

# CHIPPEWA VALLEY YOUTH CHOIRS



INFORMATION PACKET

April 2009

# **CHIPPEWA VALLEY YOUTH CHOIRS**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Promoting artistic, social and personal growth through excellence in music education and performance.

## **PURPOSE, POWER and SCOPE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs shall be a music education and performance program for both boys and girls emphasizing the development and understanding of music skills.

The Eau Claire Children's Theatre is the umbrella organization under which the Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs operate three girl choirs (Andante, Bel Canto, Chanson) and one boy choir (DaCapo).

The objective of the organization is to provide quality music instruction with the goal of attaining the highest level of excellence in choral music performance. The choirs shall enrich the lives of girls and boys without regard to religious, racial, cultural or ethnic backgrounds. Through their music activities and community involvement, the choirs will help foster the artistic, social and personal growth of its members and promote their sense of self-esteem and accomplishment.

The development of youth choirs of high standards will contribute to the civic and social life of the Chippewa Valley. Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs have performed in concert with other organizations such as the Chippewa Valley Symphony, Eau Claire Male Chorus, and the Master Singers. They have performed at local community events including the opening of Phoenix Park, UW-EC's annual Martin Luther King Day celebration, and at an event for Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton at the Boys and Girls Club of Eau Claire.

## **ABOUT CHIPPEWA VALLEY YOUTH CHOIRS**

Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs started with one Girl Choir in 1995. By 1998, another girl choir was added, and a second director was added in 2000. The Eau Claire Boy Choir joined the organization in 2002. In 2004, a third girl choir was added. At present, there are four choirs:

- **ANDANTE:** open to 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls
  - Entry level choir with no auditions
- **BEL CANTO:** open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls
  - Previous membership in Andante Choir recommended but not required
  - No auditions
- **CHANSON:** open to girls in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Previous membership in Andante and/or Bel Canto recommended but not required
  - Audition with director is required for this challenging ensemble
- **BOY CHOIR:** open to 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys
  - No auditions, but limited to boys with unchanged voices

Repertoire for all groups consists of traditional folk songs, canons and contemporary choral selections with unison, two-, and three-part music. Rehearsal time is spent working on healthy voice production, reading music, choral blend, and singing appropriate choral literature for each group.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Being a member of the Chippewa Valley Youth Choir is a commitment. Attendance at all rehearsals is necessary for a quality choir. Rehearsals will begin promptly at the stated rehearsal time. Choir members should be in their place and ready to sing. Directors expect choir members to have studied their music between rehearsals to learn words, notes, and techniques rehearsed for each song.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal. After a second absence, a call will be made home to relay any missed information. After a third absence, the singer will not be allowed to perform at the concert, as a result of having missed over 25% of the rehearsals. After a fourth absence, the singer will be asked to step down from CVYC for the season and consider rejoining when their schedule permits. There will be no tuition refunds.

Any choir member unable to attend rehearsal is required to call or email their director in advance. Members arriving late should come in quietly and join the rehearsal without disruption. If you know you are going to be late or must leave early, the choir member is required to notify their director in advance.

## **PERFORMANCES**

Attendance at all performances is MANDATORY- including the winter concert, spring concert, KIDZ KABARET, School Tour and guest performances- in order to present the best performance possible. The only excuses for missing a concert are severe illness or family emergency. Concert dates are given well in advance and are the culmination of all our hard work and dedication. Missing concerts or other performances except for the above reasons is unacceptable.

## **TICKETS**

Tickets will be available for sale prior to each performance. Each choir member will receive an order form during rehearsal which can be returned with payment before the final concert rehearsal. Tickets will be distributed to choir members rehearsals. Tickets will also be available for sale at select rehearsal and at the door. All seats for performances at the State Theatre are reserved.

## **ADDITIONAL EVENTS**

Throughout the year, the Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs also offer other events for its members. These events include, but are not limited, to:

- Vocal Retreat
  - The first event for the Choirs is the annual retreat at Beaver Creek Reserve in August. Activities include games, campfires, icebreakers, swatting at mosquitoes and lots of singing.
- Annual School Tour:
  - All four choirs go on the annual school tour each spring. Select elementary schools in the Chippewa Valley host performances by each choir. Choir members bring a lunch, and transportation is provided via school bus.
- Spring Tour
  - We will be planning a spring tour for April, 2010. This will most likely be a Friday-Saturday trip to cities in eastern or southern Wisconsin to perform with other youth choirs in those cities. Additional expenses for this trip will be minimal.

- Additional Performances/Events
  - Each year, CVYC is asked to perform at special events. This past year, the choirs performed with the American Boy Choir in November, at the Festival of the Trees in December, and at UW-EC's annual Martin Luther King celebration in January. CVYC also tries to arrange opportunities for the members to hear/attend other community concerts; this year the Choirs rehearsed at UWEC one night and then sat in on the dress rehearsal for UWEC's annual Cabaret production. It is possible parents may be asked to help at these events by providing snacks for the kids, chaperoning, or helping at the event. Parents will be notified as these opportunities become available.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

### Folders and Music

Each member will be given a folder of music at the beginning of each semester. The choir member is responsible for this music and expected to bring it to every rehearsal unless told otherwise by their director. A bag will also be furnished to carry the folder in to prevent damage to the music. Members may keep the bag at the end of the year.

Music will be turned in at the end of each semester. Each member will be responsible for returning the music given to him/her. All music should be in good repair and all pencil marks should be erased before being turned in. Members will be charged at the price of replacement for any music/folders that are lost or destroyed.

### Uniforms

- Chanson and Bel Canto Choirs
  - Choir provides: black (Chanson) or burgundy (Bel Canto) dress
  - Member provides: black dress shoes, black nylons, simple jewelry, hairstyle, and make-up
- Andante Choir
  - Choir provides: khaki skirt, white oxford shirt, blue vest, white knee socks
  - Member provides: black flats
- DaCapo Boy Choir
  - Choir provides: navy blue jacket, red tie
  - Member provides: khaki dress pants (no cargo pants), white dress shirt, black dress shoes, black socks

### Communications

Any communications for members and parents will be given at rehearsals and/or distributed by email. It is the parent's responsibility to check their child's folder and/or their own email. By staying in touch, we can assure that all members and their parents have adequate notice of changes or new plans for the groups. Parents are welcome to contact CVYC at 839-8877 or [singcvyc@aol.com](mailto:singcvyc@aol.com).

### Behavior

The Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs seek to bring boys and girls together in the spirit of friendship to sing quality music together. Making music with others can be one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences a person ever has. This happens when the music is fun, challenging and everyone is striving for his or her best. A choir is a team. Each person plays an important part and needs to work to the best of his/her ability. Everyone, adults and choir members alike, deserve to be treated with respect. Rehearsals are for rehearsing, and the time is limited and needs to be used wisely. Making quality music takes hard work, self-discipline, cooperation and practice outside of scheduled rehearsal time.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Like most non-profit organizations, Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs needs volunteers to help the organization thrive and grow. We expect parents to help in one or more of the following areas:

- Parent Advisory Council
  - This important group meets monthly to ensure that CVYC program delivery runs smoothly by coordinating volunteers and assisting with committees
- Fundraising
  - help with and/or develop new fundraising opportunities
  - identify and contact new donors and/or sponsors for the choirs
- Marketing and Promotion
  - Distribute posters and/or other publicity materials
  - Help promote CVYC at community events (ie. staffing a booth, distributing brochures)
- Concerts
  - Ticket sales
  - Usher (ie. hand out programs, collect tickets)
  - Help in the dressing room before concert
- Kidz Kabaret
  - Ticket sales
  - Usher (ie. hand out programs, collect tickets)
  - Backstage help
  - Concessions
  - Costumes and props
- Music - Assist with filing music
- Uniforms - Assist in sizing and check out/in of uniforms for each choir member

## **FUNDING**

The money Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs uses to operate comes from tuition, ticket sales, donations, grants, and other fundraising.

### Tuition

The bulk of our operating costs come from the tuition money received from our members. However, all expenses cannot be met with tuition fees.

### Ticket Sales

A small percentage of our budget comes from the proceeds of ticket sales.

### Donations and Grants

Private and business donations are always welcome. Many corporations match donations of their employees to non-profit organizations. Please inquire if your employer is willing to match your tax-deductible donation. If you have knowledge of available grants, please contact CVYC's office. Any individual or business supporting the organization is recognized in the concert programs.

### Fundraising

It has been CVYC policy to avoid asking our members to participate in door-to-door type fundraisers. However, in order to meet the budget every year, our fundraising efforts may need to change as well. Right now, we have three major fundraisers:

- Tea Bag Letter Campaign (fall)
- Action City Family Fun Night (October)
- Scholarship Letter campaign (spring, helps to support need-based scholarships for members)