available in our store for sale. We also recommend the [Resonance Singer's Mask from MyMusicFolders.com](#).

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Bellevue Youth Choirs has a comprehensive disaster plan that involves a supply of water and food. Each choir room has a list of choristers with their medical and emergency contact info and a first aid kit. Our Front Desk Administrator has had Red Cross First aid training.

FIRE

- Directors will lead their choirs outside to a designated meeting place. Parents: if you are on site, follow staff members to your designated meeting place. Do not take your chorister home until you have been told that it is okay to do so. Prior to taking your chorister home, please ensure you have checked them out with their director.
- If you are on site and need to report a fire, pull one of the fire alarms, which are located at every exit. Then proceed calmly outside.

EARTHQUAKE

- Choristers will take shelter in place until it has been deemed safe to evacuate. Directors and staff are familiar with the building and rehearsal spaces, and will direct choristers to duck, cover, and hold.
- If you are on site, please duck, cover, and hold under a table. If there is not one nearby, keep your head down, and cover your neck with one arm. If you are sitting, stay in your chair or kneel beside it, but be sure to hold on.

- If you are off site, remain calm. You may pick up your chorister, but please be sure to check them out with their director. If the building has been compromised, do not enter it! Call 9-1-1, and stay away from exterior walls.
- **REMEMBER:** the freeway may not be safe after an earthquake. Make sure you have a route planned that avoids the freeway and bridges, in case they are damaged and cannot be safely crossed.

STRANGER IN THE BUILDING

- If you are on site and see someone who looks suspicious or threatening, inform a staff member immediately. **DO NOT APPROACH THEM.** Tell a staff member what they look like, what they were doing, and where you saw them. Staff will then notify police.
- If an immediate threat is reported, staff will initiate a lock down. Rehearsals will continue, but rooms will be locked. If you are on site, please stay in the parent lounge until staff gives the all clear. Do not try to take your chorister home unless instructed to.

ALLERGIC REACTION

- If your chorister has a severe allergy, be sure that it has been noted when you registered, especially if they carry an epi-pen.



4.

TUITION & ATTENDANCE

TUITION

Each choir family makes a commitment to pay tuition promptly. Tuition does not include fees that choristers may incur, such as uniform purchases, musicianship materials, personal protection equipment or transportation to and from concert and outreach performances. **TUITION, UNIFORM AND TOUR FEES MUST BE CURRENT FOR EACH CHORISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS.**

All payments are set up at the time of registration in the BYC Store.

Bellevue Youth Choirs offers two tuition payment plans:

- **Annual Payment Plan:** 1 yearly tuition payment
- **Monthly Payment Plan:** 10 monthly tuition payments

ANNUAL PAYMENT PLAN – PREFERRED PLAN – 1 yearly tuition payment on September 1st, or at time of purchase, if after September 1st. Payment will be made automatically through the BYC store.

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN – 10 monthly tuition payments (September - June) Each payment will process automatically on the 1st of the month through the BYC store.

Choir	Annual	Monthly
Prelude	\$760.00	\$76.00
Prima	\$950.00	\$95.00
Intermezzo	\$1270.00	\$127.00
Coda	\$1670.00	\$167.00
Premier	\$1810.00	\$181.00
Adult Mentors	\$180.00	\$60.00 (per semester)

FORMS AND DELIVERY OF PAYMENT

BYC is a cashless organization. Credit or Debit cards are the only payment methods accepted. All charges will process automatically through the BYC online store. If a parent credit card fails for any reason (new card, etc), BYC staff will ask you to update your card information on your profile. If payment does not complete by the 15th of the month, BYC reserves the right to charge a late fee of \$20.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Upon registration, choristers are expected to participate for a full year. As a result, BYC does not offer refunds for mid-year withdrawals, unless in the case of extreme hardship.

- Annual Payment Plan: No reimbursement will be given.
- Monthly Payment Plan: Written notice of withdrawal is required by May 1 by email. For withdrawals after May 1st, the family is liable for the remainder of the season's tuition (two months of tuition: May and June).

FINANCIAL AID

Bellevue Youth Choirs provides limited Financial Aid for families experiencing financial hardship.

Email madeleine@bellevueyouthchoirs.org for more information.

SIBLING TUITION DISCOUNT

In order of oldest to youngest:

1st Child pays Regular Tuition Cost;

2nd Child receives a 10% discount on their tuition;

3rd Child and beyond receive 15% discount on their tuition.

For any questions about tuition, please contact the BYC Administrator.

MUSIC RENTAL

The cost of music rental is included in tuition. The music is for the use of each chorister and should be protected by keeping it in the folder or binder provided by Bellevue Youth Choirs.

Choristers must return music at the end of each season.

There is a \$10 restocking fee for music returned after the final rehearsal of each season (December/March/June) and a \$20 replacement fee for unreturned music and folder (music is considered unreturned 2 weeks after the final rehearsal of each session) and all music remains the property of Bellevue Youth Choirs.

ATTENDANCE AND THE MEMBER PORTAL

Visit the BYC membership site at byc.groupanizer.com

There you will find:

- Links to edit your profile
- Attendance invitations
- Form links

- E-mail communications
- BYC store
- and more.

When using your profile, please ensure:

1. Your profile and your chorister's profile are both complete and correct. Use the "Your profile" link in the menu bar to edit both parent and chorister profiles, which should be connected to each other.
2. Any forms that show up on the member home page (when you log in) are complete. These include the handbook, COVID-19 policy, and any other forms.
3. Use the attendance block on the member home or the calendar in the menu bar to view your chorister's attendance. Help us keep it up to date by marking their attendance when they need to be absent here.
4. You view the BYC store. We use the store for membership purchases, tour fees, merchandise, donations, and more. Check it out!

Note: If you cannot log in, please use the "forgot my password" link when logging in at byc.groupanizer.com. You can also use the "Current member login" link found on bellevueyouthchoirs.org in the top right corner.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Choristers wishing to take a leave of absence from Bellevue Youth Choirs must send a Leave of Absence Request Form to the Artistic Director.

For choirs without a waitlist, a leave of absence fee of \$300 (9 month), \$200 (6 month), or \$100 (3 month) is charged to the chorister's account and the chorister pays no additional tuition. For choirs that have a waitlist of more than three choristers, leaves of absence are permitted on a case-by-case basis and may be denied.

Choristers are granted only one leave of absence equal to one choir year (a full choir year OR one fall leave of absence & one spring leave of absence in two different choir years) during their tenure with Bellevue Youth Choirs.

During a leave of absence from Bellevue Youth Choirs, choristers and their families will continue to receive newsletters and other choir e-mails and communications. At the end of a leave of absence, a choir member does not have to re-audition, but may be asked to do a brief voice check with their director. Leaves of absence might affect the rate at which a chorister progresses from one choir level to the next.

5.

TRAVEL & COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION

Look for the Bellevue Youth Choirs' newsletter on the first Friday of each month. Please e-mail the Executive Director immediately if you are not receiving yours! Additional communication will include specific information regarding special events and individual choir activities.

Weekly choir memos will be e-mailed home to remind choristers and families of important practice reminders and at-home practice requirements.

There may also be an occasional emergency notification regarding rehearsal changes or inclement weather.

We will also post all communications on our website bellevueyouthchoirs.org and on our Facebook Page: Bellevue Youth Choirs.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#).

TOUR

Regular touring opportunities begin for choristers in Intermezzo Choir. Occasionally, Prelude Choir and Prima Choir perform out in the community as well. Chorister participation in tours is optional but highly encouraged. The cost of tours is in addition to the annual tuition.

TOUR PHILOSOPHY

Participating in a choir tour with Bellevue Youth Choirs gives your chorister so many wonderful opportunities, including many that are not directly related to singing. Choristers who tour together have a better understanding of being a part of a team, forming deep bonds and memories that last far beyond the tour.

- 🎵 Touring choristers experience and forge friendships within their choir and with other people from around the region, country, and world. They do this by sharing their hard work and culture in a way that reaches far beyond being a typical tourist; they are sharing music with those around them.
- 🎵 Touring choristers also perform music for audiences that are not filled with their parents, but rather people of different cultures and languages.
- 🎵 Choral festivals develop an appreciation for different choristers and musical programs from all around the world.
- 🎵 Finally, choristers have many performances in a condensed time period, giving them a more in-depth understanding of their concert repertoire.

6.

CHOIRS & MUSICIANSHIP

CHOIR DESCRIPTIONS & REHEARSAL TIMES

We offer a wide variety of choirs for every age and ability.

PRELUDE

Pre-K to Kindergarten (ages 4-5)

Foundational musical concepts and skills are developed through fun musical activities, seamlessly embedded into the choir rehearsal. New choristers are accepted during the Fall and January enrollment periods, and occasionally during other periods when space allows.

- Non-auditioned
- Mondays 6:00-6:45 PM



Prima

Grades 1 & 2 (ages 5-7)

Vocal pedagogy, musical games, and traditional choir rehearsal are interwoven to provide just the right mix of fun and challenge. New choristers are accepted during the Fall and January enrollment periods, and occasionally during other periods when space allows.

- Non-auditioned
- Mondays 5:00-6:00 PM



Intermezzo

Grades 3 to 7 (ages 8-13) - trebles

Our youngest auditioned choir, skills are refined through rehearsal and performance of unison and two-part harmony. Musicianship courses begin in conjunction with this choir as well. New choristers are accepted during the Fall and January enrollment periods.

- Musicianship/Vocal Assessment & Audition Required
- Meeting
 - Mondays OR Wednesdays 4:45-6:15 PM



CODA

Grades 5 to 12 (ages 12-18) - mixed

In this choir, choristers build skills through varied repertoire ranging from unison through three-part harmony. Choristers also work on their performance skills through a variety of performances throughout the year.

New choristers are accepted during the Fall and January enrollment periods.

- Musicianship/Vocal Assessment Required
- Coda choristers are encouraged to mentor and sing with Intermezzo
- Meeting
 - Mondays 5:30-7:15 PM
 - Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 PM



Premier

8th to 12th Grades (ages 13-18) + Adults welcome - mixed

This is our most experienced group, performing in three- to four-part harmony, refining their musicianship, vocal production, and performance skills through a variety of performances throughout the year. New choristers are accepted during the Fall and January enrollment periods.



- Musicianship/Vocal Assessment Required
- These students will mentor and sing with Coda
- Meeting
 - Mondays 5:30-8:45 PM
 - We will break for for dinner. More information and a call for volunteers to provide dinner will be forthcoming.
- Directors, accompanists, and other adults who would like to mentor this group are encouraged to audition.

Musicianship

For our older choristers, we offer three levels of musicianship classes based on each chorister's ability built into our schedule. These courses teach essential music-reading and ear training skills that will be directly applied in rehearsal to learn music for performances.

- Mondays & Wednesdays (Intermezzo) 5:30-6:15 PM
 - **Beginning**
 - Music reading
 - Solfège
 - Curwen Hand Signs
 - Sight-read simple melodies with simple rhythms
 - Takadimi for simple duple time signatures

- ***Intermediate***

- Lowered and raised Solfège Syllables
- Lowered and raised Curwen Hand Signs
- Sight-read two-part music
- Melodic Dictation
- Takadimi for compound time signatures & triplets

- ***Advanced***

- Medieval modes
- Neums and Gregorian chant notation
- Sight-read three- and four-part music
- Melodic & Harmonic Dictation & Composition
- Four-part hymn-style composition
- Takadimi for irregular time signatures & tuplets

Mentorship

“One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination.”

-John C. Maxwell

Bellevue Youth Choirs is implementing a new mentorship structure in Intermezzo, Coda, & Premier. Older choristers and adults will sing, train, and work with younger choristers as role models and mentors. The benefits of mentorship include:

- Modeling healthy vocal technique
- Modeling rehearsal behavior
- Developing musicianship skills more quickly
- Making complex concepts understandable through example

7.

UNIFORMS

A *ll choristers, except those in Prelude Choir, are required to wear uniforms for most concerts. Special uniform requirements may be necessary for outreach and tour performances.*

PROCURING YOUR UNIFORM

Choristers promoted from Prima Choir to Intermezzo Choir:

1. Please try on your tights and shoes immediately to determine if you need to purchase new items.
2. Purchase a new dress and keep the old dress **–OR–**
3. Purchase a new dress and sell your old dress on the Facebook parent group: Bellevue Youth Choirs Parent Chat.
4. Purchase a used dress through Facebook parent group.

Choristers who own a dress from last season (non-Prima to Intermezzo promotions)

1. Please try on your dress, tights, and shoes immediately.
2. Check for overall comfort and fit of each item.
 - a. Look especially at the length of the dress, in both the sleeves and skirt. If the fit in the bodice and sleeves still works, but the skirt is too short, look at the underside hem to see if there enough excess material to let it out to meet the hemming requirements.
 - b. After considering the above and if you deem that the dress no longer fits your chorister, you can choose to:

1. Purchase a new dress and keep the old dress. **–OR–**
2. Purchase a new dress and sell your old dress on the Facebook parent group: Bellevue Youth Choirs Parent Chat.
3. Purchase a used dress through Facebook parent group.

New BYC Choristers:

1. Purchase a new dress, tights, shoes. **–OR–**
2. Purchase a used dress through the BYC Facebook Parent Group.
3. Purchase new tights, shoes.

PURCHASING A NEW UNIFORM

We recommend ordering your chorister's uniform immediately to ensure proper fit, to allow for enough shipping time AND to have time to get the dress or pants hemmed:

Please purchase your chorister's uniform by October 15th

HOW TO ORDER

1. Click on your chorister's choir below
2. Click on "View Sizing Chart" underneath the dress description. (If you need information on how to measure your chorister, select the "Watch How to measure video" link beneath the "Add to Cart" button)
3. Select your chorister's size, cut, and fabric (stretch velvet/knit).
4. Click "Add to Cart"

BASE UNIFORM

The links below are suggestions. If you purchase from Amazon, please use our Smile to support BYC.

DRESSES:

TIGHTS

Below are the approved choir tights, listed by size. Please purchase at least one pair of BLACK tights for your chorister. We recommend purchasing these immediately to ensure they have your chorister's size in stock.

Please purchase your chorister's tights by October 15th.

- [Adult size tights \(\\$11.40\)](#)
- [Youth size tights 8-12 \(\\$9.75\)](#)
- [Toddler size tights 2-6 \(\\$9.75\)](#)

SHOES

Also note that you will need to provide dress shoes for your chorister(s). Acceptable choir shoes can be found at a variety of prices at stores like: Goodwill, Target, JC Penney, Nordstrom, etc. We recommend starting to look for shoes immediately.

Please purchase your chorister's shoes by October 15th.

Requirements:

- Plain, matte black dress shoes (no patent leather)
- Zero or minimal embellishments. This means no rhinestones, sequins, glitter, etc.
- No heel preferred, but up to 1 inch heel acceptable

[Acceptable shoe option 1](#)

[Acceptable shoe option 2](#)

[Acceptable shoe option 3](#)

SUITS

- [Black slacks/trousers, no denim, no colored trim or additional decorative design elements.](#)
- [Black dress shoes, solid matte. No patent-leather, high-shine shoes. No contrasting soles or shoelaces.](#)
- [Black Dress Socks](#)

CHOIR-SPECIFIC UNIFORMS

CODA & PREMIER

Dress:

Style: Serenity, Item #8625 [stageaccents.com https://www.stageaccents.com/women-s/formal-dresses/serenity.html](https://www.stageaccents.com/women-s/formal-dresses/serenity.html)

Suit:

- Shirt Style: #2181; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/style-2181-unisex-white-wing-tip-tuxedo-shirt.html>
- Tie style: #8261; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/8261-classic-windsor-ties.html>
- Vest style: #350; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/350-satin-vest.html>

With basic black slacks, socks, and shoes

INTERMEZZO

Dress:

Style: 4033AX-E <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/64-style-4033ax-dress-stretch-velvet-bodice-buy-20-and-save-10-ready-to-ship.html>

Suit:

- Shirt Style: #2181; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/style-2181-unisex-white-wing-tip-tuxedo-shirt.html>
- Bowtie style: #8250RA-3; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/2250ra-children-s-satin-bow-tie-5920.html>
- Vest style: #350; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/350-satin-vest.html>
- With basic black slacks, socks, and shoes

PRIMA

Dress:

Style: 4055KVA <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/58-style-4055kva-br-knee-length-dress.html>

Suit:

- Shirt Style: #2181; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/style-2181-unisex-white-wing-tip-tuxedo-shirt.html>
- Bowtie style: #8250RA-3; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/2250ra-children-s-satin-bow-tie-5920.html>
- Vest style: #350; <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/350-satin-vest.html>
- With basic black slacks, socks, and shoes

PRELUDE

Prelude Choir does not have a uniform. Instead, Prelude Choristers wear a party dress or fancy suit of their choice.

DRESS CARE & HEMMING REQUIREMENTS

When you receive a new BYC dress, you will notice that they are lovely and EXTREMELY long. The dress company does this to ensure that the length will fit any height (more is better than less!)

Below are instructions for hemming the dresses, along with a few options for hiring out the job if you are not a seamstress!

INTERMEZZO, CODA & PREMIER

- Dresses are to be hemmed to the top of the chorister's foot when wearing the shoes they will wear in performance.
- Choir dresses should rest lightly on the top of your shoes. If your shoes cannot be seen when you are standing, the dress is too long. If you can see your ankles, your dress is too short
- PLEASE leave a 3 inch hem to let out if needed in the future. If you received a dress that is longer than 3 inches from what you need YOU MAY cut the excess off, otherwise, LEAVE the remainder in tact for your 3 inch hem.

PRIMA

- Dresses are to be hemmed 10 inches from the floor, with the chorister is wearing their concert shoes.
- PLEASE leave a maximum 2 inch hem to let out if needed in the future. If you received a dress that is longer than 2 inches from what you need YOU MAY cut the excess off, otherwise, LEAVE the remainder in tact for your 2 inch hem. Leaving more than 2 inches with this particular fabric (velvet) will make the dress look bulky and not lay well.

ALL CHOIRS

- When hemming, DO NOT USE “stitch witch” tape or anything other than standard sewing with a needle and thread or machine. Using hem facing is recommended.
- Please use matching thread.
- DO NOT, for ANY reason apply an iron or any heat source to these dresses. They WILL melt if you try to press them at home.
- Please have these uniforms professionally cleaned throughout the year to prevent any damage from occurring.

If you are uncomfortable hemming your child's dress, here is a list of local businesses (in the Bellevue area) that do alterations:

Note: this is simply from an online search of these companies and we saw that their reviews were “good” overall, so this is not necessarily a personal recommendation from BYC.

[The Seamstress](#)

[Alteration Express](#)

[Lien's Alterations](#)

GENERAL RULES OF DRESS THAT APPLY TO ALL CHOIRS

- Bellevue Youth Choirs recommends that choristers in Intermezzo, Coda, or Premier Choir wear deodorant, even if they do not regularly wear deodorant. This will help to extend the life of their uniform by protecting against sweat and odor.
- Hair should be off the face and shoulder (i.e. ponytail, bun, bangs should be fastened away from the face, etc.) for all choristers.
- Hair should appear a natural color (no extreme-colored dye). Barrettes or headbands should be “hair-colored”; no flowers or other adornments that will stand out from the hair.
- No jewelry (beyond stud sized earrings). No bracelets, wristbands, or friendship bracelets.
- Makeup may be used in small amounts and should be tastefully applied, giving a natural look.
- Shoes should be plain, matte black dress shoes (no patent leather) with zero or minimal embellishments (no rhinestones, sequins, glitter, etc.). No heel preferred, but up to 1 inch is acceptable.
- ***Please purchase your chorister’s shoes by October 15th.***

BELLEVUE YOUTH CHOIRS T-SHIRTS:

Note that each chorister will receive a Bellevue Youth Choirs T-Shirt just before our Welcome Concert. The shirt cost is part of your registration fee, so no additional money is needed and BYC orders these for you.

Care of T-Shirts

- Please only wear this shirt when required for a BYC event (i.e. Welcome Concert, Tour, informal performances).
- Wash in cold water and air dry (no dryer please).
- Feel free to wear you BYC T-Shirt from the previous season wherever and whenever you like!

8.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular attendance is necessary for all choirs in order to prepare for the high level of performance that distinguishes Bellevue Youth Choirs. As with any group activity, fellow choristers are depending on you to attend rehearsal, learn your part, and perform with the group. Additionally, attendance factors into each chorister's consideration for promotion to the next choir level.

GENERAL ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES FOR ALL CHOIRS:

- Choristers are expected to regularly attend rehearsals.
- Parents/choristers are expected to notify their director via the website portal for any and all rehearsal or concert absences, in advance whenever possible.
- Choristers should not miss more than two consecutive weeks of rehearsals.
- Choristers in Coda & Premier are expected to be role models and mentors for the younger choirs, singing with them in rehearsal and performing with them in concert.
- Choristers are expected to be on time for rehearsals.
 - For 8 year olds and above, "on time" means that they are signed in, in their seat, with a folder and pencil, ready to sing when the rehearsal is scheduled to begin.
 - For 4-7 year olds, "on time" means bathroom and water needs are taken care of in advance, backpack is stowed, shoes are off, and the

chorister is signed-in and in the rehearsal room by the class start time.

- When a chorister arrives late to rehearsal, they are marked tardy, which affects a chorister's attendance average.
- The attendance average, for choristers age 8 and above, is calculated by dividing the number of hours present at rehearsal by the total rehearsal hours possible.

CONCERT PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES:

- Choristers are expected to perform in all scheduled Bellevue Youth Choirs concerts and performances.
- Choristers must be on time to the given Arrival Time for the performances and dress/tech rehearsals. This early arrival time is essential for running through the logistics of the program.
- A chorister (ages 8 and above) whose attendance average is below 80% at the time of a ticketed concert, regardless of the reasons for the absences, will be asked to schedule an individual "part check" with their director to show competency in singing their music (correct pitches and rhythms, language pronunciation, breath marks, style choices, and movement/choreography) and readiness for the concert.
- The chorister (ages 8 and above) will be allowed to sing in the concert only if they can demonstrate competency during the part check.
- Out of respect for the rest of the choir, a singer (ages 8 and above) whose attendance falls below 60% at the time of a ticketed concert will not be allowed to perform in the concert.
- Consistent absences from concerts, whether for other scheduled activities, illness, or lack of part check readiness, may result in dismissal from the choir.

CONDUCT POLICY

Bellevue Youth Choirs sets a high standard of behavior for our choristers. Our Conduct Policy is designed to make each chorister feel valued, safe, and able to contribute to great music making.

We expect the following behavior from our choristers:

RESPECT & KINDNESS

- Choristers are expected to be courteous to other choristers, staff, and parent volunteers.
- Follow instructions the first time they are given.
- Be sensitive to the feelings and needs of others.
- Be supportive of your fellow choristers; encourage them to gain more skill and confidence.
- Make new friends and to welcome and include new choristers.
- Act as a role model for younger singers and treatment with kindness.
- Respect yourself as a musician—always try to give the best of yourself in each rehearsal and concert.
- Respect the time commitment that choristers have pledged to each other. Be on time, ready to sing when rehearsals begin, and miss rehearsal only when it is absolutely necessary

RESPONSIBILITY

- Come to rehearsal prepared. This means handling all restroom, food, and water needs prior to rehearsal. Have your music and pencil with you at every rehearsal.
- Bring a water bottle with you at every rehearsal to ensure that you are properly hydrated
- Have your music folder and pencil with you at every rehearsal.
- Have all elements of your uniform clean, tidy, and with you at all concerts.
- Have all of the components of your uniform clean, in good repair, and with you to wear at concerts. Wear concert-

appropriate shoes, jewelry, etc. (as described in the “Uniform” section).

- Take care of yourself (get enough rest, eat well,) so that you are healthy for rehearsals and concerts.

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Strive to learn something new, do something better and sing with more artistry.
- Be as focused and present in rehearsal as you can be.
- Put your music in order and be in your seat, ready to begin, at or before the rehearsal start time.
- Sit/stand in rehearsals and concerts with your best, healthiest singing posture, so that you can reinforce good vocal technique habits.
- Learn and memorize your music for the concerts (notes, words, and artistry decisions). Get markings and other information if you miss a rehearsal.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our directors and staff have many years of experience and they model positive behavior and encourage this in each chorister. If a chorister chooses behavior in conflict with the Bellevue Youth Choirs rules, the director may intervene in the following ways:

- Chorister will be asked to change/improve their behavior
- Change of seat in rehearsal
- Removal from activity
- Director/chorister meeting after rehearsal

If a chorister is consistently unable to follow Bellevue Youth Choirs rules over the course of repeated rehearsals, despite teacher encouragement and intervention, the following steps may be taken:

- The director may call the parent(s) or request a face-to-face meeting to discuss the chorister’s conduct. Depending on the age of the chorister, the director may request that the chorister be present.

- A contract addressing the behavior and expectations for improvement may be created for the chorister.
- Serious or repeated misconduct may result in a chorister being dismissed from Bellevue Youth Choirs.

The following conduct is unacceptable at any choir rehearsal or function and will result in immediate disciplinary consequences:

- Fighting or physical attacks on choristers or staff
- Bullying
- Disruptive or disrespectful conduct toward choristers, staff, volunteers, etc.
- Verbal abuse or harassment
- Racial or sexual harassment
- Theft
- Use, possession, sale, or delivery of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Defacing or destruction of property (including music and folders) belonging to Bellevue Youth Choirs, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, performance venues or tour locations
- Use or possession of weapons or firearms, including knives, guns, etc.
- Any criminal act as defined by law

9.

SUPPORT BYC

DONATE

Every donation helps us further our mission to provide unmatched musicianship training, inspired performances, and joyful, spirited communities for our choristers. You can contribute directly to us via our donation webpage found at Bellevueyouthchoirs.org or through your employer's matching program. Many employers from companies such as Microsoft match donations through Benevity, so check with your HR representative to see if your employer can contribute.

BECOME A SUSTAINER

Sustainers pledge to donate \$5-\$10 per month or more for every year their chorister sings with BYC.

VOLUNTEER

For tours, concerts, and events, we require parent chaperones and volunteers to contribute their time and make sure our choristers are safe and having fun and that our events run smoothly.

More information will follow via e-mails to sign-up for a volunteer time slot. Some employers also match volunteer hours with a donation, so check with your HR representative to see if your employer can contribute.

COMMUNITY MATCHING PROGRAMS

**Fred Meyer
Community Rewards
Program
Number: MG488**



Designate us as your charity of choice and Fred Meyer will donate a percentage of all your purchases to Bellevue Youth Choirs! Simply attach your Fred Meyer Rewards card to BYC by [following this link](#).

**OfficeMax / Office Depot Give
Back to Schools
ID# 70238929**

OfficeMax and Office Depot also donate 5% of your purchases to BYC in the form of free office and school supplies! Either provide our ID # 70238929 at time of purchase, or go back later [through this link](#) and credit your purchase to our account.

GIVEBACK
to schools
Office DEPOT OfficeMax

Simply make a purchase of qualifying products, provide our school ID at checkout and we'll receive 5% back in credits for FREE supplies.

[Learn More](#)

Amazon Smile



When you start from our profile found [through this link](#) for all your online shopping, you can choose BYC and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to us!

Child development through music

