

Bach Festival Society
OF WINTER PARK

Youth Choir

Devon Kincaid, Director

2010–2011 Handbook

Information for the 2010–2011 Season

2010–2011 PERFORMANCES

- **Festival of Trees**, *Orlando Museum of Art*, November 13, 12:30-1:00 pm
- **Christmas in the Park**, *Winter Park's Central Park*, December 2, 6:30 pm (approx.)
- **A Classic Christmas**, *Knowles Memorial Chapel*, December 11, 7:30 pm*
- **A Classic Christmas**, *Knowles Memorial Chapel*, December 12, 2:00 pm*
- **Concertos by Candlelight**, *Knowles Memorial Chapel*, March 5, 7:30 pm*
- **Fauré & Poulenc**, *Knowles Memorial Chapel*, April 16, 7:30 pm*
- **Fauré & Poulenc**, *Knowles Memorial Chapel*, April 17, 3:00 pm*
- **Spring Sing!**, *Tiedtke Concert Hall, Rollins College*, May 7, 7:30 pm

*The youth choir will perform with the Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra in Knowles Memorial Chapel on these occasions. These performances are ticketed. Those who wish to attend these events will need to **purchase tickets in advance** from the Bach Festival Society Box Office at 407.646.2182 or online at www.BachFestivalFlorida.org. Single tickets range from \$20 to \$50; flex packages from \$130 to \$320.

COMMUNICATION

The **primary method of communication** between the Bach Festival Youth Choir Director and members is e-mail. Members and parents of Bach Festival Youth Choir members are responsible for regularly checking their e-mail for communication updates, including notes from rehearsals and possible rehearsal changes.

Devon Kincaid, Youth Choir Director, can be reached by e-mail at youthchoir@BachFestivalFlorida.org or by phone at 407.206.1900, ext. 3312.

In emergencies only, parents may reach Mrs. Kincaid on her cell phone at 407.575.1201.

Please be sure to complete and return the forms contained in the back of this handbook. They include Choir Handbook Confirmation Form, Expectations and Commitment Agreement, Volunteer Form, Family Data Form, Medical Information and Release Form, and Vehicle Registration Form.

2010–2011 TUITION INFORMATION

- 1) Non-refundable audition fee: \$25.00
- 2) Tuition fee: \$330.00 per year (\$165.00 per semester)
- 3) Uniform: Approximately \$75.00–\$100.00
 - blazer with the Bach crest (will be ordered for each student)
 - white blouse / shirt (will be ordered for each student)
 - black dress slacks / trousers (find on your own)
 - black dress shoes (closed toe, no high heels)

Bach Festival Youth Choir Handbook

MISSION OF THE BACH FESTIVAL YOUTH CHOIR

The Bach Festival Youth Choir (BFYC) serves the community of Greater Orlando by providing quality music education with the goal of developing the highest level of artistic excellence in choral music performance.

♪ The choir serves students between the ages of 9 and 16 and strives to enrich the lives of children from all religious, ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

♪ Through performance-based music education, the choir fosters the personal, intellectual, and social growth of its members; promotes their sense of self-esteem, accomplishment, and pride; and strengthens citizenship while contributing lasting value to the community.

♪ Our choir membership comprises a diverse population of public, private, and home-schooled students from across the Central Florida area. The repertoire for the choir is equally diverse, ranging from classical music, both sacred and secular, to traditional folk literature and other popular genres.

AUDITIONS

Vocal auditions are held each fall for all members.

Students joining in the Spring must request a mid-season audition; Spring rehearsals begin in January. Contact the Director to schedule an audition.

Audition Material

- 1) Students are expected to sing a song of their choice or “America” (“My Country ’Tis of Thee”).
- 2) Students will vocalize to ascertain their range and ability.

CURRICULUM

The Bach Festival Youth Choir promotes a rich and rewarding musical experience for each child. Choir members learn and perform a challenging repertoire of musical masterpieces from many genres and periods. This diverse repertoire is the foundation on which the curriculum is based. The best musical experiences are inherent in great music. Because of this, we strive to perform music composed by masters such as Bach, Handel, Mozart, Britten, and many others. Folk music has a strong tradition in many cultures and is also a wonderful avenue to explore a culture’s history and heritage. Jazz, popular, and seasonal music, as well as music in many languages, also have an important place in the curriculum.

The fundamental musical elements—rhythm, melody, harmony, style, form, and expression—are all learned, enforced, and enhanced as the students study their musical repertoire. Musical reading skills and sight-singing are taught systematically throughout the choir season.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

- ♪ Achieve excellence in performance skills
- ♪ Develop musicianship and vocal technique
- ♪ Develop individual talent through a positive group experience
- ♪ Promote music appreciation and love for the arts and musical expression
- ♪ Develop self-esteem and self-discipline
- ♪ Awaken an awareness of beauty in the music of various cultures and styles
- ♪ Enrich the cultural life of the community

MEMBERSHIP

Choir members experience a positive musical training that will instill a lifelong love for music. Student enrollment is for the full season (September through May), and attendance at all rehearsals and events is both expected and required. Members learn about the responsibility and discipline necessary in producing beautiful music. A sense of pride comes from being a part of something special, and the dedication to such is not to be taken lightly. Thus, parents should be aware that membership in the BFYC is a commitment not just for the student but also for the entire family.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent volunteers are a vital part of the success of the Bach Festival Youth Choir. Parent volunteer needs include

- assistance at rehearsals
- chaperoning special activities
- organizing, fitting, and distributing performance clothing
- coordinating rehearsal snacks
- organizing social activities
- photography and videography

Please contact the Director or complete the Volunteer Form in the back of this handbook if you are able to help in any of these areas.

The Bach Festival Society of Winter Park is a non-profit, 501c3 organization, supported by earned income and donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the government. Your support as a volunteer and through in-kind contributions and cash donations helps insure the sustainability of the Bach Festival Society and the Bach Festival Youth Choir.

ATTENDANCE

All rehearsals are required. BFYC membership is a commitment by parents as well as students. Attendance at all rehearsals is expected to be a high priority for all members.

Parents must e-mail or call the Director if a child plans to be absent or tardy. In the event of a planned absence, notice as far in advance as possible is appreciated. Please submit an Absence Form (in the back of this handbook and available online) for all absences.

Excused absences, tardiness, or early dismissals are granted for personal illness, mandatory school obligations, or family emergencies. Reasons not stated above are considered unexcused absences.

Since rehearsals are held only once a week, occasional rehearsals may occur outside of normal routine. Members are encouraged to check the rehearsal schedule frequently. When in doubt, e-mail or call the Director. Any changes in schedule will be sent via e-mail.

Dress rehearsals are mandatory. All members must attend the final rehearsal before each concert. Students who are not in attendance forfeit their right to perform in the concert. Students may be excused only under extenuating circumstances and with a previously excellent attendance record and strong command of the music.

Performances are required. If a legitimate conflict occurs, the parent must contact the Director, Devon Kincaid.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

The Bach Festival Youth Choir follows the Orange County School System with regard to inclement weather. If Orange County schools are closed, our rehearsal will be cancelled. Check your e-mail for special announcements in times of severe weather. A make-up rehearsal may be scheduled.

SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL

Attendance, punctuality, and appropriate behavior are expected. If a choir member does not show these attributes, the result may be suspension or dismissal from the choir. A leave of absence may be necessary and granted under certain extenuating circumstances (such as a continued illness).

MUSIC SUPPLIES

Each student will receive a black chorus music binder. This music binder is required at every rehearsal. Chorus music will be distributed throughout the school year. Each chorus member is financially responsible for his/her music supplies. All music must be turned in at the completion of each year, at or prior to the last rehearsal. Music must be used, NOT abused. Pencil markings only will be permitted and must be of musical significance.

1. Music must be at all rehearsals unless choir members are notified to the contrary.
2. Home practice is greatly encouraged! Please keep all music in your chorus binder.
3. Use only light pencil marking (absolutely no ink pens). All marks should be at the suggestion of the Director.
4. Do not fold or roll your music.
5. Music that has been lost or misplaced or needs repair should be reported to the Director.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Lake Highland Preparatory School : Students are to be dropped off in front of the gymnasium or the Rex Building. Please do NOT PARK in front of the Rex Building or gymnasium. Cars are to enter at "Gate 2," which is west of the pool on Marks Street. Students are to proceed directly to the Rex Building (domed building). Entering the front of the building, you must go down the stairs to the ground floor, Room 108. Parents of younger students and new students are asked to park and pick-up their children at the rehearsal area at the designated time. Please be prompt.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- ♪ Arrive at least 5 minutes prior to the designated rehearsal time. Report immediately to the Rehearsal Assistant or Mrs. Kincaid and then be seated. Written notice is necessary for late arrival and for early dismissal from rehearsal unless a phone call or e-mail was previously received by the Director.
- ♪ Go directly to the rehearsal area. All other areas are off limits.
- ♪ Choir members are responsible for taking home all handouts.
- ♪ Choir members should use the restroom prior to each rehearsal.
- ♪ Notes and any paperwork, permission slips, etc. should be handed in to the Rehearsal Assistant or Mrs. Kincaid before or after rehearsal.
- ♪ Come to rehearsal prepared. Bring your music folder and a sharpened pencil.
- ♪ No food or drinks other than water are allowed in the rehearsal area, unless they are of medical necessity.
- ♪ Show respect for your fellow students, volunteers, adults, and the rehearsal facilities at all times.
- ♪ Cell phones and other electronic devices are to remain off during rehearsals. Absolutely NO texting during rehearsals!
- ♪ Rehearsals begin and end promptly. Parents must arrange for their children to be picked up on time. (See Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures.)
- ♪ In the event that a choir member is unable to actively participate in a rehearsal (perhaps due to minor illness such as a sore throat), the student should still attend the rehearsal and learn through listening. Students who have a fever or are contagious should stay home.

PERFORMANCE PROCEDURE

Attendance at all performances is mandatory. If a graded school performance poses a conflict the parent should communicate with the Choir Director well in advance of the performance. During performances, students should demonstrate their best conduct, appearance, and musicianship.

- ♪ Eat a nutritious meal and get plenty of sleep prior to a concert.
- ♪ Drink plenty of water. Start hydrating the body 24 hours before a concert, not just before entering the stage. Some people find it best to avoid milk and dairy products before singing.
- ♪ Arrive at the performance location at the designated time and immediately check-in with the Rehearsal Assistant or Mrs. Kincaid.
- ♪ Use the restroom before the pre-concert warm-up. Don't drink too much water before going on stage.
- ♪ Arrive in the proper performance attire.
- ♪ Be prepared! Know your music! Performing is a lot more fun when you have confidently prepared your concert repertoire.
- ♪ If you are feeling ill prior to the concert, let your Rehearsal Assistant or Director know. If you are ill during the performance, exit the stage calmly and rest for the remainder of the concert. A Rehearsal Assistant will come and help you if necessary.
- ♪ Watch the Director! Conduct yourself in a professional manner and focus on the music.
- ♪ Remember that you are always representing the Bach Festival Youth Choir. Always be on your best behavior. Put aside any negative behaviors or disagreements with your fellow choristers. Demonstrate composure and maturity, and show kindness to those around you.

SOLOS AND ENSEMBLE SELECTION

To provide an equitable system of choosing students for special events, solos, or ensembles, the following criteria will be considered. Auditions will take place as needed. Considerations include

- ♪ Musical skill level of the student, maturity of the voice, or vocal quality necessary for the part.
- ♪ Maturity, dependability, attitude, and attendance of the singer.
- ♪ Number of years singing with the choir.
- ♪ Former opportunities to perform in special events or as a soloist.

CONCERT UNIFORMS

Appearance is very important when representing the Bach Festival Youth Choir in performance. In order to present the group in a professional manner, proper grooming is essential. Here is a list of reminders when getting ready for a concert:

- ♪ Arrive on time in complete uniform.
- ♪ Use good personal hygiene.
- ♪ Clean and groom your hair neatly. All hair should be pulled up out of the face.
- ♪ Large or flashy jewelry or hair accessories are not appropriate and should not be worn.
- ♪ Leave anything that beeps or buzzes at home (watches, phones, etc.).
- ♪ The Rehearsal Assistant will be checking for undesirable accessories prior to the concert and students may be asked to remove certain items of jewelry or hair ribbons.
- ♪ Students should remain in complete uniform (shirts tucked in) until they have left the performance venue.

About the Bach Festival Society

The Bach Festival Society of Winter Park (BFS) has the distinction of being the third-oldest continuously operating Bach Festival in the United States and Central Florida's oldest operating performing arts organization.

The BFS was founded at Rollins College in 1935 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of J.S. Bach's birth. Mrs. Isabelle Sprague-Smith was the founder and president of the BFS from 1935 until her death in 1950. At Mrs. Sprague-Smith's death, the future of the BFS was uncertain. Former Rollins President Hugh McKean asked John M. Tiedtke, treasurer of the College, to fulfill the obligation and he accepted. Mr. Tiedtke served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees until his death in December 2004. Eric Ravndal III currently serves as President. While the BFS is an independent nonprofit organization, it has maintained close ties with Rollins throughout its history.

The BFS is well known internationally and has enjoyed a long tradition of bringing world-class talent to Central Florida. Since its founding the Society has expanded its offerings beyond the Annual Bach Festival to include the production of choral masterworks and the presentation of visiting solo and chamber artists. The BFS offers educational programs in local schools, a Youth Choir for students aged 9–16, the Young At Heart Chorale for singers over 55, and other educational and community outreach programs to encourage participation in music at all levels. Its status as an organization that both produces and presents programs makes the BFS unique within the performing arts field.

2010–2011 SEASON

Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and Lanier's *Symphony for Amelia*

Saturday, October 23 at 7:30pm
Sunday, October 24 at 3:00pm

Brooklyn Rider

Saturday, November 13 at 7:30pm

A Classic Christmas

Saturday, December 11 at 7:30pm
Sunday, December 12 at 2:00pm

Brazilian Guitar Quartet

Sunday, January 30 at 3:00pm

Rebecca Owens, organ

Sunday, February 20 at 3:00pm

Mozart's *Grand Mass in C minor* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*

Sunday, February 27 at 3:00pm

Concertos by Candlelight

Saturday, March 5 at 7:30pm

J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion*

Sunday, March 6 at 3:00pm

Camerata Ireland

Sunday, March 13 at 3:00pm

Olga Kern, piano

Friday, March 25 at 8:00pm

Fauré's *Requiem* and Poulenc's *Gloria*

Saturday, April 16 at 7:30pm
Sunday, April 17 at 3:00pm

**For more information on these performances, or to purchase tickets,
visit www.BachFestivalFlorida.org or call 407.646.2182.**

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