



G R A N D R A P I D S
YOUTH CHORUSES

Handbook of General Information
2022-23

Grand Rapids Youth Chorus

P.O. Box 68665

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

www.gryouthchorus.org

616-901-2778

Our Mission Statement:

The Grand Rapids Youth Chorus strive to instill in the children of West Michigan a lifelong love of music by providing a program in which they can discover and refine their musical talent as choral singers, demonstrate personal growth and leadership, and develop a lifelong passion for singing. Grand Rapids Youth Chorus aspire to provide a mutually respectful system of preparation, a dedication to excellence in the performance of quality choral literature, and a commitment to seeking collaborative musical opportunities locally, nationally, and globally.
It is our mission to make the world a more beautiful place through music and community.

Contact Information

Artistic Director

Leah Ivory 616.856.8093 leah@gryouthchorus.org

Collaborative Pianist

Sean Ivory 616.856.8092 sean@gryouthchorus.org

Melodia Director

Cameo Haaksma Elzinga cameo@gryouthchorus.org

Administrator

Emma Ivory 616.901.2778 info@gryouthchorus.org

GRYC Board Members

Perrin Rynders, President
Ken Jacobs, Vice President
Camille DeBoer, Secretary/Treasurer
Candice Sytsma
Max VanWyk

Dear Grand Rapids Youth Chorus community,

Welcome back! In 2008, Sean and I began the exciting endeavor of creating the Grand Rapids Youth Choruses. That spring, the Youth Chorus participated in the Grand Rapids Symphony's performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem. Before that season was finished, GRS announced that they were adding us to the symphony family as an affiliate program. Our program has grown and thrived these past years. Our choristers regularly deliver inspiring concerts wherever they sing - at our family concerts, at public events like the Griffins games, in collaboration with professional musicians, and on tour in the United States and overseas. We teach music from around the world to increase appreciation for other cultures and awareness of historical and current events happening in places far away from us - because issues of justice, peace, reconciliation, and restoration affect us all, no matter where we live.

In our 15th season, we are back to being the Grand Rapids Youth Choruses, just like we started! Our mission is the same and our amazing staff is the same, and we will continue to collaborate with our Grand Rapids Symphony as an independent choir this year and in the years to come. My role has expanded as we have transitioned into an independently operating organization and I welcome the opportunity to work and advocate for our singers, as well as continue to work with the best colleagues a musician could hope for!

At GRYC, we strive to provide singers and families with wonderful musical experiences in an atmosphere which recognizes the unique gifts of every individual. Our goal is for every chorister to feel safe and included in the GRYC family. All are welcome! There is a place for you at GRYC!

Thank you for being a part of this village. Thank you for your commitment to excellence in singing. Thank you for choosing community. Thank you for making the world a more beautiful place with us.

Sincerely,

Leah Ivory

MELODIA, grades 1-3

Director, Cameo Elzinga

Collaborating pianist, Sean Ivory

Tuition: \$400

Rehearsals: Thursdays from 5:00-6:00pm, meditation room on the lower level of the Calvin University chapel

MOSAIC SINGERS, grades 4-6

Director, Leah Ivory

Collaborating pianist, Sean Ivory

Tuition: \$525

Rehearsals: Thursdays from 5:00-6:30pm, choir room on the lower level of the Calvin University chapel

YOUTH CHORUS, grades 7-12

Director, Leah Ivory

Collaborating pianist, Sean Ivory

Tuition: \$575

Rehearsals: Mondays from 6:30-8:45pm, chapel at Calvin University

MANDALA, select treble voices grades 7-12

Director, Leah Ivory

Collaborating pianist, Sean Ivory

Tuition: \$575, **\$100 if already a member of the Youth Chorus*

Rehearsals: Thursdays from 6:45-8:45pm, choir room on the lower level of the Calvin University chapel

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

For GRYC family concerts, the performance attire will be GRYC t-shirts with blue jeans and comfortable shoes.

For the holiday concerts, choristers will wear all black concert attire.

MELODIA and MOSAIC SINGERS: Find your own concert-appropriate combination of dress pants, dress shirt (long sleeve), skirt or dress. All clothing must be opaque black (not see through). Black opaque leggings must be worn with skirts or dresses. No designs or sequins on clothing. All black shoes - comfortable but concert appropriate. No sneakers or athletic shoes. No high heels.

Melodia are invited to wear a red accessory of your choosing - ie. Scarf, belt, necklace, tie

Mosaic Singers are invited to wear a green accessory of your choosing - ie. Scarf, belt, necklace, tie

YOUTH CHORUS: Black formal dresses purchased through GRYC or black dress pants, black long-sleeved buttoned collared dress shirt, black belt/shoes purchased on your own.

TUITION PAYMENTS

We accept payment by check, credit or debit card.

Payment option 1: one payment for the season

Payment option 2: two payments for the season, first semester/second semester

Payment option 3: 8 monthly payments processed on the 15th of each month (Sept-April)
*note: this option includes a \$3 processing fee each month

Checks can be given to Emma at rehearsal. Make payable to: GRYC. For credit or debit card payments, please complete the authorization form which is posted on our website under "Parents". You only need to fill this out one time. The form can be turned in at rehearsal or mailed to Emma **by September 12.**

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No refunds will be offered.

Tuition Scholarships:

We offer scholarships to families who are experiencing financial hardship and may not be able to participate in the choir without assistance. Please see the "Parents" section of our website www.gryouthchorus.org for a link to an application.

Tuition Discount for Multiple Children:

For households that have more than one child in our choirs we offer the following discounts:

1st child: full tuition,

2nd child: 25% deduction off of the lesser expensive choir. Each additional child is an increasing 5% discount. IE - the 3rd child would receive 30% off and the 4th child would receive 35%. Please see the "Parents" section of our website www.gryouthchorus.org for a link to an application.

CLOSURES/CANCELLATIONS

If rehearsal is cancelled, GRYC will notify you by email.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Each singer represents the Grand Rapids Youth Choruses. We are a professional organization and our students are expected to behave in a courteous manner at all times. GRYC does not provide supervision for choristers prior to their rehearsal times. Young choristers should be accompanied by their parents/guardians until their rehearsal begins.

Thank you for your attention to these details. With their compliance to these guidelines, your children help promote the good name and reputation of GRYC.

All singers should plan to arrive five minutes before the scheduled start time of their rehearsal so that they can be in their places and ready to sing at the designated hour.

Singers do not leave after rehearsal has begun unless special permission has been granted. An email is necessary for late admittance to or early dismissal from a rehearsal. Please give payments, paperwork, etc. to Emma, our choir manager.

Singers may bring a bottle of water. Please make sure it has a lid or cap on it to prevent spills and if possible labeled with their name. No food, candy or gum is allowed in the rehearsal space. For optimal focus and energy, please have your chorister eat a nutritious snack before rehearsal.

Cell phones must be turned off during rehearsals and will be confiscated if used to make calls, play games, send text messages, or take pictures. This rule also applies to any game-playing devices that are brought into rehearsals.

Directors will send regular communication via email as needed. These emails will contain important information and should be read thoroughly.

Thank you for your attention to these details! With their compliance to these guidelines, your children help promote the good name and reputation of GRYC.

COVID 19

We anticipate that Covid 19 protocols and recommendations may continue to be fluid in the years to come. GRYC will follow recommendations from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as well as the Kent County Health Department. Additionally, we will need to follow venue protocols. Updates and expectations will be clearly communicated via memos.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Regular attendance is expected and integral to our success as a choir. Unavoidable absences must be communicated to the director in advance and/or as soon as possible. Illness and emergencies are examples of excused absences. Homework is not an excusable absence. If more than two unexcused absences are accrued/semester, a chorister may be excused from participation in a concert or possibly for the semester.

Please sign below and turn in the signature page at the first rehearsal. :) Thank you.

Parent Signature Page:

I _____ (printed name) acknowledge that I have read the GRYC 2022-23 handbook, and accept the information and terms that were provided.

Today's Date: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____