



Minnesota Boychoir
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Frequently Asked Questions about the Minnesota Boychoir

What is the difference between the choirs?

The *Junior Chorus* is comprised of our youngest singers, ages seven to ten, and rehearses once a week. Functioning as the training choir, emphasis is placed on the beginning basics of singing: posture, breathing, tone production, and reading music.

Beginning Boychoir members ages nine to fourteen are invited to join the *Concert Choir*. Junior Chorus members, who, as they grow older, show improvement in musicianship and seem ready for a new challenge, also move into the Concert Choir. These developing singers rehearse twice a week, honing the skills they have already learned, either in school or from previous years in the Boychoir.

Participation in *Cantabile* is reserved for choirboys ages nine to fourteen who demonstrate high levels of musicianship, leadership, responsibility, discipline and commitment. Our most visible choir, *Cantabile* rehearses twice a week and performs at well over thirty events during the season, singing music in a wide variety of styles and languages.

Allegro is a changed-voice choir comprised of graduates from *Cantabile*.

The *Cantabile* and *Concert* choirs demand a big commitment from both the boy and his parents. All of the music performed by the choir is memorized, and the choir sings repertoire in many different languages. Boys need to practice their music at home in order to be prepared for rehearsals. Attendance at rehearsals and concerts is mandatory; without full participation from its members, the choir is only as good as its least prepared singer. For all of the intensity and demands of the choirs, the boys form very close bonds with each other and the staff, and they learn a tremendous amount from this exciting and rewarding experience.

Placement in the choirs is entirely at the discretion of the Music Director and changes may happen at any time during the concert season.

Where does the choir sing?

The Minnesota Boychoir performs up to 30 concerts a year. They perform major concerts each year in December and May. They sing two school concert series, once in the late fall and once in the spring, performing at four or five schools in each of those two days. The choir has also performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, VocalEssence, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera, the Baltimore Symphony, the Prague Philharmonic, and at numerous professional, religious, musical and sports events. The Minnesota Boychoir also undertakes concert tours. During the last ten years, the Minnesota Boychoir has performed in England, France, Costa Rica, Norway, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and throughout this country.

When does the choir practice?

Cantabile rehearses twice a week, Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:00pm and Saturday mornings from 9:00-11:00am. Rehearsals are sometimes extended just before major concerts. *Concert Choir* rehearses twice a week, Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00pm and Saturday mornings from 11:00am-12:00pm. The *Junior Chorus* rehearses once a week, Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm.

Where are the choir rehearsals?

All choirs rehearse at Concordia University in the Fine Arts Building, located on Hamline Avenue just south of Interstate 94 in Saint Paul.

How old does my son need to be to audition?

Boys who are 7 years old or older may audition for membership in the Boychoir. No preparation is necessary. Each audition lasts about 20 minutes and consists of an interview, a test of the boy's singing range, tonal memory and pitch matching.

Important qualities for a prospective member include an interest in and aptitude for music and willingness on the part of the boy and his family to make a serious commitment to the choir and its expectations.

How much is tuition?

Boys pay a comprehensive tuition fee each season. Tuition helps to pay for staff salaries, music, administrative expenses, and other organizational costs, and also covers specific individual expenses, like choir retreats, photos, and some required clothing. Boys pay for their own uniforms, which can be purchased new through the choir or used in a uniform exchange with other choir families. The **performing** uniforms for Junior Chorus and Concert Choir are owned and cared for by the choir. Boys are not required to purchase music, which is supplied by the choir.

Cantabile tuition is \$1,270 per year, and includes expenses and costs related to their large commitment. *Concert Choir* tuition is \$850 and *Junior Chorus* tuition is \$700. We are very committed to help make the Minnesota Boychoir experience available to all interested boys. Scholarships are available.

How can I find out more?

- ▶ You can call the choir office at 651-292-3219 or visit the website at <www.boychoir.org> to get more information, schedule a visit or an audition, and have your questions answered. We can put you in touch with choir families who may live in your area, or who can tell you about their experiences with the Minnesota Boychoir.
- ▶ You can visit the choir's web site at <www.boychoir.org> to see schedules and concert programs. Keep checking back, as we are currently in the process of updating our site!
- ▶ You can come to a rehearsal, concert, or other performance of the choir, which will give you a good feel for the choir, its staff, and the experience. All of our rehearsals are open to prospective members, music teachers, music students, and others who might be interested.