



Placement Audition Information Packet

Overview of choir levels

Where to send your application

How to prepare for the audition

What to bring to the audition

Choir Highlights

Tuition Overview

Quotes from critics and recent graduates

Placement Audition Application Form

Office: PO Box 22388
Seattle, WA 98122-0388
206-526-1900

Seattle Girls' Choir

Placement Audition Kit

Dear Prospective Choir Member:

Thank you for your inquiry about Seattle Girls' Choir! We appreciate hearing from you, and hope to welcome you soon into our community.

Since its inception in 1982, the Seattle Girls' Choir has grown to become one of the premier musical organizations in Seattle. We are proud to contribute to our community musically literate, confident, and mature young women. We teach musicianship, voice, music theory, ear training and sight singing in an environment where students enjoy the company of intelligent and talented peers, make world-class music and develop life-long friendships. We provide excellent performance opportunities locally, regionally and abroad.

We have a five-level program for girls 2nd grade through high school at our rehearsal site located in the north Capitol Hill neighborhood at 1300 E. Aloha, Volunteer Park SDA Church.

“Dolcine” – for girls primarily in 2nd grade meets Tuesdays from 4:45-6:15

“Vivissimi” – for girls primarily 3rd and 4th grades meets Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30
The two-hour rehearsal includes a break and a half hour each week devoted to sight singing and music theory.

“Allegra” – for girls 10 and above – meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30.
The two-hour rehearsal includes a break and on one of those days a half hour devoted to sight singing and music theory.

“Cantamus” (Intermediate Choir) – middle & high school girls, meets on Mon. and Wed.
Monday: Choral Rehearsal 4:30 to 6:15 - Sack Dinner Break 6:15 to 6:30
Weekly Music theory and sight singing class from 6:30 to 7:30
Wednesday: Choral Rehearsal from 4:30 to 6:30

“Prime Voci” (Advanced Choir) – includes international tours, professional recordings and special performances. Prime Voci meets Monday and Wednesday at the same time as Cantamus, and girls from these two choirs attend music theory and sight singing classes together. We combine the Upper Division choirs when a large choir is needed.

SCHEDULING A PLACEMENT AUDITION:

Send in a completed Placement Audition Application (the final two pages of this document) and upon receipt we will contact you to schedule your appointment. Please mail to:

Seattle Girls' Choir Auditions
PO Box 22388
Seattle, WA 98122-0388

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION:

Auditioning for the Seattle Girls' Choir is not as difficult as the term "audition" implies. Our auditions are an opportunity for us to get acquainted with you and a parent, hear your voice, and determine placement in our program. We look for potential, rather than polished performances.

The audition will start with just a few minutes of chatting to get to know you. You will then be asked to sing a song *a cappella* (unaccompanied). We are quite informal with the youngest girls, and simple songs are just fine. Choose a solo that you like! Songs you choose need not be complicated – we just want to hear you singing something you enjoy that demonstrates your voice. Your solo can be from a musical, learned at school, a hymn, a folk song, from a movie, a lighter popular song or an operatic aria or art song (please, no rock). You will also be asked to sing the first verse of *My Country 'Tis of Thee*, which will be coached by our faculty. Here, we are trying to get a sense of how quickly you learn and adapt to changes and suggestions.

We will then evaluate your ability to match pitches, an essential skill for progressing in our program. This will start simply, where a single note is played on the piano and you are asked to match it. It will get progressively more difficult, advancing to two or three pitches played simultaneously that you have to sing back. If you have a private music teacher or a school music teacher who is willing to help you this is something you can practice ahead of time!

THINGS TO BRING TO YOUR AUDITION (if not mailed in with the application):

1. A small photo of yourself (a school photo is fine)
2. A copy of your latest grade report **or**
Letter of Recommendation (from a music teacher, classroom teacher, youth leader, or pastor – that sort of thing)

If you have these items available when filling out your audition application please feel free to mail them all together.

AUDITION APPOINTMENTS:

Upon receipt of your audition application, we will call you, followed by an email, to set a firm appointment day, time and location. Directions to the audition will be given at that time.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about our program. Phone 206-526-1900, email audition@seattlegirlschoir.org, or visit our website for more information: www.seattlegirlschoir.org.

Sincerely,

Jacob Winkler
Artistic Director

CHOIR HIGHLIGHTS

AWARDS:

- International Youth and Music Festival, first place award – Vienna, Austria
- Youth Choir Division: Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, first place award – Wales
- Youth Choir & Chamber Choir Divisions: International Choral Kathaumixw – Canada
SGC has won 1st place in various categories each time they have attended. 1986, 1988, 2000, and 2014

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

- Salzburg Festival Opening Concert, Salzburg, Austria – July 2009
- ACDA Northwest Division Convention, Portland, OR – March 2006
- Pacific International Children's Choral Festival, Eugene, OR – June 2005 and 2007
- World Festival of Women's Singing – Featured Choir, Salt Lake City, Feb. 4-7, 2004
Other Featured Choirs are: Seoul Ladies' Singers, Viva Voce! and Brigham Young University Women's Choir.
Concerts at the Mormon Tabernacle & Assembly Hall
- Czech Sacred Music Festival, Prague – Featured Choir, 2003
- Seattle Girls' Choir 20th Anniversary Concert – Benaroya Symphony Hall, Seattle – June, 2002
- World Festival of Women's Singing (Americafest) – Co-host Choir with Elektra – 2001 Concerts at Town Hall, St. James Cathedral and Benaroya Symphony Hall, Seattle
- ACDA National Convention, San Antonio, Texas – March 2001
- Mass at St. Peter's Basilica & Concert at St. Ignatius in Rome – July 2000
- Portland International Children's Choir Festival – "Featured American Choir" – 1998
- Harvard University Festival of Women's Choirs – 1996
- International Choral Sympaatti – Tampere & Helsinki, Finland – 1990
- International Society for Music Education International Conference, Finlandia Hall, Helsinki – 1990
- Goodwill Arts Festival: "Soviet-American Youth Choir Concert" – 1990
- Chorus America National Convention
- Music Educators National Conference (MENC, WMEA) – National Convention, Anaheim, 1986
- Hosted some of the world's finest young choirs in Seattle (the Moran Choir of Israel, MaedchenChor Hannover, the Tapiola Choir of Finland, The Shchedryk Choir of Ukraine, and many others!)

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL TOURS:

- European Concert Tours: 1985, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2016
- AmericaFest 1994: America's first traveling multicultural choral festival. One of four Founding Choirs (the others: Tapiola Choir of Finland, Efroni Choir of Israel and Shchedryk Choir of Ukraine). Concerts in Minneapolis, Des Moines, Chicago, Grand Rapids, Toronto, Quebec City, the Maritimes and New England.
- Millennium Jubilee Cathedral Tour: Prime Voci sang in cathedrals and churches in Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Venice, Ravenna, Siena, Florence and Rome (at the invitation of Pope John Paul II) in the summer of 2000. This was a great experience for us, as a non-sectarian community choir!

TUITION RATES 2017-2018 SEASON

Seattle Girls' Choir rehearsal season is essentially made up of two five month semesters: September through January and February through June plus August Sleep-Away Choir Camp required for girls in our three upper choir levels.

Tuition for upper choir levels is spread over 10-months and includes the majority of camp fees. One additional camp payment may be due in June.

The tuition rates below are effective beginning Fall Semester 2017. Financial Aid is available with demonstrated need.

Families are also expected to volunteer at least once per season to support the program and the opportunities provided for the girls.

Families may choose from three payment options:

- 1) Pay for the entire season
- 2) Pay twice within season (Sept. 1st and Feb. 1st)
- 3) Pay monthly over 10 months, September through June

DOLCINE:	\$1150/season or \$115 per month, Sept-June	1hr 30 min. of instruction weekly
VIVISSIMI:	\$1380/season or \$138 per month, Sept-June	2 hours of instruction weekly
ALLEGRA:	\$1610/season or \$161 per month, Sept-June	Four hours of instruction weekly Mandatory Choir Camp first week of August
CANTAMUS:	\$1930/season or \$193 per month, Sept-June	Five hours of instruction weekly Mandatory Choir Camp first week of August
PRIME VOCI:	\$2060/season or \$206 per month, Sept-June	Five hours of instruction weekly Mandatory Choir Camp first week of August

Tuition must be current for a girl to be admitted to class and to perform in concerts.

Each additional chorister in a family is issued a \$100 tuition discount per semester.

ACCOLADES

*BRAVO! Lovely CD, please congratulate the choir (and what a superb harpist too). Every success with it. Cordially, John Rutter – **John Rutter, internationally acclaimed Composer** (Carmina Angelorum: Songs for Harp and Treble Voices, Seattle Girls' Choir 2012)*

*The well-blended Seattle Girls' Choir was at its artful best in a superb arrangement of "Steal Away", with an echo chorus adding to the rich harmonies. – **Melinda Bargreen, Seattle Times***

*The Seattle Girls' Choir school offers tremendous education and experience under the guidance of world-class teachers. And while that sort of education is a superb foundation for those going into music professionally, this experience is equally important for those who go on to be lawyers, plumbers, and/or moms! Learning some discipline and a love of music is always a good thing. And what a sense of accomplishment, belonging, and friendship! – **Bryan Lowe, Program Director, 98.1 Classical KING FM***

QUOTES FROM ALUMNAE

Samantha Eco – 2016 Graduate – Joined Spring of 2008 – attending University of Washington
... I have learned to love my laugh, it is infectious. I have learned to love my voice, it is powerful. I have learned to love who I am, all because of this community. The friends I have made in choir are some that I plan to keep for a lifetime. These friends, although cliché, are my sisters (in AND out of singing). Experiencing everything from having your breath taken away during a concert to having your breath taken away under the stars at camp, the bond between choristers is indescribable and these relationships have built my confidence. Together, we remind each other that we are all women (or persons) of value.

Maya Troll - 2012 Graduate – Joined January 2000, Colby College
“Ten years later, my journey with the choir is drawing to a close. My childhood awe is balanced by adult understanding. My wait has been a decade of rehearsals and summer camp, full of music, dress hemmings, and Tully’s lattes. I’ve sung masses and seen shooting stars. I have learned the importance of dedication and hard work. I have developed the tools to understand what I sing technically, and the curiosity to look for artistic meaning. I have become part of a community, developed a sense of responsibility towards my girls. I have learned to lean and be leaned on, to channel my emotions, to challenge myself. While I was learning to create the sound that so inspired my little girl self, choir shaped me into the person I am today.”

Rachael Carleson - 2011 Graduate – Joined Spring 2002, University of Puget Sound School of Music
“The Seattle Girls’ Choir has been my Narnia. For the past nine years of my life, I could always climb through the wardrobe, push through the fur coats, and fall into my sanctuary, safe from what lingered in the outside world. The Pevensie siblings faced immense challenges, loss, fear and gained strength, courage, love and identity; altogether working for something much larger than themselves in Narnia. Not everyone has the opportunity to discover, learn and grow in a passionate environment the way my 100 or so fellow choristers do, and that is one of the reasons I cherish these years in my life so.”

Monica Anderson – 2010 Graduate - Joined September 1999 - Villanova University
“I grew up in this environment and it has made me who I am today. I am a confident, independent young woman who is not afraid to voice her opinion because I learned how to speak for myself and be confident as a woman through choir. I have been empowered by Seattle Girls’ Choir to follow my dreams and heart no matter where they take me.”

Amanda Kunz – 2010 Graduate - Joined September 2000 – Central WA University, Composition
“Seattle Girls’ Choir was my first musical outlet. It was here that I learned the basic tools that are now fundamental in not only my music, but in my life. I learned rhythm, solfege, theory, intonation, good singing technique. It would be foolish to say that my learning stopped there. I learned to love to sing, I learned musicianship, leadership, and I established relationships that I know will be with me throughout my life.”

Sheila Houlahan – 2009 Graduate - Joined in 1998 – Conservatory of Music at Webster University
“Besides the extensive training, I’m really grateful for the friends I made at SGC. Choir friends are different from school friends. I believe that there is some psychological bond that forms between choristers that isn’t there necessarily in other friendships. We have to get along and understand each other in order to produce a unified sound. Because participating in the act of singing means you really have to put yourself out there artistically, I’m comfortable with really being myself around choir girls since they’ve already seen a part of me through the music that most other people don’t see. Some of my favorite choir memories are from choir camp, where choristers form deeper bonds from being in close proximity to each other for a long time.”

Hilary Johnson – 2007 Graduate - Joined in 1996 – USC Thornton School of Music – Vocal Jazz Studies
” I’ve acquired the understanding of self-discipline. Internal motivation cultivated during my experience in SGC has manifested itself in all other aspects of my life. The individual accountability the Seattle Girls’ Choir preaches has expressed itself in my academic life, relationships and activity in music. While the expectations to meet demands as an individual and a choral group is high, higher yet, however is the expectation that these aspirations will not only be met, but will be revised upward and even be exceeded.”
“My deep love of jazz has combined with my choral experience to form the new concept that I, alone, was capable of creating music. The personal experiences and emotions I’ve had were given meaning in this vocal expression. By expressing them, I was forced to recognize them and examine parts of myself.”

For Office Use: Audition Date: _____ Time: _____

SEATTLE GIRLS' CHOIR PLACEMENT AUDITION APPLICATION FORM

Fill in all information on both pages and mail in with a photo.
If you have a copy of the report card *or* a letter of recommendation feel free to include at this time.
Thank you!

Girl's Name:		Birth date:
Nickname:	Age:	Grade fall 2017:
Home Address:		
City:	Zip:	
Home Phone:	Parent Cell 1:	
Parent Cell 2:		
Parent Email(s):		

To be used for primary communication

Parent Name:	
Place of Work:	Occupation:
Parent Name:	
Place of Work:	Occupation:

Name of School:	
Instrument Played:	Years:

How did you hear about Seattle Girls' Choir? Mailer Radio Poster School Church
 Magazine/paper Internet Phone book Music Teacher saw a performance

OR - who referred you to SGC? :

Do you subscribe to: Symphony Opera Ballet NW Chamber Orch. Other Choral
 Children's Theater ACT/Seattle Rep/Empty Space Theater Other Theater

Mail both pages of form to:
SGC AUDITIONS – PO Box 22388, Seattle, WA 98122-0388
Questions? Call 206-526-1900

Upon receipt of your form, you will be phoned to set a firm appointment time. **Thank you.**

Name _____

Musical Experience to-date:

Please give us some highlights of any musical experiences you feel we should know about. Include choirs or vocal groups, lessons, instrumental groups, dramatic and/or dance experience, recitals.

Why do you wish to become a member of Seattle Girls' Choir?

What is your favorite *academic* subject (subject other than artistic)? _____

Anything else you would like us to know?

Faculty Audition Notes

Brief Description _____

Grade Report Info Rcvd _____ or Letters Rcvd _____

Solo _____

My Country Tis of The _____

Single _____ Double-stops _____ Triple-stops _____

Sight-Reading and/or Rhythm _____

Range _____ below Middle C to _____

Comment _____

Probable Choir _____ Section _____

Comments _____

Signature of Faculty Member: _____