

Junior Mints Member Handbook

Junior Mints is a community-based choir comprised of students who are in grades 4-8 (ages 9-14). It provides a safe place for the youth of St. Johns and the surrounding communities to experiment with their singing voices and to express themselves musically. It gives area youth an avenue to explore a wide variety of quality children's choral music through rehearsals and performances.

The Junior Mints is under the umbrella of the Mint City Singers, a branch of the Clinton County Arts Council (CCAC), and as such is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In order to make sure each student has a successful experience while singing with the Junior Mints, this handbook has been compiled. Please make sure that both parent and child read it carefully, and that both know how to fulfill the goals and expectations outlined in it. If you have questions or concerns, contact the director, Ellen Hoard, at ellen.hoard@rpccpas.com or 989-233-5775.

Membership:

Any youth ages (9-14) or in grades 4-8 is invited to join. There is no audition, and no previous experience is necessary. The ability to match pitch or rhythms, sing with a pleasant voice, or read music are not requirements. It is a bonus if your child can do any (all) of these. Membership is for one session (fall or winter/spring) at a time, with a culminating concert at the end of each session.

Rehearsal Time and Place:

Required rehearsals are Thursday evenings, 7:00– 8:00 pm at the South Point Mall, (next to the Secretary of State Office) 1035 Old U.S. 27, St. Johns, MI, unless otherwise noted. Rehearsals will automatically be canceled if the St. Johns Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather. An email will also be sent to parents at the email address listed by them on the Enrollment and Commitment Form. Rehearsals will end on time; please be ready to pick up your child promptly.

General Expectations:

1. Be respectful of yourself and others in what you say and do.
2. Be positive and be bold! It's okay to make mistakes and learn from them.
3. Be considerate of everyone's differences in voice, ability and personality.
4. Take ownership of your learning and ownership of the choir.
5. Do not post negative comments or embarrassing photos on social media.
6. Treat your music with care. Be prepared to pay Junior Mints for:
 - a. Lost music
 - b. Music damaged beyond ordinary use.

Rehearsal Expectations:

1. Attend regularly scheduled rehearsals and be on time. (See Attendance Policy)
2. Notify the director in advance if you are unable to attend a rehearsal.
3. Arrive a few minutes early to take care of any business, to hang out with friends, and be prepared with a pencil, folder and music.
4. Be respectful of the rehearsal space. Leave it like you found it.

Attendance Policy:

Junior Mints members are expected to attend rehearsals regularly and on time. Members should miss zero rehearsals if possible. Examples of acceptable absences include (but are not exclusive to) member illness, death in the immediate family, and school performances/evening events.

Concert Attire:

(Members are required to provide their own concert attire.)

Junior Mints logo t-shirt – Available from the director at \$12.50 each. Order forms and sample sizes will be available thirty minutes prior to rehearsals during the month of September. If paying with cash, please bring the exact amount or make checks payable to Mint City Singers. Shirts may be worn pulled out or tied up at the side at hip level.

Black pants, black socks, black shoes.

Registration:

All members are required to complete an Enrollment and Commitment Form. Forms may be obtained and printed from the CCAC website www.clintoncountyarts.org/ or picked up at the CCAC Art Gallery, 215 N Clinton Ave, St. Johns. Membership fees are \$50 per session. Make checks out to Minty City Singers. Completed forms and a check for \$50 may be returned to Ellen Hoard, 1214 Lincolnshire Drive, St. Johns, MI. Forms and checks may also be brought **fifteen minutes early** to the first rehearsal of the session. The membership fee helps offset the cost of doing business: performance venue, music, accompanist, etc. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the music director to inquire about applying for a Member Sponsorship. All inquiries are confidential.

Director – Ellen Hoard

A resident of St. Johns for 33 years, Ellen and her husband Doug raised two children, Elizabeth and Kevin, in St. Johns. Ellen is a certified Orff instructor, and holds a certification in Music Learning Theory. She is a retired public school music teacher with 28 years' experience. During 26 of those years she was an elementary music specialist (Grades K-6) for the Grand Ledge Public Schools. She directed the Vivo Cantando Children's choir from September 2013 – May 2016 and is excited to share her love of music with children once again.

James Schippers - Accompanist

James and his fiancé, Katie, live in East Lansing where he is a doctoral student in piano performance and a teaching assistant at Michigan State University. He also serves as organist at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lansing. James holds a master's degree from Western Michigan University and a bachelor's degree from Hope College, both in piano. He is originally from Grand Haven. His fiancé is the junior high choral director for the DeWitt Public Schools.

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

2019/2020

FALL SESSION

September 12	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
September 19	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
September 26	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
October 3	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
October 1	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
October 17	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
October 24	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
November 7	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
November 14	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
November 21	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
December 5	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
December 12	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
December 13	Concert with Mint City Singers at Wilson Center, Call 6:30 pm, Concert 7:30 pm

WINTER/SPRING SESSION

January 9	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
January 16	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
January 23	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
January 30	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
February 6	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
February 13	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
February 20	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
February 27	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
March 5	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
March 12	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
March 19	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
March 26	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
April 2	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
April 9	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
April 16	Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:00 pm
April 23	Concert with Mint City Singers at Wilson Center, Call 6:30 pm, Concert 7:30 pm