

Fairfield County Children's Choir DIRECTORBOOK

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How to reach us:

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(203) 414-4292
SingFCCC.org

The Fairfield County Children's Choir (FCCC) is a professional, non-profit organization. It is our policy not to discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or national/ethnic origin. It is also our policy to maintain a working and learning environment free from harassment, insults or intimidation on the basis of gender or sexual orientation.

Mission Statement

The mission of the FCCC is to provide children the opportunity to participate in a musical experience which is challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. Through the process of practicing and performing choral music with excellence and artistry, the FCCC helps to foster the personal, musical and social growth of each child, promoting self-esteem and self-discipline.

The FCCC also contributes to the quality of the cultural life of its members and the community as a whole. Ultimately, in the words of John Ruskin, "The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it."

The FCCC performs the standard children's choir repertoire, masterpieces from throughout music history, new works and lesser known "little gems". A unique aspect of the FCCC is its performance of authentic vocal jazz improvisation.

The FCCC is committed to a high level of artistry, musical understanding and self-expression in all our activities.

The FCCC believes not only that all people can sing, but that all people need to sing, and is committed to promoting singing throughout our culture.

The FCCC brings together children with treble voices in Grades 4-12.

The FCCC is open to children of all religious, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds in Fairfield County and beyond (*No geographical limits to membership*).

Choir Divisions and Instructional Goals

Chorus (Grades 4-6)

Singers focus on vocal development and music reading, using movable 'do' solfege and rhythm syllables. The repertoire is predominantly unison and two-part arrangements. Ensemble skills are also stressed.

Chorale (Grades 5-12)

Acquired skills continue to be developed. Repertoire expands to include three-part singing, with more sophisticated voicing, musical forms, texts and techniques.

Concert Choir (Grades 5-12)

Acquired skills continue to be developed. Repertoire expands to include four parts, with more sophisticated voicing, musical forms, texts and techniques. A greater emphasis is placed on independence in music reading. This group performs independently and in collaboration with other musical organizations.

Chamber Singers (Grades 6-12)

This group comprises FCCC's most advanced choristers. Skills continue to be developed to higher levels. Repertoire expands to four or more parts, with more sophisticated voicing, musical forms, texts and techniques. A high degree of music literacy is expected. The group performs independently, in collaboration with other musical organizations and it undertakes extended tours, usually during the summer.

Rehearsal Schedule

Chorus:	Wednesdays	6:00-7:30 pm
Chorale:	Wednesdays	6:00-7:30 pm
Concert Choir:	Wednesdays	7:00-8:30 pm
Chamber Singers:	Mondays and Wednesdays	7:00-8:30 pm

Financial Aid

There are a limited number of scholarships available. Information regarding applications and deadlines are included with the acceptance letters. No requests will be processed after the tuition deposit deadline.

(Call 203-414-4292 or email bpeckfcc@gmail.com for more information)

Member Guidelines

Membership in the FCCC is a privilege granted to children who abide by the following guidelines:

1. You have the right to expect that the conductors, accompanists and fellow choir members will do their best at all times. You have the responsibility to do your best at all times.

2. Rehearsals & Attendance

Attendance is expected at all rehearsals and attendance records are kept. Many FCCC singers attain perfect attendance each year. If the number of absences begins to affect either the child's or the choir's progress, parents will be contacted to discuss the child's continued participation in the program.

Chamber Singers & Concert Choir Attendance Policy

- Choristers may miss two rehearsals per semester (September-December and January-June) without a consequence. (No distinction between excused and unexcused.)
- After two absences, each additional absence must be made up within three weeks.
- Absences are made up by attending the Wednesday evening rehearsal from 6-7 p.m. (*Arrival prior to 6 p.m. will be considered a full make-up; arrival between 6-6:30 p.m. will be considered half of a make-up; arrival after 6:30 p.m. will not be considered a make-up.*)
- Choristers who do not make-up rehearsals in a timely manner will have their membership in the FCCC terminated.
- Attendance awards will be given to those with outstanding attendance Through the year. We hope to give many!

Chorus & Chorale Attendance Policy

For the success and efficiency of our rehearsals, the FCCC Chorus & Chorale attendance policy is below:

- Choristers may miss two rehearsals per semester (September – December and January – June) without a consequence.
(We make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences.)
- Attendance awards will be given to those with outstanding attendance throughout the year. We hope to give many!!
- Attendance will be one of the criteria for placement in our four choirs each year.

If you know in advance your child will miss a rehearsal, please e-mail:

bpeckfcc@gmail.com or call (203) 414-4292.

If a last-minute illness or other crises occurs, please call (203) 414-4292.

Rehearsals will begin promptly as scheduled. Plan to arrive 15 minutes early to check-in and find your seat. Choristers should be picked up promptly at the conclusion of rehearsals and performances. At the conclusion of our rehearsal, choristers will remain inside the building until met by a parent for transportation home.

Chorister Commitment

Membership in the FCCC is a commitment to faithful, consistent and punctual attendance. Choristers must agree to make no regular commitments that conflict with rehearsals. It is expected that rehearsals take a very high priority in each child's life. Each child is holding a highly valued place in his/her choir.

3. Facility

Members of the FCCC must always remember that we are guests of Fairfield Woods Middle School (FWMS) and as such we must respect the facility, equipment and grounds at all times. FCCC members should enter and exit the building at the side auditorium door and go directly to the assigned rehearsal room. Any misuse of FWMS property will result in dismissal from the FCCC.

4. **Music Binders**

Parents are asked to check this binder weekly for important choir notices regarding rehearsals, concerts, meetings, performances, etc. The music, music binders and any music books provided for each chorister are the property of the FCCC and must be returned in good condition. A \$50 fee will be charged for Chamber Singer binders and a \$35 fee for Concert Choir, Chorale and Chours binders not returned. Fees will also be charged for music or books not returned or returned in poor condition.

5. **Name Tags**

Each chorister is required to wear her/his name tag at each rehearsal. This enables our music staff to get to know the children, as well as enabling the children to get to know each other. There will be a \$3.00 fine for missing name tags

6. **Bring to Rehearsals**

Water Bottle – All singers should bring a full, sealable water bottle to each rehearsal. This is important for maintaining healthy voices.

Pencil – Singers should bring a sharpened pencil to every rehearsal.

DO NOT BRING Chewing gum, food or carbonated beverages. These are not allowed during rehearsals. Please avoid consuming chocolate or milk products prior to rehearsals.

Cell phones MUST be turned off during rehearsals and concerts.

7. **Learning Music**

Each child is responsible for learning the music for each concert. No chorister will be required to perform a solo, nor will there be enough solos for all choristers.

8. Full attention and best behavior is expected at all times. Talking during rehearsals is neither appropriate nor acceptable.

9. Commitment is the key! Commitment is everything we do – from being early to all rehearsals to trying your best at all times and all the little things in between.

10. Failure to abide by any of these guidelines may result in dismissal from the group.

Commitment to School Music Programs

The FCCC is an outgrowth of each chorister's school music program. It is expected that all FCCC members be active participants in their individual school music programs.

Inclement Weather, Cancellations or Changes

Rehearsal or performance cancellations will be announced over WICC 600 AM radio, WTNH Channel 8, NBC Connecticut Channel 6 and CableNews Channel 12, and on the web at ctweather.com, click on IAN Cancellations > Public Organizations. Call 414-4292 to hear a recorded announcement regarding rehearsal cancellation due to weather. Cancellations and other notifications will be sent by e-mail.

Concert Dress

Girls: Black Knit Princess Gowns. Girl's concert dress must be ordered through the choir. Order forms for concert uniforms will be given to each chorister at the first rehearsal with specific instructions regarding prices,

measurements and deadlines. Sample sizes will be available. Choristers must also wear black opaque stockings or tights and black dress shoes.

Boys: White tuxedo shirts, black tuxedo pants and jackets, black cummerbunds and bow ties. More specific details will be handed out at the first rehearsal. A sample style will be available to see. If your chorister already has a tuxedo he may wear it. Black dress shoes and socks are required. Choristers not in uniform concert dress will not be permitted to perform in the concerts.

Auditions

Auditions are held in May and June for the following season. Present members in good standing (excellent attendance and work ethic) will be guaranteed a position in the FCCC and must audition for placement. Placement is based on the criteria below and not based on age or seniority.

- Musical Aptitude: pitch and rhythmic accuracy.
- Vocal Tone & Technique: (or as we learn in FCCC): posture, breath, tone and diction.
- Work Ethic: Positive attitude, enthusiasm, self-discipline and attentiveness.
- Ability to Read Music
- Attendance Record

Membership Agreement

The placement of a child in the FCCC precludes the participation of other children who have auditioned for positions in the choir. A child's participation carries with it privileges, responsibilities and obligations. The following page is a sample of the agreement families are asked to sign and submit to the FCCC. It is included here for informational purposes only.

FCCC MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT SAMPLE

Your child's participation carries with it privileges, responsibilities and obligations. As space in the FCCC is limited, please carefully consider your commitment to excellent attendance for the full year. Please refer to the guidelines and expectations that can be found in the FCCC handbook. A copy can be found on-line at SingFCCC.org under Member Information. A hard copy will be handed out at the first rehearsal.

We agree with the conditions and guidelines set forth in this handbook and understand the commitment, responsibility and dedication needed to become and remain a member of the FCCC.

We understand the need to participate in and attend every rehearsal and performance.

We understand that we are making a commitment through May.

We have sent in appropriate medical information for use in case of an emergency.

We agree to make full payment of tuition by the due date unless a request for financial aid has been approved.

We understand that no fees can be refunded in case of withdrawal from the choir at any time.

We agree to return all copyrighted music books and octavos in good condition, and will pay replacement cost of lost or damaged items.

We understand there is an official concert uniform that must be ordered through the FCCC (please see handbook). We understand that each chorister is responsible for being in full concert dress at each concert and any chorister not in full concert dress will not be permitted to sing in the concert.

We hereby indemnify and release the FCCC, its directors, employees, members and parent volunteers from any liability, including personal injury, property damage, costs or expenses (including attorneys' fees) resulting from any action taken on behalf of my child or otherwise arising out of my child's participation in any FCCC activity or performance.

I understand that FCCC retains the right to use photographs of choristers for publicity and advertising purposes.

BOTH CHORISTER AND PARENT MUST SIGN BELOW

Chorister Name (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Chorister's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Choir Member of (check one) Chamber _____ Concert Choir _____ Chorale _____ Chorus _____

Cancellations

WICC 600 AM

WTNH Channel 8

NBC Connecticut Channel 6

CableNews Channel 12

www.ctweather.com

click on: IAN Cancellations > Public Organizations

E-mail Notification

Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and melody find their way into the inward places of the soul.

Plato