



Handbook
2016-2017

Mission Statement

The Lexington Singers Children's Choir (LSCC) mission is to provide opportunities for the children of Lexington and surrounding communities to participate in a quality choral music education program and to further musical understanding among all peoples regardless of religious, racial, cultural or economic backgrounds.

Choir Descriptions

Preparatory Choir: The preparatory choir is a beginning musical experience where children learn through play: visually, aurally, and kinesthetically. The choir is for children who exhibit varying musical ability but a *willingness to sing*. Children in this choir begin to learn about their “singing” voice and experience rhythmic and melodic concepts, steady beat, tempo and dynamics through rhymes, folk songs, and play parties. Children in the Preparatory Choir role play performance, study/discuss performance etiquette and concert procedures. The Preparatory Choir will perform for the Fall concert, the Spring concert, and one community service program each semester. Please see the calendar page insert for performance dates and times or check our website.

Intermediate Choir: This choir is designed primarily for upper elementary aged students and for younger elementary aged students who have been in Preparatory Choir and who have advanced musical skills for their age. At the time of the audition, students may also take a short music theory test to help the directors assess the singer’s musical knowledge and reading ability, and thus, his/her choir placement. Intermediate Choir members will focus their studies in two main areas: score reading and vocal/choral development (including performance and audience etiquette and the behaviors of good choir members). In addition, they will further develop their aural skills, and will study music theory as well as develop basic choral skills such as focus and score marking. The Intermediate Choir will perform in the Fall and Spring Concerts with all choirs, and they may also do community service or other stand-alone performances. Please see the calendar page insert for performance dates and times or check our website.

Advanced Choir: This choir is designed primarily for younger middle school aged students who have no prior experience singing in a choir and whose other musical experiences and skills are limited. Younger students who have been in Intermediate Choir and have advanced

musical skills and self-discipline may be admitted to the Advanced Choir. At the time of the audition, students will take a short music theory test to help the directors assess the singer's musical knowledge, and thus, his/her choir placement. Advanced Choir members will focus their studies in these main areas: singing in parts, music theory, genre exposure, choral listening/blending, and performance readiness. Students in the Advanced Choir may have music theory assignments, as well as assignments in developing sight reading and score reading at home. The Advanced Choir will perform in the Fall Concert, the Holiday Collage concert at UK, the Victorian Square Celebration of Song, and in the Spring Concert with all the choirs. The Advanced Choir will also perform community service concerts at least once a semester, or other stand-alone performances. Please see the calendar page insert for performance dates and times or check our website.

Chamber Choir: This choir is designed for upper middle school and high school students. Children at this level can sing independently in parts. They have demonstrated a healthy and accurate vocal tone. Their voice is developing and their range is increasing. They are able to "leap" in vocally wide and more dissonant intervals. Sight reading skills are an important part of the audition process. At the time of the audition, students will take a short music theory test to help the directors assess the singer's musical knowledge, and thus, his/her choir placement. Sight-reading and sol-fege are emphasized in each rehearsal. The literature in this choir is more difficult and frequently in a foreign language. Singers must have the maturity to be leaders regarding performance etiquette. Singers in this choir will be expected to practice at home. Singers may have theory/sol-fege assignments to be completed by the next rehearsal. **Chamber Choir members commit for the entire year.** Auditions are held only in the fall for this choir. Please see the calendar page insert for performance dates and times or check our website.

Absences/Tardies: Please call or e-mail your child's choir director if your child will miss a rehearsal or will be late.

Chamber Choir: Lori Hetzel: lhetzel@uky.edu, 333-3313 (call or text)

Advanced Choir: Daniel Wesley: dwesley@lexingtonchristian.org;

Intermediate Choir: Amy Black: amosblk@hotmail.com;

Preparatory Choir: Jeremy Howard: jhoward@ctkschool.cdlex.org

Excessive absences/tardies may preclude your child from performing in a concert. Rehearsals start promptly at 4:30 pm. Please have your child at rehearsal by 4:25 pm.

First Rehearsal each month will begin with combined warmups in the sanctuary.

Severe Weather Policy: Lexington Singers Children's Choir will make a decision regarding rehearsal on severe weather days and notify parents via email on the day of the rehearsal. We do NOT follow Fayette County's lead and are more in line with the private schools in Lexington.

Rehearsal Spaces: The choirs will rehearse in the following rooms

Chamber Choir: Choir Room

Advanced Choir: Chapel

Intermediate Choir: Room 33

Preparatory Choir: Room 43

Parents are not allowed in the rehearsal spaces due to distraction and lack of space. Parents are welcome to wait in the foyer or the downstairs lounge.

Preparatory and Intermediate Choir Parents: Children in this choir must be accompanied to the choir room by a parent or caregiver and picked up from the room after rehearsal.

Pick up: Please be prompt and remember that students must be picked up within 5 minutes after rehearsal. Dismissal times are:

Preparatory Choir – 5:20 pm

Intermediate Choir - 5:25 pm

Advanced Choir – 5:30 pm

Chamber Choir – 5:45 pm

***Parents who are more than 10 minutes late to pick up their children will be charged a late fee.**

Fees: The fee for participation is \$225/academic year or \$130/semester for the Preparatory and Intermediate choirs. The fee for the Advanced and Chamber choirs is \$255/year or \$150/semester. We encourage you to commit for an entire year and offer a discount for the year if you pay up front. Discount for three (3) or more children singing in same semester: 50% off each child's tuition beginning with the third child's.

Pro-rated refunds of fees collected are available for students who do not complete the semester up until the middle of the semester. After that time, no refunds will be made.

Performance Requirements:

Children must arrive one (1) hour before a performance begins and are to stay for the entire performance.

Concert attire:

- Girls in Chamber Choir wear a long, black dress to be purchased from Southeastern Apparel, black shoes (no high heels) and black or nude hose. The dress should be purchased from www.formalwear-outlet.com (Alixandra dress, D735, black, \$69.00)
- Girls in Advanced Choir wear white tux shirts (available at Geno's on Southland Dr. and Richmond Rd. or Hobby Lobby) and black pants or skirt (knee length or longer), black shoes and dark socks or stockings.

- Boys in Chamber Choir wear black pants and shirts with a red tie. Chamber Choir boy outfits should be purchased from www.concertattire.com (6701 Black shirt and pants, red tie).
- Boys in Advanced Choir wear white tux shirts (see info above), black pants, dark shoes and dark socks.
- Vests are provided for all Advanced Choir members and must be returned in good condition at the end of the year or when a student leaves the group.
- Members of the Intermediate Choir wear red LSCC logo polos and black uniform pants with dark shoes and dark socks. LSCC polos can be purchased from www.kythreadworks.com. Uniform pants can be ordered from JC Penney, Kohl's, Sears, Target, Gap, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Amazon or Land's End
- Members of the Preparatory Choir wear red LSCC logo polos and black pants with dark shoes and dark socks. LSCC polos can be purchased from www.kythreadworks.com.

Advanced Choir/ Chamber Choir Dress Rehearsal Policy: Singers must be at the dress rehearsal to perform in the concert. Dress rehearsals are for practicing the “flow” of the concert – on/off, program order, standing positions, combined pieces, use of instruments, etc. Students must wear red LSCC polos with the LSCC insignia and plain black dress pants/skirt for dress rehearsals. Students may not wear black jeans, yoga pants, athletic pants or leggings. LSCC polos can be purchased from www.kythreadworks.com. Please call or email Jessi Jump if you have financial concerns (859-338-9888 or lschoir@yahoo.com).

Communication: Important information concerning LSCC will be sent regularly to families via email. Please make sure that we always have your most up to date address.

Practicing Music/Theory Homework: Please remind your child to practice as part of their homework routine. This includes memorizing, reading through the text, speaking the words in rhythm, perhaps playing their part on an instrument, and singing part on sol-feg.

Intermediate Choir:

- Bring a bag to all rehearsals

Advanced and Chamber Choirs:

- Bring folder to ALL rehearsals (help them remember)
- Pencil
- Water bottle with cap
- Snack before rehearsal

LSCC 2014-15 Staff

Dr. Lori Hetzel – Artistic Director and Chamber Choir Director

Email: lori.hetzel@uky.edu

Mr. Daniel Wesley – Advanced Choir Director

Email: dwesley@lexingtonchristian.org

Ms. Amy Black - Intermediate Choir Director

Email: amosblk@hotmail.com

Mr. Jeremy Howard – Preparatory Choir Director

Email: jhoward@ctkschool.cdlex.org or jmhowa03@yahoo.com

Ms. Jessi Jump - Business Director

Email: business@lexsing.org or lsccl@lexsing.org

Mr. Rob Vanover – Chamber Choir Accompanist

Ms. Lisa Braswell - Advanced Choir Accompanist

Mrs. Debbie Sogin – Intermediate/Preparatory Choir Accompanist/

Orff Consultant

Committees

These committees are composed of parent volunteers:

Vest Committee: Responsible for ensuring that each student in Advanced Choir has the appropriate uniform for each performance. Vests are provided. Volunteers need to be available during rehearsal time to fit vests.

Ticket Committee: Responsible for selling tickets prior to and at the LSCC Fall Concert in November and the Spring Concert in May.

Social/Reception Committee: Responsible for coordinating snacks at certain rehearsals when requested by Dr. Hetzel and for arranging receptions after certain performances if necessary.

Historian/Photographer: Responsible for taking pictures and saving documents over the year in view of making an annual scrapbook and putting on facebook and the LSCC web page.

Polo Exchange Committee: Responsible for setting up and running a polo shirt exchange during the beginning of each semester.

Pops Set Up/Break Down Committee: Will assist other volunteers in the set up and break down of Pops concert decorations.

Children's Choir Angels

The LSCC is a program of The Lexington Singers, Inc (TLS) and consequently receives benefits of the 501(C)(3) status of the parent organization. This status permits tax deductible contributions to LSCC.

Each semester since LSCC was formed, we have received substantial gifts from individual members of TLS as well as underwriting from the TLS Board of Directors. These generous people are designated as

“Lexington Singers Children’s Choir Angels” in the program for all Lexington Singers concerts. We welcome contributions from others who would like to support this organization financially. If you wish to become an “Angel,” please contact Dr. Hetzel, Mrs. Sogin, or Ms. Jump.

Because of our contributors’ generosity, we are able to offer scholarship assistance to students based on their families’ financial need. We expect each family to honestly assess its ability to pay tuition. Scholarships are available at 50% and 75%. Scholarship applications are available from Dr. Hetzel, Mrs. Sogin and Ms. Jump.

Please put these **important dates** on your calendar **NOW**:

Mandatory parent/caregiver meetings:

- Tuesday, Sept. 27th 5 pm, sanctuary of Centenary Methodist.
- Tuesday, Jan. 24th, 5 pm, sanctuary of Centenary Methodist
(for new parents)

Handbooks will be distributed, signups for committees taken and announcements and question/answer session with Dr Lori Hetzel.

Concerts 2016-2017

Dress Rehearsals for Fall Concert: Tuesday, Nov 8th, 4:30-6:00
Tates Creek Presbyterian Church.

LSCC Fall Concert: Saturday, November 12th, 4 pm
Tates Creek Presbyterian Church (Man o’ War at Rapid Run)

All Choirs

Tickets: \$10/adult, \$5/child

Tree Lighting Ceremony: November 26th, Time TBA

Preparatory and Intermediate Choirs only with Lexington Singers

Triangle Park, Free and open to the public

UK Holiday Collage with the UK choirs and instrumental ensembles.

Advanced and Chamber Choirs only.

- Friday, December 2nd. 6:30-9:30. Dress rehearsal. Singletary Center for the Arts
- Saturday, December 3rd. Concerts at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm. UK Singletary Center Concert Hall.
- Sunday, December 4th. Concert begins at 3:00 pm. UK Singletary Center Concert Hall.
- Tickets: 859.257.4929 (Reduced tickets are sometimes offered to LSCC families. Please check with Jessi to see if reduced prices will be available. Don't wait too long though... concerts sell out!).

Alltech Celebration of Song location TBA

Sunday, December 11th, 5 pm and 7 pm; call time: TBA

Advanced and Chamber Choirs only.

Free and open to the public

Spring Auditions for LSCC: January 3rd, 4:30

Centenary United Methodist Church

Preparatory, Intermediate, and Advanced Choirs only

KMEA Invitational Performance: February 9th or 10th, Time TBA

Louisville, KY

Intermediate Choir Only

King's Island Trip: April 29th

Advanced Choir Only

Chamber Choir Tour: Dates TBA, Exchange Concert with Cincinnati Children's Choir, Robyn Lana, Artistic Director

Chamber Choir Only

Dress Rehearsals for Spring Concert: Tuesday, May 9th, 4:30-6:00 pm
Tates Creek Presbyterian Church.

LSCC Spring Concert. Saturday, May 9th. 3pm.

All Choirs.

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church (Man o' War at Rapid Run)

Tickets: \$10/adult, \$5/child. Tickets sold at rehearsals and at the door.

LSCC End of the Year Banquet: May 16th, 5:00

Centenary United Methodist Church

All Choirs

Lexington Singers Pops Concert: May 20th, 7:00 pm.

Dress rehearsal TBA

Advanced and Chamber Choirs Only

The Lexington Opera House

Tickets sold through Jessi Jump at 859-338-9888.

Legends Game – Date TBA (Summer, 2017)

Intermediate Choir

Below is the agreement you signed when your child auditioned for the choir. Additional information can be found elsewhere in this handbook.

Lexington Singers Children's Choir
Agreement Form

As the parent/guardian of _____, I hereby agree to the following terms of membership in the Lexington Singers Children's Choir(LSCC):

We encourage you to make a commitment to the LSCC for the entire school year.

1. I agree to pay the applicable fee by the first (1st) or second (2nd) rehearsal of each semester.
2. I will pick my child up within five (5) minutes of the end of rehearsal and make sure the director knows that he/she is leaving
3. If I am unable to bring or pick up my child, I have provided LSCC with the names of others who have my permission to do so in my absence. They understand the safety requirements and will identify themselves to the director.
4. I understand that all rehearsals are required and will not schedule doctors appointments or other conflicts within the enclosed LSCC timetable.
5. If my child is ill and unable to attend a rehearsal, I will email the appropriate director before the rehearsal.
6. I understand that more than three (3) unexcused absences or three disciplinary infractions per semester may result in my child's dismissal from LSCC without refund.
7. I understand that this is an educational opportunity and that my child will act responsibly. Repeated discipline problems will result in dismissal from the group.

8. I understand that for any performance, my child is expected to be there one (1) hour before it begins and is to stay for the entire performance.
9. I understand that I will be responsible for some parts of performance attire for performances.
10. I give my permission for dvds and photographs to be made of my child and possibly used for publicity purposes.
11. I may be asked to serve on one of the committees which will be announced.

*We will often contact you with important messages via email.
Please keep us up to date with your email address. We appreciate your cooperation! Send any email address changes to Jessi Jump (lscchoir@yahoo.com) and to your child's director as well.