

OUR ENSEMBLES

Cantanti Lirichi (CL): Honor ensemble for mixed high school voices

Angelo Voci (AV): Honor ensemble for teen ladies

Ragazzi Coro (RC): Principal ensemble for junior high and high school young men

Bella Voci (BV): Principal ensemble for junior high and high school young ladies

Primo Coro (PC): Primary ensemble for grades 4-6

Piccoli Angeli (PA): Beginning ensemble for grades 2-3

Cherubino Coro (CC): Ensemble for kindergarten -first grade

SPRING SEMESTER CALENDAR

Rehearsals: Every Monday afternoon from January 8 - April 2, 2018. Please note: April 2 will be a long rehearsal to prepare for our spring concert.

Rehearsal times: CL 3:30-4:30; CC 4:30-5:30; PA 4:30-5:45; PC/BV/RC/AV 4:30-6:30.

Spring Semester Concerts and Events:

JANUARY

- January 6, 2018 9:00am-12:00pm, Auditions for second semester
- January 20, 2018 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, Extra Saturday Rehearsal - Mandatory for BV/RC/AV/CL

FEBRUARY

- February 3, 2018: 1:00pm-5:00pm, Extra Saturday Rehearsal - Mandatory for BV/RC/AV/CL
- February 7, 2018, 8:00am-7:30pm, Purdue Men's Choral Festival. The all-day festival will end with a one-hour performance at 6:30pm in Purdue's Elliott Hall of Music. The performance is open to the public and free of charge. - Mandatory for RC
- February 19, 2018, Etiquette meal for CC/PA and PC

MARCH

- March 5, 4:30-5:30pm, parent meeting for Spring concert preparation, MCUMC

APRIL

- April 6, 2018, 4:00pm-9:00pm, Dress rehearsal for Spring performance. Note: CC/PA will be released by 5:30pm - Mandatory
- April 7, 2018, 9:30 am arrival for (BV, RC, AV, CL); 11:30am, arrival for CC/PA and PC ensembles. Students and parents will be dismissed when cleanup is complete after the 7:00pm concert. Final Spring production rehearsal, lunch, matinee performance, dinner, and evening performance NOTE: CC/PA ensemble will have reduced rehearsal and attendance hours- Mandatory
- April 21, 2018, 9:00am-5:00pm, Auditions for 2018-2019 season
- April 30, 2018, Spring Banquet - Details to be announced - Strongly encouraged.

JUNE

- June 11, 2018, 1:00pm-5:00pm, Summer Camp, MCUMC
- June 20-24, 2018 Texas International Choral Festival for grades 5-9

HCCC has been invited to participate in the Texas International Choral Festival to be held in Dallas, Texas on June 20-24, 2018. Students/families will stay at the Great Wolf Lodge where all rehearsals will take place. The final festival concert will be held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. This invitation is for grades 5-9. Dr. Lynne Gackle, Guest Conductor, will join Jim Papoulis, Clinician, Ruth Dwyer, Prelude Choir Director and Jimmy Baas, Composer for the festival. Participants will register for this event through HCCC. An event brochure and pricing information is available upon request by emailing: info@hancockcountychildrenschoir.org

Note: Any additions to this calendar will be carefully considered. It is the goal of HCCC leadership to have your choir experience be a blessing and not a burden. We welcome any suggestions to make your time with us positive and fruitful.

MEMBER POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Because each child is independently valuable within the choir, all rehearsals and performances are mandatory, unless otherwise noted on the HCCC calendar. The season calendar is provided in the online registration form and includes all rehearsal and performance dates. Please add these dates to your personal calendar at the time of registration. Any additions to the calendar will be communicated as soon as possible via handouts, emails, texts, and/or phone calls.

Attendance is expected at every rehearsal and performance. In the event of an illness (student must be fever free for 24 hours to attend a rehearsal or performance), a major conflict with a required school event, or family emergency, an absence may be excused. Choral members who have excessive absences may be placed on "Attendance Probation" and may not be able to participate in a performance. Excessive absences may also lead to termination of choir membership.

By registering, you agree to have your child/children at each mandatory rehearsal and performance. Please list any anticipated absences on the registration form to request prior approval. Once the choir season has begun, please complete a "Planned Absence Form" with HCCC's Attendance Coordinator if you anticipate your child missing a rehearsal or performance.

In the case of two or more absences per semester, the director may ask the individual to sing his/her performance pieces to make sure he/she is prepared for performance. If the student cannot accurately sing his/her pieces or is clearly unfamiliar with staging, he/she may be asked not to perform.

If a member is asked to sing a solo, is a part of a special ensemble, or is performing a speech or reading, the student must commit to being at every rehearsal that semester. Any planned absences must be pre-approved by HCCC's Artistic Director. Please complete a "Planned Absence Form" with HCCC's Attendance Coordinator. Depending on the circumstances, the special part in the performance may be reassigned to another child.

HCCC uses KidCheck online attendance system. Each student must be checked in and out at the computer station located in the lobby of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church before and after each rehearsal. This attendance system is provided by the choir and KidCheck accounts are free for choir members.

If a choral member is unable to attend a rehearsal or performance he/she must notify the Attendance Coordinator.

PUNCTUALITY

“Early is good, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.” We plan to use every minute of our scheduled rehearsal time. In order to do so, students are asked to arrive several minutes early to allow time to use the restroom, get a drink, sign in, pick up their music binders, and be seated in their place. It is essential that singers are ready to sing when rehearsal begins and picked up promptly at the conclusion of rehearsal. Habitual tardiness results in disruption of rehearsal and may result in dismissal from the program.

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

Rehearsals are held every Monday at Mount Comfort United Methodist Church, located at 3179 N Mount Comfort Road, Greenfield 46140.

Since we are a tenant of Mount Comfort United Methodist, it is important that the HCCC space is cared for and treated respectfully at all times.

- Arrive no sooner than 15 minutes prior to rehearsal, making allowance for restroom breaks
- Enter the north door of the church labeled “Sanctuary.”
- Parents and students should sign in immediately upon entering the building.
- Choral Members must stay in the designated areas for rehearsal. The church runs a daycare in the other half of the building, and Hancock County Children’s Choir students should not enter the area occupied by the daycare.
- No student should leave rehearsal early, unless special permission has been given in advance.
- No parent is to interrupt rehearsal to speak with their child or director.
- Use of cell phones, iPads, iPods, or any other electronic device is prohibited during rehearsal.
- Cell phones should be silenced and stowed in backpacks or purses during rehearsal.
- No drinks or food are allowed in the rehearsal rooms.
- Water can be brought in a secure container with a lid and the child’s name on the container.
- Refrain from using scented lotions, perfume, cologne, body spray, or scented aftershave when you come to rehearsal and/or performances.
- Respect for the Artistic Choral Director, any other adult leadership, and fellow choir members is expected.
- No gum, ever.
- Yelling, profanity, and/or coarse language is unacceptable.
- Any student possessing drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or weapons will be immediately suspended from the choir.
- Parents and siblings are welcome to attend regular rehearsals ... please be quiet at all times!

- Parents, please be sure to pick up your child promptly at the end of rehearsal.
- Each choir member will be assigned a job to complete for set up and/or cleanup of the building on rehearsal days.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

A professional appearance is just as important as the artistically professional sound that the HCCC portrays. All choral members should be clean and well groomed. All clothing should be wrinkle free. Note: Concert Dress uniforms should be ironed using a pressing cloth so that the fabric does not become shiny. Dresses rarely need to be ironed as they usually come out of the laundry wrinkle-free. HCCC strives to portray a professional uniform appearance. Good hygiene and careful grooming are essential!

- Hair combed off the face and secured away from the eyes.
- Barrettes and hair fasteners should match the color of the hair. No bows, headbands, etc.
- No jewelry, only stud earrings.
- No watches, bracelets, Fitbits, etc.
- Nail polish should be clear or pale pink only.
- Unusual, distracting hair dye is not permitted for performances.
- Obvious, unnatural looking makeup or cosmetics is not appropriate; however, stage lighting necessitates the use of a bit of extra blush to warm up skin tone.
- Clear or pale pink lip-gloss is acceptable.
- No perfumes, colognes, scented lotions.
- If using hairspray, please use non-scented, and spray prior to arrival
- Attire must be wrinkle free.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- "Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable!"
- Call Time is very important! Arrive and be "in place" 10 minutes before designated dress rehearsal/performance time.
- Choir members should be well-rested and nourished prior to performances.
- Tardiness may exclude a choir member from participating in the performance.
- An unexcused absence from a performance (mandatory) may result in removal from the choral program altogether.
- Each choir member must have the entire repertoire memorized in order to perform.
- Each choir member must be fully engaged in listening to the Artistic Choral Director's instructions.
- If a student becomes ill during a performance, he should inconspicuously leave the stage and not return.

PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE FOR AUDIENCES

- Be early for the beginning of the concert. Doors generally open a minimum of 30 minutes prior to a performance. People who are late can be a distraction for both the performers and the audience. Should you arrive late, do not enter the concert hall while a musical selection is being performed. Please wait to enter the hall in between pieces during the applause breaks.
- Avoid any activity that could be distracting to the performers or other patrons. Should you have to leave the concert hall, it should be done between musical selections. Never leave or enter the hall during a performance, except during an emergency or with a small child (see below).
- Avoid talking or making noise of any kind. Most patrons are there to hear the music, not the casual conversation of audience members. The unwrapping of candy or gum can be very distracting and should be avoided. Remember that the singers, musicians, and conductors have worked very hard for this performance and should be given every consideration.
- Most HCCC concerts are inappropriate for children under the age of three. If a very young child attends the concert with you, please remove them from the concert hall immediately if he becomes disruptive to the enjoyment of the performance by other patrons.
- Cell phones, and other electronic devices should be turned off before entering a concert.
- The use of any recording device during a concert is strictly prohibited due to copyright law. Flash photography should never be used.
- Nothing should be done to draw attention to the individual. Shouting out names of singers or waving to attract their attention is not proper and distracts from the collective effort of the choir.
- It is customary to applaud the conductor as he or she enters the stage or approaches the choir.
- Applause should be given at the end of each section of music unless otherwise noted in the program. When a multi-movement selection is being performed, applause should be held until the entire selection is completed. A pause will occur between movements and one should refrain from applauding during this pause. Multi-movement selections are usually noted in the program.
- Please hold your applause for soloists until the entire piece is completed. Generally, a soloist is recognized at the conclusion of the piece and should be applauded at that time.
- The amount of applause indicates to the performers how well their efforts have been received. Please do not whistle or call out names, as this detracts from the collective effort of the choir.

MUSIC AND FOLDERS

All folders and music are the property of HCCC. Each student is assigned a folder, and it is the responsibility of the student to maintain his/her own folder and return it to the music carts in the foyer before leaving rehearsals. On occasion, folders may be checked out and taken home for more practice. Folders must be signed out with the Music Librarian and returned for the next rehearsal. At the end of each semester, it is imperative that the choir folders are returned so that they can be emptied and re-loaded for the next semester. Choral Members are financially responsible for lost or damaged music.

- Music is never to be folded or rolled.
- Light pencil marking is allowed.
- Torn music may only be repaired with clear tape.
- If sheet music is defaced, it will be replaced at the expense of the choral member.

COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS

HCCC encourages students to be active participants within their local school choral music programs, if one is available.

SCHOOL BREAK GUIDELINES

HCCC does not take any “breaks” except for Labor Day and Christmas. Since the choir is made up of students from many school districts whose breaks are rarely scheduled at the same time, the choir rehearses all through March (Spring Break times) as well. We schedule our spring concert in April to assist families by ending our season before the traditionally busy end-of-the-year school calendar begins. Our calendar is dispersed at the beginning of the season. Please plan ahead and take the necessary steps to call or text the Attendance Coordinator informing her if you will be vacationing and therefore missing a rehearsal.