

Willamette Girlchoir

Handbook 2009-2010



**Building A Community of Singers Who Are Passionate
About The Art Of Singing**

Board Members

Chairperson Of Operations	Caren Jensen
Vice Chairperson of Operations	Mark Johnston
Assistant Vice Chairperson Of Operations	Noreen Murdock
Member At Large	Brigid Zani
Bellissima Key Parent	Jan Soper
CPA	Rene Tornberg

Committee Chairs

Uniforms
Concert Coordinator
Tour Coordinator
Tour Fundraising
Volunteer Coordinator

Staff

Founder/Artistic Director	Caren Jensen
Assistant Director/ Accompanist	Debra Huddleston
Assistant Director/ Accompanist	Joanna Ball
Director	Marlinda Stearns

OFFICE LOCATION:

WGC at FUMC
600 State St
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 370-6383

Generally, there is someone in the office Monday-Friday from 10 am - 2 pm. There are often tasks that take the manager out of the office so if you are planning on stopping at the office - please call first.

We Request that you mail All Tuition to the Office

Our office location allows for dropping off tuition in the Mail slot at **FUMC** office during their working hours or you may drop in the Mail slot in the **WGC** Office Door.

Organization:

Willamette Girlchoir is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization, founded in 1991 and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board consists of members who volunteer their time to the organization to over see the development and management of the choir's goals. They can be parents of members of the choir or of the greater business and arts community. The choir employs one Artistic Director, one Managing Director and other musicians on an hourly and event contracted basis.

Mission Statement:

WGC exists for the purpose of building a community of singers who are passionate about the art of singing.

Values:

We respect and honor each singer and the unique gifts that she brings to the choir program.

We embrace and encourage cultural diversity both in membership and in selection of music

We represent our community as ambassadors and we are honored to represent the city of Salem and the greater Willamette Valley in all that we do as WGC members.

We plan for excellence in all that we do as singers.

We gain strength and inspiration from our community of supporters.

Membership:

Membership is by audition and interview. The choirs consist of singers that "Can't Stop Singing".

Communication:

A basic yearly calendar is available in the fall as well as posted on the web site. Updates/changes to the calendar will be emailed as they arise and posted at rehearsals.

Folders: Each singer will have a folder in the choir sign-in box.

1. Please check the folders as you leave rehearsal each week to keep yourself up to date with: announcements, fundraising information, volunteer information and personal communication concerning billing.

Web Page:

1. All forms are available on line.
2. Calendar is on the web site for your referral.

Meetings:

Board Meetings: All parents are encouraged and welcome at monthly Board Meeting. The yearly schedule will be available in the Fall.

Touring: When WGC is planning a tour during the summer months a meeting will be scheduled for all parents and interested/qualifying singers to attend. Don't miss this opportunity to get on board for a wonderful musical experience as well as an expanded worldview.

The Music Program:

Music: We perform music of varied cultures, in varied languages from many time periods throughout music history.

Theory: We offer a half hour class each week in music theory and encourage all singers in grades 6-12 to take advantage of the opportunity. Please see class schedule and costs.

Ear Training: We endeavor to include in each rehearsal a program of training primarily through the use of “solfege” that will allow each student an opportunity to develop their personal skills of sight reading.

Choirs Offered:

Vivace Choir:

This choir consists of non-auditioned singers in first, second and third grades.

Singers rehearse for one hour each week (Tuesday 5-5:45p.m.)

This is a year-long program with at least 2 performances a year and possibly three

Singers will:

Sing - folk songs from many countries

Play - drums, rhythm sticks and other percussion instruments

Move - games from many lands

Write - song maps and song dots

Perform - a concert at the end of every session

Singers will receive:

One WGC t-shirt

One WGC Music bag *

One recorder

One music book *

Note: ** All items to be returned to WGC at the end of the semester

Dolce Choir: “ Sweetly ” Dolce choir is an auditioned choir of third through 6th grade girls.

Auditions:

Sing a song that they love

Bring a letter of recommendation from a teach or close friend

2. Singers Will Learn to:

Sing in unison

Sing rounds

Sing simple partner songs

3. Singers Will Play “song experience” games for the purpose of

Developing relationships as well as independent singing.

Keeping the Beat

Discovering Rhythm

Creating Song Maps

Developing Ostinato

4. Singers Will Perform:

One Holiday Concert

One Spring Concert

Additional performance may include:

December performance at the Capitol

Spring performance at the Oregon Children’s Choral Festival in Eugene

Other opportunities as they arise and fit our calendar.

5. Singers wear uniforms for performances

6. Singers may participate in a fall retreat.

Bellissima Choir: “Beautiful”. Bellissima is an auditioned choir. Singers are chosen based on experience, vocal stability and maturity. The Occasionally exceptional 5th grade singers are chosen but this choir generally consists of girls in sixth grade through early high school.

1. Auditions:

Singer will sing a song that she loves.

Singer will provide a letter of recommendation from school teaches or a close friend who has known her for a long period of time.

Singer will sing scale and arpeggio's - under the direction of the artistic director.

Singer will identify as many musical elements as possible.

2. Singer will learn to:

Continue to develop free and easy singing on the breath.

Develop an understanding of herself as an artist.

Develop an understanding of her instrument and herself as a “mover”.

Sing in languages appropriate to the development of the choir at any given time and year.

Sing in as many parts and styles as possible through a year and at the developmental level of the choir in a given year.

3. Singers will be invited:

To attend a theory and ear training class.

4. Singers Will Perform:

Three major concerts a year.

5. Singers May Perform:

For local business partners as invited and appropriate.

At the Capitol (Dec).

Other performances as invited and appropriate.

Bella Voce: “Beautiful Voices”. Bella Voce is an auditioned choir of advanced singers in the 7th through 12 grades. These ladies are ambassadors of WGC.

1. Auditions:

This ensemble is limited to not more than 10 singers.

Place is determined by audition from within the choir program.

Openings are determined by graduation or withdrawal from the program.

Auditions will be done before the entire ensemble to determine the best voice that will blend with the existing members.

2. Singers Will Learn to:

Perform independently on their parts.

Use their voices to sing many styles of literature.

Study parts at home and or with recorded material to prepare themselves for choir.

3. Singers Will Develop:

A greater understanding of theory:

Scales

Modes

Solfege (sight reading)

Intervals – both singing and identifying written

Greater understanding of musical form

Greater understanding of musical notation

4. Singers Will Perform:

Three Major Concerts A Year

5. Singers May Perform:

For local business or community groups (retirement centers)

At the Capitol

For the Women’s Choral Festival (Willamette)

Touring: *The choir endeavors to tour every three years.*

Local: the choir may choose to do a choir exchange. The choir would be host or could be hosted by another organization

National: the choir may choose to perform in a national festival within the United States.

International: the choir may choose to audition and attend an international festival or competition.

Funding: individual singers are responsible for raising their own funds for touring events.

Fundraisers: a committee will be formed to develop fundraising opportunities for the attending singers.

Parents: parents will determine to what extent their daughter will participate in the raising of funds for touring.

Volunteers: a volunteer committee will work together to oversee the fundraising process.

Advertising

Collecting of monies

Depositing and tracking bookkeeping of funds raised by each singer.

Training chaperones for touring

Setting schedules and correspondence with touring companies or contact people.

Collecting all information from companies and distributing them to singers

Music

All music is the property of WGC. Singers should do their very best to take care of all music assigned to their folder.

Guidelines:

Mark music with *pencils*

Keep music in folders

Tape any portion that tears

“Doodling” – no no no!

Erase all marks before turning music in.

Rehearsals

All rehearsals are normally held at FUMC choir room. Advance notice will be given for exceptions. For safety and security reasons, all singers should be escorted into and from the building unless driving themselves to and from rehearsal.

Note:

Rehearsals are important to the growth and development of every singer as an individual in the midst of building a strong community of performers. Please make attendance a priority.

Rehearsal Needs: *We need every singer – you matter!*

Arrive *Early*: on time is late!!

Use facilities before entering the choir room

Eat before rehearsal

Bring water, music pencil and your ☺

DON'T bring gum – please

Rehearsal Facts:

6 hours of rehearsal a month

Approximately 18 hours of rehearsal preparation for each performance.

Only three (3) hours can be missed without jeopardizing concert participation – choose wisely : -)

Prearranged Absences:

Forms are available in the sign in box. Whenever possible please let WGC know if your daughter will be absent.

Please fill out and put in the mail box slot at the WGC office door.

2. Excused absences: school performance, illness, serious family emergency.

Tardiness and or Early Dismissal:

Forms are available for these situations as well – in the sign in box.

Please submit these for the purposes of safety – thank you!! ☺

Illness: please don't attend choir "IF"

Fever exists

You have a sore throat

We still want you here if you just have a cold - sorry

Emergency number: 503-370-6383/503-559-2507

Otherwise: SEE you at rehearsal!