

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

girl chorister

PROGRAM



2022-2023



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

It is hard not to be struck by the elegance and grace of our National Cathedral. The building is an exquisite expression of faith. Within lies more than a hundred years of inspiration, vocation, dedication and love.

Few things have the ability to inspire and move more than music. It is my hope that this music program will flourish and further inspire those who are touched by it. What we have here is unique; it is something we cherish and is at the center of the mission and ministry of this place.

CANON MICHAEL MCCARTHY
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



the cathedral choirs

*The mission of the choirs is to offer,
at the highest standard possible, praises to God
through leadership in music and liturgy.*

THE HISTORY

Founded in 1909 as the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, and subsequently expanded in 1997 to include the first Girls Cathedral Choir in the nation, the Cathedral Choristers are among the few such ensembles in the United States with an affiliated school in the English tradition. The boys singing treble are ages 8–14 and attend St. Albans School for Boys; the girl trebles, ages 11–18, attend National Cathedral School for Girls. The boys and girls usually sing separately with the professional musicians of the Cathedral Choir but occasionally come together for larger events and tours.

The choirs share responsibility to provide support for Cathedral choral services, including weekday Evensong and Sunday services. The choirs have been heard on Public Radio International broadcasts and have participated in televised Cathedral services. They have been featured in services of national and ecumenical importance such as the memorial service for Princess Diana, President

Barack Obama's inaugural prayer services, the 9/11 prayer service, a prayer service for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the funeral service for astronaut Neil Armstrong, memorial services for Nelson Mandela and Senator John McCain, the installation of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States, and the state funeral for President George H. W. Bush.

Concert tours have taken the choirs to New York, Sarasota, Tampa, Los Angeles, San Diego, Portland, San Francisco, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Richmond, Houston, Dallas, and Hawaii. In 2017, the choirs traveled to the United Kingdom to visit Ely, Worcester, Lincoln, and St. Paul's Cathedrals, and Kings College, Cambridge. The choirs have recorded numerous CDs, including Centennial Celebration, Hear the Christmas Angels, and Handel's Messiah.

becoming a chorister

THE NOVICE PROGRAM

The novice program is a preparatory program for aspiring choristers. Novice choristers learn and reinforce the basics of music theory, vocal production and sight-reading.

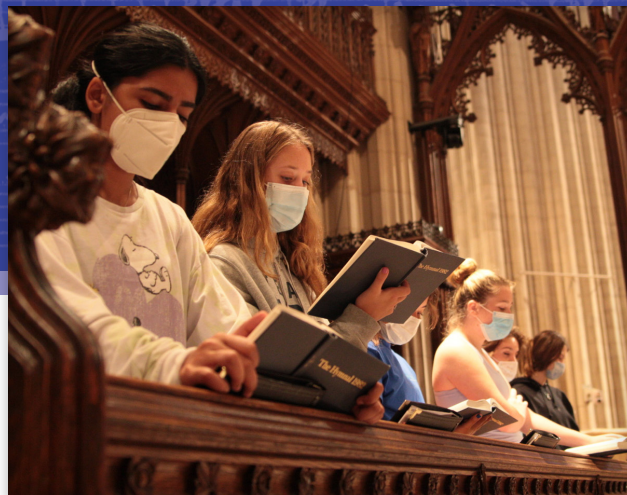
REQUIREMENTS

- Love of singing
- Applying to or attending NCS
- Interested in being a Cathedral chorister
- Meet with Chorister Program Director on November 7 or November 9

TIMELINE

- **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AND WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9**
Interested students will meet with Chorister Program Director between 3:30 pm and 5:15 pm and are invited to attend Evensong at 5:30 pm
- **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**
Novice music classes begin
- **MONDAY, MARCH 13**
Recommendations to chorister program made
- **MONDAY, APRIL 12**
Spring term begins for novices accepted into chorister program
- **THURSDAY, MAY 25**
Installation of new choristers

* For more information, contact Julie DeBoer at (202) 537-5730 or jdeboer@cathedral.org.



NOVICE PROGRAM WEEKLY SCHEDULES

MUSIC CLASSES (JANUARY 4–MARCH 13)	
WEDNESDAYS 3:45–5:30 pm	JANUARY 4, 11, 18, 15 FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15, 22 MARCH 1, 8, 15
SUNDAYS 1:30–4:00 pm	JANUARY 15 FEBRUARY 5, 12, 26 MARCH 12
Parents will receive regular feedback on their daughter's progress in the program.	

INCOMING CHORISTER WEEKLY SCHEDULES

SPRING TERM (APRIL 12–MAY 25)	
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY 4:00–6:15 pm	REHEARSAL & EVENSONG
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY 1:30–5:15 pm	REHEARSAL & EVENSONG

CHORISTER LEVELS

At the end of Spring Term, admitted Novices will be installed as Junior Choristers.

chorister schedule



TIME COMMITMENT

Choristers commit a significant amount of time to music education, rehearsals and performances throughout the year, including some holidays. This commitment is the core design behind the unmatched music education and performance opportunities for young musicians.

SUMMER COMMITMENTS

- CHOIR CAMP**
 Incoming choristers are required to attend a week-long camp the last week of August in Richmond, Va. Camp includes working on new music for the coming year, giving community concerts, community service, field trips and getting to know fellow choristers.
- TOURING/RECORDING**
 The two weeks following commencement ceremonies are held for touring and recording opportunities. Recently the Cathedral choristers have traveled to the United Kingdom and Texas.

SCHOOL-YEAR SCHEDULE

REHEARSALS AND SERVICES (SEPTEMBER–MAY)	
MON–FRI PERIOD 1	REHEARSAL
MON & WED 4:45–6:15 PM	REHEARSAL & EVENSONG
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY A) 10 AM–12:30 PM B) 2:45–5 PM	A) REHEARSAL & EUCHARIST B) REHEARSAL & EVENSONG

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES		
JR CHORISTER	SR CHORISTER	
✓	✓	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
	✓	MESSIAH
	✓	CHRISTMAS EVE
✓	✓	ASH WEDNESDAY
	✓	PALM SUNDAY
✓	✓	GOOD FRIDAY
✓	✓	EASTER

benefits of chorister life



CHORISTER LEVELS

Students who are admitted from the Novice Program will become choristers based on their incoming grade level.

Girls 7th and 8th grade: Junior Chorister

Girls 9th-12th grade: Senior Chorister

PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TRAINING

Built into the rehearsal and performance schedule, senior choristers receive individual voice lessons, at no additional cost, with professional voice teachers. Junior Choristers receive regular musicianship classes that further enhance and prepare their aural, vocal, theory, and piano skills for their time as Senior Choristers.

PER WEEK

JUNIORS

- 6 hours of choral training
- 3.5 hours of performance
- 90 minutes of musicianship learning

SENIORS

- 6 hours of choral training
- 3.5 hours of performance
- 30 minutes of private voice instruction

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dedication/perseverance
- Self-confidence
- Time-management skills
- Community involvement

UNIQUE ENRICHMENT

- Professional-level musical training
- National & international recognition
- Touring opportunities

SCHOOL CREDIT

Choristers receive school credit for being part of a Cathedral Choir and are assigned letter grades based on their performance and growth in the choir. Being a chorister adds great weight to applications for education beyond high school.

CHORAL STIPEND

To recognize the significant time commitment made by choristers, the Cathedral offers a tuition stipend per school year.

CHORAL STIPEND (2019–2020 ACADEMIC YEAR)	
JR. CHORISTER GIRLS 7 TH & 8 TH GRADES	\$6,000
SR. CHORISTER GIRLS 9 TH –12 TH GRADE	\$8,000

BENEFITS FOR LIFE

Cathedral choristers build lasting memories and essential life skills like time management, leadership and cooperation. The choirs play an important role in the life of both the Cathedral and their school. To become a Cathedral chorister is an extraordinary opportunity found at few other schools in the nation.



LEARN MORE

For additional information, visit us online at cathedral.org/choirs/choristerprogram

CONTACT

If you have questions, please contact Julie DeBoer at (202) 537-5730 or jdeboer@cathedral.org.

“The years that I spent in the Cathedral Choir were a highlight in my life and left me with memories that endure to this day. I always felt special being a Cathedral chorister — I still feel special having been one.”

—FORMER CHORISTER



Washington National Cathedral
3101 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016-5098
(202) 537-5730 • www.cathedral.org
[@wncathedral](https://twitter.com/wncathedral)