

# Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs (ACYC)

## Frequently asked questions:



Updated June, 2019

### 1. Why choose choir over other activities?

Choral singing offers a complete educational growth experience that challenges, develops, and rewards the body, mind, and spirit. It builds self-esteem, teaches discipline, demands commitment, and fosters community and teamwork. Singing is likely to continue as a rewarding, lifelong pleasure.

### 2. How is this choir different from a school or church choir?

ACYC is not intended to replace school or church choirs. The purposes ACYC and these other valuable choral experiences are different. We encourage all ACYC singers to maintain membership in school and/or church choirs. We can sing a more challenging and varied repertoire than is found in a typical school or church children's or youth choir because our singers are auditioned and because they have sought out the kind of rigor and commitment that ACYC involves.

### 3. When can my child audition?

Please fill out the online audition form on the website and we will contact you with an available audition time.

### 4. What can I expect will happen at the audition?

Younger singers may sing *Happy Birthday* or another familiar song. Older singers may sing *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. See our Audition Information link on our website for an MP3 practice recording. Directors will check the singer's vocal range, their ability to echo back simple patterns (sung and clapped) and how well they match pitch. Younger singers should also be able to read a short poem out loud with understanding and expression. For the middle and high school age singers, the audition may include vocal warm-ups & exercises to check pitch matching, vocal flexibility, vocal range, and vocal quality. You may also echo notes and scales played on the piano to for tonal memory and sing simple rhythms and melodies to check sight-reading skills.

### 5. What choirs do you have?

**Prep Choir Class** is for boys and girls in Kindergarten – 2nd grade

**Con Brio** is for boy and girl singers in 2nd – 4th grade

**Con Spirito** is for boy and girl singers in 2nd – 4th grade

**Vivace** is for boy and girl singers in 2nd – 5th grade

**Cantabile** is for boy and girl singers in 4th – 6th grade

**Concert Choir** is for boy and girl singers in 6th – 9th grade

**Cambiata** is for Tenor and Bass singers in 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade

**Treble Singers** is for Soprano & Alto singers in 9th – 12th grade

**Cantanti Singers** is for Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass singers in 9th – 12th grade

**The final decision about choir placement is up to the director after the audition process.**

### 6. What is different about each choir?

Each choir is designed for the age and ability of the singers. Musical skills, like singing in harmony and reading music, become progressively more challenging with each choir.

### 7. Can we start in the middle of the year?

That decision is up to the director's discretion. Please contact the choir office for more information.

### 8. What kind of music do you sing?

We sing a wide variety of music from around the world, including some sacred music and lots of interesting secular music in many languages. We sing music from early historical times to music of

today.

**9. What will my child learn?**

**Music:** Artistry, expressiveness, tuning, rhythmic accuracy, music reading, aural skills, music theory, score reading

**Language skills:** poetry and language skills in English, pronunciation and vocabulary in many languages

**Cultural awareness:** awareness of and information about many cultures through songs, and geography

**Self-esteem growth:** teamwork, discipline, respect, self-confidence

**Etiquette:** manners, commitment, ability to focus

**Listening skills:** ability to follow directions, improved memory, ability to apply previously learned musical concepts to a new piece of music

Angelica Singers learn how to use their voices to sing correctly, how to use a musical score, how to read music, how to sing in harmony, how to work together as a team. The mission of Angelica Cantanti is to provide a premier music experience for young choral musicians through quality musical instruction, artistic excellence in choral performance, the development of teamwork, and the social and personal growth of its members. Statistics now prove that participation in a choir, band or orchestra raises a student's IQ and increases their ability to think and reason. These same students also had higher SAT scores. The longer the students participated in music programs, the more impact it had on their learning.

**10. Who are the directors?**

We have 4 professional directors that are very active in the Twin Cities choral community. Michelle Gehrz is the Conductor for the Con Brio Choir, Con Spirito, Vivace and the Prep Choir Class. Rachel Lucius conducts the Cantabile Choir. Elizabeth Egger conducts the Concert Choir and the Cambiata Choir and Philip Brown conducts the Treble Singers, Cantanti Singers and Tenor/Bass Ensemble. Full biographies on each director can be found on the Angelica Cantanti website at [www.angelicacantanti.org](http://www.angelicacantanti.org).

**11. Are you a religious organization or are you affiliated with a church?**

No. We may rent rehearsal and performance spaces from churches. ACYC is not affiliated with any religion and we welcome new members regardless of religious affiliation.

**12. Do you sing religious songs?**

Yes, sometimes the ACYC will sing sacred music. This music is considered part of the great cultural heritage of music, and is not approached as a personal statement of faith.

**13. Do you sing in churches or at church services?**

Yes, sometimes.

**14. When, where and how often do you rehearse?**

All the choirs rehearse once a week, generally September – May at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, Rehearsal Hall - 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington. Near 98<sup>th</sup> St. and 35W exit.

**15. Can we visit a rehearsal?**

Yes! We welcome parents into rehearsals. It is important for you to see what training your child is receiving in choir to more fully understand and appreciate what he/she is experiencing. Please call our office at 952-563-8572 if you would like to visit a rehearsal.

**16. Are all the rehearsals, concerts, retreats and tours required?**

We expect that all our singers will attend all rehearsals, concerts and retreats. Tours are not required but we highly encourage all our singers to participate.

**17. Is it okay to miss some rehearsals?**

Every voice is important and every rehearsal is crucial to the success of the singer and the group. Since our choirs only meet 1 day per week, it is expected that singers will be pro-active with other activities they are involved in and look ahead on their calendars to avoid missing a rehearsal. If a singer misses 2 rehearsals in a row they may fall behind quickly and a meeting with the Director may be necessary to decide if the singer will be prepared to sing at the next performance.

**18. What if my singer needs to miss a rehearsal because of a school activity, vacation or other?**

Singers are expected to be at all rehearsals. An absentee form must be completed and turned in at least one - two weeks prior to the absence. Communication is very important. Please turn in this form and be sure your director has been contacted in advance. If too many rehearsals are missed, the director may suggest a make-up rehearsal or the director may decide that the singer is not ready to perform at the next concert.

**19. What if my singer needs to miss a performance?**

All singers are expected to be at all performances. The Director must be notified in person as soon as possible.

**20. What is your season?**

The calendar start and ending dates will vary for each choir. We typically start in late August/early September and end in the middle of May.

**21. Where are the concerts?** All the choirs may perform throughout the year at different venues all over the Twin Cities metro area.

**22. Are the concerts free?**

Currently, there is no charge or admission to attend our annual winter and spring concerts. In February, we have a fundraising concert to support the Rita Docter Scholarship Fund and that event does have a ticket fee.

**23. Where do singers come from?**

Our singers represent communities from all over the metro. Our current roster includes singers from Lakeville, Burnsville, Prior Lake, Afton, St. Paul, Roseville, Minneapolis, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Owatonna, Osceola, Wisconsin and more.

**24. What is the time commitment?**

This varies for all the groups. We have weekly rehearsals, a concert in December, February and May. There are other performances scheduled throughout the season. The Cantabile, Concert and Cantanti Singers are required to attend a day-long retreat in early January. The choir calendars can be found on the Singer/Family page on the Angelica website at: [www.angelicacantanti.org](http://www.angelicacantanti.org) .

**25. Will my singer need to miss any school to participate in your program?**

Sometimes there are valuable performance opportunities that happen to fall on a school day. We are sensitive and careful about this and understand that each family must decide what is best for their child. None of these performances will be required.

**26. What do the singers wear?**

Each choir has informal and formal performance attire. Singers are required to purchase these items in the early fall.

**27. Is there carpooling?**

We do compile a list of singers who can provide or who need transportation. The Angelica organization will not coordinate this effort, but will forward names of those interested in being on the list.

**28. Will my singer go on tour or on overnight trips?**

There are times when the Middle & High School Singers may have the opportunity to go on an

overnight, weekend or week-long tour. The Cantabile Choir may also go on overnight trips. Longer tours will be announced in advance and will only happen if enough singers can go.

**29. What is expected from the parents?**

Parents must ensure that their singer is present and prompt at all rehearsals and performances. Communication is done by email, so parents must check for important email messages, bookmark and check the Angelica Cantanti Singer/Family webpage often for updates and put all Angelica rehearsals and performances on their family calendar. Absent forms must be completed and turned in as necessary. Parents also volunteer to help with retreats, concerts and other ACYC activities. Our parents are an extremely supportive group who share their time and talents in a variety of ways.

**30. Where can I find a calendar or schedule for the season?**

On the Angelica website: [www.angelicantanti.org](http://www.angelicantanti.org) each choir has a calendar on the Singer/Family page.

**31. How much will this cost?**

Fees for all singers in all choirs include: a \$50 registration fee, tuition and performance apparel. A music deposit check is also required in the fall and will only be deposited if music is missing at the end of the season. Cantabile, Concert Choir, the Treble and Cantanti Singers are expected to attend the Snow Days all day retreat in January. Additional costs may include: optional overnight trip and tours. Please check the Angelica website under TUITION for more information.

**32. What does tuition pay for?**

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir is a 501 (3) non-profit organization. Tuition helps pay for rehearsal and concert venue rental fees, director and accompanist fees, administration, sheet music, folders, transportation, insurance, advertising, licensing, guest artists, program printing, copies, instrumentalists and other operating fees. Singer tuition covers approximately 60% of our expenses. The organization relies on fundraising, individual donors and grants to balance the budget.

**33. Do you provide any financial assistance or scholarships?**

Yes. There is limited scholarship money available through the Rita Docter Scholarship Fund. Contact the choir office for an application and more information.

**34. Where do I buy the uniforms?**

You can find all the performance attire information on the Angelica website: [www.angelicacantanti.org](http://www.angelicacantanti.org).

**35. Do you have a Board of Directors?**

Yes, there is a volunteer Board of Directors that governs the organization. This group meets once a month and new members are always welcome. The Board of Directors is responsible for carrying out the mission of The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs. The board ensures that the organization establishes and maintains the trust of the community by being clear in its mission, prudent and ethical in its activities, and accountable for its actions. Board meetings focus on fundraising, planning, policy-making, and assessing progress toward meeting the goals.

**36. Where is the Angelica office?**

Our office is in the Bloomington Center for the Arts Building, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431. 952-563-8572. Emergency phone/text: Audrey Riddle 612-272-4568.