

Nazareth College



BACH CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Rochester, New York

**Handbook &
Directory**

2006-2007

Chorus Web Page

<http://www.bachkidsusa.org>



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2005-2006 Chorus Staff

Director: Karla Krogstad 442-0800

Theory Instructor: Milton Mashner 473-4578
Email: mashman@frontiernet.net

Assistant Theory Instructor: Steve Santini 329-5958
Email: Stephen.Santini@xerox.com

Chorus Manager: June Santini 582-3082
Email: JuneSantini@rochester.rr.com

2005-2006 Parent Coordinators

Attendance: Mary Lyubomirsky
Email: LYUBYS@rochester.rr.com

Chaperones: Michele Agostinelli 349-0744
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Newsletter Editor: Dorothy Hoskins 624-5349
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Recording Secretary:

Refreshments:

Uniforms: Anne Schiro 381-8477
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Ticket/CD Sales:

From the Director

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2006-2007 season of the Bach Children's Chorus! Our mission is to provide quality vocal training for children of the greater Rochester area. We work to meet this goal through performances and lessons employing a varied repertoire of classical and multicultural compositions. Chorus members attain greater musical skills, maturity, and self-discipline through professional choral training and ample performance opportunities. The early exposure to foreign languages and diverse musical styles helps to increase the student's understanding and appreciation of our musical heritage.

We are looking forward to another exciting season of performances. We will be singing once again with the Rochester Chamber orchestra at the *Messiah* and at their annual Spring Concert. We will be doing the *Nutcracker* with the RPO. We have concerts scheduled with the Bethany Presbyterian Church, Cloverwood senior living center, a

In addition, we will be traveling to Williamsburg where we have been invited to sing at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This fun trip will take place. Last year, we traveled to New York City where we sang at St. Patrick's Cathedral. We have also traveled to Washington, DC, Toronto, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. Along with the dedication and hard work that comes with being a part of the chorus, we hope that you will take with you many memories, fun experiences, friends, and inspiration. We are glad you have chosen to be a part of the BCC!

Karla Krogstad

Founder and Director

Membership

- Membership in the BCC is a privilege. The chorus is intended to be a positive learning experience for all of the children. In order to maintain a superior program, the choristers need to learn commitment, obligation, and responsibility. Enrollment is for the entire season, which runs September through May. Each chorister needs to take their membership seriously. The choristers have committed for the entire season. They have an obligation to learn their music, attend all concerts and rehearsals, and be responsible for practicing, taking care of their materials, behaving in a respectful manner at all times and coming prepared to all concerts and rehearsals. The chorus members will have fun musically and socially if they observe these three tenets.

Rehearsals

- Groups of 8-10 students meet with the Director for choral instruction at Nazareth College for a **30-minute** period most Saturdays during the school year. Either before or after their small group time, students will meet with a theory instructor for a **45 minute** period of theory instruction. **Parents should contact the Attendance Coordinator at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance regarding any conflicts**, either temporary or permanent, that arise during the school year so that appropriate rescheduling can take place. We ask you not to switch times on small group day unless you have no other choice. Also, if you must switch on a test day, you must contact Mrs. Krogstad directly. Switching small group time on test day will be on a space-available basis.
- Full chorus rehearsals are scheduled **once or twice monthly**, but may at times be more frequent according to our concert schedule. These rehearsals usually last **two hours**. Additionally, the full chorus will usually rehearse with musicians

and conductor in preparation for a concert. Quite often, this rehearsal will take place on days other than Saturdays, and at times away from Nazareth College.

- The rehearsal schedule gives the dates, times, and locations of upcoming rehearsals and concerts. Occasionally, however, revisions may occur. **Parents, please check your child's folder weekly for memos and any schedule revisions sent home.**
- During most large group rehearsals a snack is provided for the children. Snacks are generally peanut free and artificial coloring free, but if your child has special needs, you might want to send a snack from home. The snack fee, which was included with your materials fee, covers the cost of this service.

Attendance

- Attendance at rehearsals and concert engagements is **essential to the maintaining the musical quality and reputation** of the Bach Children's Chorus. The following attendance **requirements** have been established in an effort to ensure the highest standards possible.
- Students are expected at **every** rehearsal and concert at the scheduled time and place.
- To request an excused absence, an **excused absence form must be filled out and submitted to the Attendance Coordinator 2 to 3 weeks in advance.** Your request must have a specific reason; school concerts are legitimate excuses.
- Parents and students must be aware that a rehearsal missed for any reason could jeopardize a student's participation in upcoming events. **The Director reserves the right to excuse a student from a particular event for having missed an important rehearsal. In addition, the Large group rehearsal immediately before a concert is MANDATORY and must not be missed.**

Dress rehearsals are also mandatory. Failure to attend will result in your child not being able to sing.

- **Students who have missed class on a test day must make arrangements to make up the test before the next concert. Students who are not adequately prepared will not be allowed to sing.**
- It is the parent's responsibility to make arrangements immediately to pick up any music, memos, or cd's missed as a result of a missed rehearsal or small group session.

Please refer to your Participation Agreement for further information.

Musical Preparation

- Students are expected to practice the assigned music with the CDs provided during the week between rehearsals. **Twenty to thirty minutes per day is recommended** to be fully prepared each week. Students are expected to continue the high quality of work demonstrated in preparation for the audition. Students are tested on the music for the upcoming concerts. (This includes being able to recite the poetry). **A student who does not know the music for a particular concert will not sing in that concert.** Each student should come to the weekly rehearsals with a pencil and **all current music** neatly organized in his or her binder. **Students and parents**, please keep binders current by discarding outdated memos and checking weekly for new ones.

What do we mean by “knowing your music”?

- Be able to say the poem of the music from memory
- Pronounce foreign languages correctly
- Be able to sing the part independently with the accompaniment track of the CD from memory

This training will enable success in NYSSMA solofests and other competitions in their future musical careers.

Success is best achieved by sustained practice over a period of time. Memorization done over too short a time-frame will not have time to settle into long-term memory. Small amounts of practice on a regular basis are more successful. Parents should check with their kids and make sure they know the music before the test. Children need your help and can't succeed without it.

Concert Etiquette

Behavioral Expectations for students attending and participating in performances.

This notice is intended to help educate students and parents about appropriate audience and performance behaviors for upcoming musical events.

1. **Be a good listener.**

- a. Do not do anything that may distract the performance, or others in the audience.
- b. Ex: Remain seated and quiet when the performance is in progress.
- c. Ex: When the conductor enters, it is customary to applaud politely. Whistling, yelling or screaming is not appropriate at any time before, during or after a concert.

2. **Clap politely in the appropriate places.**

- a. Watch the conductor when the music stops to decide whether or not to applaud. Some musical works have several parts or movements and the audience is expected to applaud only after the movements have been preformed.

3. **Please keep hands and feet quiet.**

- a. Never stand or move around while music is being performed. Keep your hands and feet still and if you must leave for any reason, wait until the piece

is finished and the audience is applauding. Also, return to your seat only between numbers.

b. It is impolite to talk or even whisper while music is being performed.

Listeners and performers are also distracted by sounds from programs, candy wrappers, jewelry, and other objects. Remain still and be thoughtful of others by talking and making sounds **only between** numbers.

4. Some things are not allowed in many theaters and concerts halls.

a. Candy, gum, tape recorders and cameras.

5. Stay for the entire concert.

a. It is inappropriate to leave during a performance except under an emergency situation. (Illness).

b. Students should use the bathroom before the concert begins.

c. Chaperones need stay for the entire performance.

d. Students usually are asked to remain seated during an intermission, but they may talk and stretch.

e. If a child feels sick during a concert, they should sit down on the risers for the remainder of the song being sung and then they may leave the risers when the song has finished.

** If you always remember these simple rules, and use your own good manners, you can feel confident attending and performing anywhere. It is up to you to check your own behavior.*

Conduct and Parent Chaperone Duties

While waiting for their small group session, students should wait **quietly**. Remember, there are many musicians, students, and professionals practicing and performing at Nazareth College at any given time.

At full chorus rehearsals and concerts, certain further guidelines apply. Parent chaperones will be on hand to assist with the logistics of large rehearsals, as well as dress rehearsals and concerts. All parents will be assigned to this duty 3 to 4 times during the year. It is the **responsibility of the parent chaperones** to ensure the following are adhered to:

- For the safety of each student, parents should accompany their child(ren) to and from the designated meeting room, *especially* if the chorus is rehearsing other than at Nazareth.
- Students must not roam freely from the rehearsal hall or waiting room.
- Students must obtain permission from a parent chaperone to leave the room. Students may not leave a concert for a drink or to go to the bathroom.
- No gum or candy (at performances or rehearsals)
- No talking from the time the chorus lines up until it has returned to the designated waiting area. Since line-up may vary from one concert to the next, it is essential that there be absolute silence from the time instructions are given to line up. Each student must remain quiet and attentive to instructions from the parent chaperones who are responsible for seeing that the chorus is in proper order.
- Once onstage students should stand with hands at their sides facing the audience. Please, no foot tapping or other fidgeting.
- Once the Director or Conductor is on stage, all eyes should be on him or her.
- When the chorus has concluded, remain still. Wait for the Director's cue to exit the stage. Remember to remain quiet as the chorus files off stage and back to the waiting room. Students are to remain in the waiting room until retrieved by a parent or guardian. Parent, please plan carefully with your child the time and place of pick-up and BE PROMPT. The Director and chaperones should not be made to wait for you.

Travel and Tours

- To provide additional enriching musical, cultural, and educational experiences for its students while also expanding its recognition and reputation, the Chorus annually performs out of town; either in single events or on a performance tour. To encourage full participation, efforts are made to schedule tours well in advance, and when possible, to coincide with school vacations.

Historically, the cost of these events has been the responsibility of the students, with opportunities for fundraising available. Every effort is made to ensure that all students who want to take part in these experiences are able to participate.

- Our trips thus far have been to Montreal and Quebec, Cleveland, New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Corning, Baltimore and Toronto. These trips have been wonderful experiences for the chorus members and we are proud to represent Nazareth College in our travels.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

- The Bach Children's Chorus is fortunate to have the fine talents of the young people, the visions and expertise of the Director, Karla Krogstad, and the institutional support of Nazareth College. The other element that makes the Bach Children's Chorus a successful organization is the commitment of its parents and families. This variety of talents and time commitments needed to maintain the highest quality of the chorus experience provides everyone with an opportunity to do his or her part. We have a **Parent Steering committee**, which is open to all parents, and together with the director provides the vision and focus of the Chorus. There is a **Chorus Manager**, who helps take care of the daily business of the chorus and addresses parents' questions and concerns. There are several committees in the chorus staffed by parent volunteers. Contact the Chorus Manager to find the right match for your particular skills and talent.
- The Parent Steering Committee meets **once a month** usually on the first large group rehearsal of the month from 9:45 to 10:30 am in the Music building at Nazareth. **It is mandatory that one parent attend a minimum of one of these per year.**

Communications

- Memoranda and concert/rehearsal schedules are delivered weekly via email. **Parents should check their email each week and go over the memoranda together with their children.**
- General reminders are sent out on Thursdays. The weekly memo is sent out on Friday. Other email messages might be sent when the chorus needs to pass on information in a timely manner.
- If you do not have email, a paper copy of the memo will be inserted into your child's folder each week.
- Emails are sent blind. They are sent to the address you provided on your registration form. If you would like them sent to multiple addresses send an email from that account to JuneSantini@rochester.rr.com with "Add this address to BCC mailing list" in the subject line.
- The chorus has a phone tree that is used to communicate more immediate or urgent information. It is a computer based phone tree with the chorus manager recording and delivering urgent messages. Please let the manager know if you would like your messages delivered to a number other than your home number.
- Questions that relate specifically to chorus performance issues- rehearsal and concert obligations, etc should be raised with the **Chorus Manager**. Attendance questions should be directed to the **Attendance Coordinator, with the exceptions noted under attendance procedures.**

Nazareth College Affiliation

- The Bach Children's Chorus is a program of the Community Music Program of Nazareth College of Rochester. The Director of the BCC is a member of the Nazareth College faculty.
- Tuition of \$390.00 plus a \$10.00 registration fee is billed at the beginning of the year and paid directly to Nazareth College.

Recording Guidelines

- It is the policy of the Bach Children's Chorus to limit the use of recording equipment to those instances where it does not cause any disturbance to the audience or to the performers, in those instances in which professional recording is not taking place, however, **due to union regulations, THE USE OF CAMERAS OR AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AT ANY REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE WHERE PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS ARE PERFORMING.**

Please check with the **Chorus Manager** in advance for questions about recording.

Weather Cancellations

- In the event that severe weather conditions force the cancellation of a scheduled rehearsal or performance, the telephone tree will be activated. In addition information will be broadcast on R News.

Chorus Directory

2006-2007

(To be used for Chorus Business only)