

2019-2020 Platteville Children's Choir Contact Information

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Rebecca Swenson, Apprentice Singers Accompanist

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Terri Ellis, Cantabile Accompanist

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SUSAN CRAMER, Director of Music Explorers, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Alma College and her masters in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She taught kindergarten and first grade for ten years in the Verona School District. Since 2008, Susan has taught early childhood music through Music Together, a family music program for young children. She has directed multiple musicals for the Tri-State Homeschool Drama Troupe. Susan is a member of the Platteville Chorale, has participated in several Heartland Festival productions, and leads children's music at the Lutheran Church of Peace where she also enjoys playing the fiddle. She joined the PCC program Spring of 2016. Susan lives in Platteville with her husband, Robert, and their three children.

DANIEL HEMMING, Director of Choristers, (Spring Term), earned his Bachelor's degree in vocal music, general music, and theatre from UW-Platteville in 1999 and is entering his 20th year of teaching elementary general music. For most of those years, he has taught in Dodgeville, preparing students for multiple performances each year. Dan has also been heavily involved in area theatre, co-directs DHS musicals and the summer theatre program in Darlington where he lives with his wife, children, and two spunky labradoodles. He has directed and performed in multiple productions with the Pop Factory Players in Darlington, as well as the Heartland Festival, and Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival in Platteville.

DAVID MURPHY, Director of Choristers, (Fall Term), has been teaching vocal music in the Lancaster School District for over 25 years. In addition to conducting choirs, he teaches voice lessons, directs the LHS Show Choir, produces the annual variety show, and leads three choirs at LMS. An active conductor in two area church choirs and long-time clinician for choirs around southwest Wisconsin, he has served the WSMA Middle Level State Honors Choir and High School State Honors Choirs as tenor coach and choir coordinator. For many summers, he has directed the choirs at the UW-Platteville Pioneer Music Camp and is a current member of Madison's Isthmus Vocal Ensemble. His wife Patricia and six children are his anchors, inspirations and joys. The Murphy children are all members or graduates of PCC!

REBECCA LANSING, Dir. Apprentice Singers (Spring Term), is the Program Director and on the voice faculty for Northeast Iowa School of Music, Dubuque. She received her Masters of Music, Vocal Performance from Louisiana State University, and Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance from Simpson College. Rebecca spent two years teaching voice at Center Stage Academy for the Performing Arts in Gonzales, LA, where her students achieved best star awards, winner and nominee recognition at Access Broadway competitions nationwide and admission into the audition-only New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. Rebecca has served as an instructor of Music Appreciation for East Iowa Community College.

LUANNE ROGERS, Director of Apprentice Singers (Fall Term), is well-known to the Platteville Children's Choir organization! She held a full-time director position with PCC for over 20 years, was choral director and general music teacher in the Platteville School District for over 30 years, and presently holds an adjunct faculty position in the UW-Platteville Choral Music Education department. She spends much of her "spare time" with her growing family that includes 10 wonderful grandchildren.

MARCY RUSSELL, Director of Cantabile, teaches middle level general music and choir at Platteville Middle School and Kindergarten music at Neal Wilkins Early Learning Center. She earned a Masters of Music Education Degree from Kent State University, and a Bachelor of Music Degree (Voice Performance and General/Choral Music Ed) from Lawrence University. She conducted Con Gioia and Cantilena with the Madison Youth Choirs for ten seasons. Ms. Russell is an active member of ACDA and NAFME, and is a member of the WMEA's Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance project. She is the North Central ACDA Middle School/Junior High Repertoire chair, and serves as the Chair of the WSMA Middle Level Honors Project. She was co-manager of the National ACDA Middle Level Boys Honor Choir in Salt Lake City in 2015. Marcy performed on the musical theatre stage of the Heartland Festival for over 10 seasons playing lead roles in many shows. She is a WSMA Master Adjudicator and is a member of the Voice Care Network. Ms. Russell is a member of the Mt. Vernon (IA) High School Fine Arts "Hall of Fame", and was a recipient of the WCDA Outstanding Young Choral Director Award. She received the WCDA Middle Level Choral Director Award in 2015.

2019-2020

Season at a Glance

(Full Calendar on pages 4, 5, and 14)

Unless otherwise stated, all rehearsals begin promptly at 6:30pm

September 16: Welcome Meeting at CFA, UW-Platteville

September 23: Live Uniform Exchange in Doudna Hall, UWP

September 30: Ice Cream Night after rehearsals
November 11: Uniform Evaluation night
(singers come to rehearsal in full concert uniform)
November 18: All choirs rehearse at CFA/UWP with Chorale
November 25: Fall Concert with Chorale at 7:00pm at CFA/UWP
(singers arrive at 6:00pm in full concert uniform)
December 2: ALL CHOIRS rehearse at CFA/UWP for UWP Gala
December 6: Holiday Gala Concert ; 7:30pm (Friday) at CFA/UWP
(singers arrive at 7:00pm in full concert uniform)
December 9: ALL CHOIRS rehearse at CFA/UWP
December 10: Holiday Concert at 7:00pm (Tuesday) at
Platteville Municipal Auditorium
(singers arrive at 6:00pm in full concert uniform)
Winter Break: NO Monday Rehearsals Dec. 16, 2019 – Jan. 20, 2020

January 27: Rehearsals Resume/Music Explorers Begins
February 17: Invite a friend to rehearsal (not for Music Explorers)
March 16: Open Rehearsal; Parents/families welcome
March 23: NO Rehearsal; UWP Spring Break
April 22: School Day Tour; 8:00am – 3:00pm
April 26: Spring Concert at 1:30pm at Platteville High School
(singers arrive at 12:15pm in full concert uniform)
April 27: Vocal hearings/Auditions; First English Lutheran Church
May 2: New Singer Auditions;
First English Lutheran Church

Music/Uniforms

I understand that I am responsible for the music I am given. An undamaged bag and undamaged copies must be returned at the time the Director calls for them or I am responsible for a \$15 fine. I understand I should arrive at concerts in approved concert dress. (Singers without concert dress may not sing at that event.)

Release of Information

I understand that my child's and my contact information may be released within the PCC membership to volunteer parent leaders for the purposes of contact specific to the program and its events. I also understand that, if given this contact information, I am not allowed to share it outside of the children's choir membership or use it for personal contact purposes. If I choose NOT to release my name and contact information for these purposes, I will send a written statement under separate cover indicating my wishes by September 16th, 2019.

Medical Release

If there is any need to seek emergency medical treatment for my child during rehearsals, performances, or tours, I understand that every attempt will be made to reach me to obtain verbal authorization for the emergency facility to provide diagnosis and/or treatment for my child. However, if I cannot be reached, I authorize Platteville Children's Choir staff to obtain any emergency medical treatment necessary for my child.

Consent

I, _____ (Member Name), have read the Platteville Children's Choir Family Guide and the statements in this agreement and agree to accept each policy as a condition of my membership in the Platteville Children's Choir program. I understand that if I fail to meet any of the above policies, I may be dismissed from the program.

Participating Member Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

T-shirt size (circle): Small Medium Large X Large **Specify:** Youth / Adult

Platteville Children's Choirs

2019-2020 Family Guide

"Developing the whole child through the choral music process"

Congratulations and welcome to the Platteville Children's Choir (PCC)! This membership guide provides some basic information for you to review before the first rehearsal on September 16th. The information in this guide will be very important to you throughout the entire PCC season. Please read it carefully. On opening night, **September 16th, 2019**, we will hold a brief (20-minute) welcome program in the Center for the Arts, UW-Platteville campus, at 6:30PM to introduce the staff and all singers. Parents are urged to attend this meeting and stay afterward to ask questions after the choirs disperse to rehearse.

In addition to this guide, PCC will communicate with you regularly through the following four methods:

www.FACEBOOK.com/PlattevilleChildrensChoirs: During the season we will send out information by posting it on the PCC Facebook page. "Like" our page now and opt to "receive notifications" by email. Weather cancellations are posted here as well as links to printable forms and calendars.

WEBSITE: Detailed information, weather cancellations and links to printable forms are available on the Platteville Chorale website, www.pchorale.org.

*****EMAIL:** (Essential for participation.) PCC will occasionally send emails from pcchoir1@gmail.com. Please add this **and your director's** email address to your email address book. These emails are a critical communication link containing important news, updates, volunteer opportunities, and the schedule reminders. It is important that we have your current email address; if your email or other contact information changes during the year, please provide us with updates.

MUSIC BAG: Important information is regularly sent home with your child in their music bag. Please check this bag following each rehearsal.

WHAT IS PCC?

HISTORY

The Platteville Chorale is a community chorus initiated in 1975 by Dr. Gerald Darrow, the Director of Choral Activities in the Music Department at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville at that time. He, together with his wife Sarah and the officers of the Chorale, envisioned the need and the opportunity to begin something important for the Platteville community as well as all of southwestern Wisconsin. **The Platteville Children's Choir (PCC)** was established in 1989 by the Platteville Chorale and is governed by the bylaws of that organization. The initial children's choir was composed of about sixty 4th, 5th, & 6th grade students from the area. With the guidance of Dr. Christina Shields, PCC was expanded in the fall of 1998 to three choirs: the Training Choir, the Treble Choir and the Youth Ensemble. Currently these three auditioned choirs are called the Apprentice Singers (primarily 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade children), Choristers (primarily for 4th, 5th and 6th grade singers) and Cantabile (primarily for 6th, 7th and 8th grade singers.) With the expansion came the motto "Developing the whole child through the choral music process".

For a number of years the annual calendar has included: auditions in May and/or August, a fall concert together with the Adult Chorale, UW Platteville's Holiday Gala in early December, informal holiday concerts in mid-December, a school-day tour of area schools with 30-minute concerts in late April, and a final spring concert in late April. Every other year, Cantabile makes a weekend tour. In the past, the tour has taken singers to the Twin Cities area, Milwaukee, and Madison. The next Cantabile Tour will take place in the Spring of 2021.

In January of 2007, our training choir, **Music Explorers (ME)**, was initiated. ME is designed to give children a foundation for choral music with an emphasis on the development of musical skills. ME is open to 1st- and 2nd- graders and occasionally kindergarten-aged children without audition.

Dwight Klaassen, past president of the Chorale since 1994, gave vision to the Children's Choir program and volunteered his administrative guidance. In 2014, Margaret Ruf began her role as the PCC Administrator. Through the years, the organization has continued to grow. It has been blessed with excellent leaders who are outstanding musicians, educators, and personnel.

Over 1000 young singers throughout southwestern Wisconsin have been impacted by the Platteville Children's Choir. Numerous alumni of PCC have gone on to pursue careers in choral or instrumental music including public and private music educators, professors of music performance and education, opera singers, and regional and Broadway musical theatre performers. PCC is proud to have consistently measured up to its mission:

***"Developing the whole child
through the choral music process."***

YOUR COPY OF THE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN Platteville Children's Choir and 2019-2020 MEMBER

Attendance Policy (See full policy on page 10 of Family Guide)

I understand that PCC singers are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances and tours scheduled for their choir. I have placed all dates for rehearsals, performances and tours on my yearly calendar as a priority commitment. Absences exceeding two (2) rehearsals per semester will be probable cause for my dismissal from singing in that concert. I will still be expected to attend all remaining rehearsals. Failure to do so will be probable cause for dismissal from PCC. Tardiness or leaving early will be noted, with every three (3) occurrences counted as a single absence. MY attendance is required at all PCC concerts and tours in which my choir is performing. A reason for absence from a concert must be given to the Administrative Assistant and my director as far in advance as possible. Failure to do so will be probable cause for

dismissal from PCC. Following that notification, issues related to absences and participation determinations will be handled by the Platteville Children's Choir Administrative Committee composed of Directors and Administrative personnel. It is my responsibility to check in with the attendance taker at the beginning of EVERY rehearsal. If I must leave early or arrive late, it is my responsibility to let my director know in advance.

School Participation (See full policy on page 11 of Family Guide)

I understand that as a PCC member, I am strongly encouraged to participate in my school choir/music program. Involvement in my school choir and the training and experience I gain there, along with the support I receive from my music director will make me a stronger member of PCC. In turn, my school music program will benefit from the technical, musical and leadership skills I develop as a PCC member. Our area music educators are an important part of the support network for PCC.

Code of Conduct (See full policy on page 9 of Family Guide)

I understand that as a member of the Platteville Children's Choir my behavior reflects upon the entire group. I am expected to use good manners, display common courtesy, show consideration for others, respecting the staff and facilities.

Publicity

I understand that PCC may use my name and/or photos in print or on its website and also may authorize others to do so for purposes of communication or publicity. If I choose NOT to release my name and likeness for these purposes, I will send a written statement under separate cover indicating my wishes by September 16th, 2019.

WORKSHEET to help in planning your attendance:

Remember that absences exceeding two (2) rehearsals per semester will be probable cause for dismissing the member from singing in that concert. See full policy on page 10 of this guide. **Attendance is required at all PCC concerts and tours in which your choir is performing.** An absence from a concert without prior notification and a reasonable excuse is probable cause for dismissal from the PCC program. All absence issues and participation determinations will be handled by the directors and administrative personnel. Items in CAPs below are required for participation.

SEMESTER I

September 16 _____ Season Begins: Meeting & Rehearse, CFA
September 23 _____ Live Uniform Exchange; Doudna, UWP
September 30 _____ Ice Cream Night after rehearsals
October 7 _____
October 14 _____
October 21 _____
October 28 _____
November 4 _____
November 11 _____ (Uniform Eval; come in concert uniform)
November 18 _____ (All choirs rehearse at CFA with Chorale)
November 25 _____ FALL CONCERT at 7:00 p.m. @CFA
December 2 _____ (All choirs rehearse at CFA for UWP Gala)
December 6 _____ UWP GALA (ALL CHOIRS)
December 9 _____ (All choirs rehearse at CFA/UWP)
December 10 _____ HOLIDAY CONCERT, 7:00 p.m. at
Platteville Municipal Auditorium

SEMESTER II

January 27 _____ (All choirs resume; Music Explorers begin)
February 3 _____
February 10 _____
February 17 _____ (Invite a Friend Night)
February 24 _____
March 2 _____
March 9 _____
March 16 _____ (Open Rehearsal)
March 23 _____ (No Rehearsal – UW Spring Break)
March 30 _____
April 6 _____
April 13 _____
April 20 _____
April 22 _____ SCHOOL DAY TOUR (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
April 26 _____ SPRING CONCERT at 1:30 p.m. @ PHS
April 27 _____ Advancement hearings (First English Lutheran Church)
May 2 _____ New Singer Auditions (First English Lutheran Church)

PCC Overview

PCC's three choirs rehearse approximately 25 Mondays during the year, and the Music Explorers rehearse on Mondays in the spring.

Music Explorers: Spring semester, 20 non-auditioned, non performing 1st & 2nd graders, & occasionally kindergarteners.

Apprentice Singers: Both Semesters, 30-35 auditioned and performing second, third, fourth, and fifth graders

Choristers: Both Semesters, 30-35 auditioned and performing fourth, fifth, and sixth graders

Cantabile: Both Semesters, 25-30 auditioned and performing sixth, seventh, and eighth graders

PCC normally presents five major concerts & tours during the season.

Fall Concert with Platteville Chorale

University Holiday Gala Concert

Platteville Holiday Concert and Sing-along

Southwest Wisconsin School-Day Tour Concert

Spring Concert

Cantabile Weekend Tour, every odd year (next tour year, 2021)

→ Participation in all rehearsals and concerts and tours is required.

→ Additional "optional" concerts may occasionally be scheduled.

REGULAR REHEARSAL TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Apprentice Singers & Choristers Rehearsals are Mondays,
6:30 PM to 7:40 PM; Cantabile meets from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM

→ Participation in all rehearsals and concerts and tours is required.

Music Explorers (6:30 PM to 7:30 PM – 2nd Semester – Park in back of church), Lower level of First English Lutheran Church (FELC), 215 West Pine Street, Platteville
Apprentice Singers: (Room 174, Doudna Hall, UW Platteville Campus; (For parking lot safety, drop off and pick up singers in main UWP commuter lot).
Choristers: Room 108/Choral Rehearsal Room, Center for the Arts (CFA), UW-Platteville Campus; (For parking lot safety, drop off and pick up singers in CFA circle drive.).
Cantabile: Sanctuary of First English Lutheran Church (FELC), 215 West Pine Street, Platteville. (Parking available in front, back, or across the street from FELC)

*****Children are expected to be picked up NO LATER THAN 7:50 p.m. at their rehearsal location. Children who are to walk home after rehearsals will need a signed and dated note from a parent/guardian.**

SCHEDULE FOR THE 2019-2020 SEASON

REHEARSAL DATES: required attendance (see policy on page 10)

September 16, 23, 30	January 27
October 7, 14, 21, 28	February 3, 10, 17, 24
November 4, 11, 18, 25	March 2, 9, 16, 30
December 2, 9	April 6, 13, 20

NO REHEARSAL DATES:

PCC does not have rehearsal on the following Mondays:
Dec 16, 2019 thru Jan 20, 2020; March 23, 2020 (UWP Spring Break)

SPECIAL REHEARSALS:

September 16, 2019: Opening Welcome Meeting at UWP
Center for the Arts Concert Hall: 6:30 PM to 6:50 PM followed by rehearsal in regular locations (Cantabile will remain in CFA Hall).
September 23: Live Uniform Exchange in Doudna Hall lounge
September 30: Ice Cream Night @ 7:30pm in all choirs
November 11: Uniform Evaluation Night; come in complete uniform including socks, belts, tights, shoes, etc. See page 12.
November 18: All choirs rehearse at CFA on campus for Fall Concert.
December 2: All choirs rehearse at CFA on campus for UWP Gala.
December 9: All choirs rehearse at CFA on campus for Holiday Concert.
February 17: Invite a friend to rehearsal in all choirs (except ME)
March 16: Open Rehearsal; informal performance for all choirs including ME, parents/families welcome.
April 27: Vocal hearings for ME & some Choristers; first auditions.

Purchasing a new Land's End uniform: You may order by mail, phone or online: (Financial assistance may be available through PCC)

Online Ordering is available through www.landsend.com. Our School uniform code is 900129560. This number allows us to receive a small rebate on all items ordered, which is returned to the PCC program. When ordering by phone or mail or online, use item descriptions as above. Item numbers change from time to time however the descriptions remain constant. Note that our color is "blue" for shirts and dresses. Also note that PCC logos should be applied to ALL shirts and dresses. Previous "chambray blue" and non-logo items are acceptable. Costs are approximately: Apprentice Singers - \$45, Choristers - \$90, Cantabile - \$90.

Live Uniform Exchange on September 23rd:

During the second rehearsal of the season, a live exchange will be facilitated in the lounge of Doudna Hall.

To donate an item, bring it to the Doudna lounge at 6:30pm. Labels for size and donation information will be provided.

We have many previously owned donated uniform pieces in our "uniform closet;" if there are uniform pieces in your child's size, attending the uniform exchange may significantly reduce the cost of providing a concert uniform for your singer. To select a used item, come shortly after 6:30pm and check for availability of the item you need.

Uniform exchange will be facilitated by PCC parents. Contact information will be announced at the Welcome Meeting.

Obtaining a used uniform through email after PCC exchange:

After the live uniform exchange, you may contact Margaret Ruf (pcchoir1@gmail.com) if you have a specific item and size you need or wish to donate.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS:

(Check www.FACEBOOK.com/PlattevilleChildrensChoirs or www.pchorale.org after 4pm on Mondays)

Since many members of our choirs travel some distance to participate, PCC is sensitive to weather-related travel safety, and we usually cancel rehearsals/concerts if travel is questionable. You should **ALWAYS** check the website or Facebook page **after 4:00pm** to verify that rehearsal has been cancelled before travelling. Weather-related cancellations will not count toward your absence quota. If you should decide that travel is not acceptable for you but the PCC event is being held, this will count toward your semester absence quota unless otherwise announced.

WHAT YOU NEED FOR PCC:

Note that complete uniforms are needed by the November 11th regular rehearsal.

*Please contact the PCC administrator if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's uniform.

Provided:

T-Shirt (worn at all rehearsals and required on School Tour in April)

Black PCC music bag and all music: \$15 fee for loss or damage

Cantabile only: vests provided at concerts or on Cantabile Tour

You will need to provide:

(See more detailed information on website)

All Choirs: Nice-looking blue jeans (no holes!) for School Tour in April

Apprentice Singers:

Girls: light blue Lands' End mesh short sleeved polo dress with logo, black low heel closed toe shoes, opaque white tights

Boys: navy pants, light blue Lands' End mesh short sleeved polo shirt with logo, black shoes, black socks, black belt

Choristers:

Girls: blue plaid Lands' End A-line skirt, oxford blue Lands' End shirt with logo, black low heel closed toe shoes, opaque white tights

Boys: navy pants, light blue Lands' End mesh short sleeved polo shirt with logo, black shoes, black socks, black belt

Cantabile: (vests provided)

Girls: navy pleated Lands' End skirt, oxford blue Lands' End shirt with logo, black low heel closed toe shoes, flesh colored tights

Boys: navy pants, long sleeved oxford blue Lands' End shirt with logo, black shoes, black socks, black belt

*****Attendance at all concerts and tours is required.*****

(See policy on Pg. 10)

Fall Concert (\$)

Monday, November 25, 2019

Center for the Arts Hall, Advance Ticketing \$ (608) 342-1298

6:00pm; All singers report in uniforms

7:00pm; Concert with Platteville Chorale

University Holiday Gala Concert (\$)

Friday, December 6, 2019

Center for the Arts/UWP, Advance Ticketing (608) 342-1298

7:00pm; ALL singers report in concert uniforms

7:30pm; ALL Choirs Concert

Platteville Area Holiday Concert (free)

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Platteville Municipal Auditorium

6:00pm; ALL singers report in concert uniforms

7:00pm; ALL Choirs Concert

Spring Cantabile Tour

No tour this season; the next Cantabile Tour will be in Spring of 2021.

Spring School Day Tour

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

8:00am; All singers report in PCC t-shirts and blue jeans

(NO HOLES in School Day Tour clothing, please!!!)

3:00pm; Return location to be determined

Please report your singer's absence to his/her school.

Drop-off and pick-up locations are to be determined.

Spring Concert (\$)

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Platteville High School, General Seating (No Advance Ticketing)

12:15pm; All singers report in uniforms

1:30pm; Concert and Closing Ceremony

FEES, PAYMENT DATES, AND REFUND POLICIES

TUITION FEES FOR THE 2019-2020 SEASON

\$180 Apprentice Singers, Choristers, Cantabile; with multi family member discount of \$10 per additional members
Oldest singer in family pays full fee.
\$100 Music Explorers (spring only)

PAYMENT DUE DATE

Full payment and Letter of Agreement must be postmarked by Wednesday, August 21st, 2019.

Mail to:

Platteville Chorale, PO Box 344, Platteville, WI 53818

PAYMENT POLICY

PCC accepts personal & cashier checks, money orders, or cash for tuition payment. No Credit Card payments.
Payment arrangements different from the above plan must be confirmed by contacting the PCC Administrator..
If no payment or payment arrangements have been made by September 9th, the PCC member may be removed from the roster and their position assigned to another singer.

REFUND POLICY

Drop on or before Monday, September 9th, 2019: Refund of total tuition paid minus a \$20 fee.
Drop on Tuesday, September 10th, 2019 through Saturday, November 23rd, 2019: Half of tuition refunded.
Drop after Saturday, November 23rd, 2019: No refund.
At any time, if singer is dropped from the program due to attendance or conduct policy violation, no refunds will be given.
Music Explorers: Full refund given prior to Monday, January 20th, 2020. No refund following that date.

OTHER FEES AND EXPENSES

Concert Tickets: varying cost depending on event
Apprentice Singers Uniform: Approximately \$45 new, sometimes used uniforms are available via the uniform exchange between members.
Choristers Uniform: Approximately \$90 new, \$20 used by uniform exchange between members
Cantabile Uniform: Approximately \$90 new, \$20 used by uniform exchange between members; vest for Cantabile provided by PCC
(Black shoes, black belt, black socks, white tights, natural color hose additional)
Cantabile Tour: (not until Spring 2021): Approximately \$175 per singer with fundraising options available

What about Concert and Tour attendance?

Attendance is required at all PCC concerts and tours in which your choir is performing. A reason for absence from a concert must be given to the Administrative Assistant and your director as far in advance as possible. Failure to do so will be probable cause for dismissal from PCC. Following that notification, issues related to absences and participation determinations will be handled by the Platteville Children's Choir Administrative Committee composed of Directors and Administrative personnel. Sports practices and games are not considered reasonable excuses to miss a concert or tour.

Planning for the year

A worksheet on page 14 of the Family Guide can assist you in planning your attendance. Keep in mind that planned absences should be kept to a minimum to allow for unexpected conflicts. Please work as a family at the beginning of the year to set priorities regarding your extracurricular activities, family events, and school music activities. If you have a conflict, directors request you attend any part of the rehearsal you are able.

Who keeps track of absences?

The PCC staff carefully tracks absences, tardiness, and early departures from rehearsals to ensure everyone's safety and to ensure that PCC's absence policies are consistently and fairly enforced. It is the member's responsibility to check in with the attendance taker at the beginning of EVERY rehearsal. If the member must leave early or arrive late, it is his or her responsibility to let the director know in advance.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY MUSIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

As a PCC member, you are strongly encouraged to participate in your school choir/music program. School music programs provide regular singing technique/musicianship building, experience singing additional literature, the chance to learn from different music directors, additional singing opportunities (all-state groups, solo/ensemble festivals, tours, competitions, and musicals), opportunities for leadership, and the opportunity to serve as role models. Involvement in your school choir and the training and experience you gain there, along with the support you receive from your music director, will make you a stronger member of PCC. In turn, your school music program will benefit from the technical, musical, and leadership skills you develop as a PCC member. Our area music educators are an important part of the support network for PCC. We also encourage community music event participation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

PCC singers are required to attend all rehearsals, performances, and tours scheduled for their choir. Each singer holds a valuable place in the choir. Absences affect not only the individual singer's progress, but also that of the entire ensemble. PCC's attendance policy exists to ensure a safe and positive experience for all members. It is expected that all dates for rehearsals, performances, and tours will be placed on your yearly calendar as a priority commitment.

Why is attendance important?

In order to maintain standards of musical excellence, PCC requires a commitment to consistent and punctual attendance of rehearsals, performances, and special events by all of its members. Since the choir is a team with equal, balanced sections, absences and tardiness disrupt the progress and quality of rehearsal and performances.

How are absences handled?

Excused absences exceeding two (2) rehearsals per semester will be probable cause for dismissing the member from singing in the corresponding concert. The member will still be expected to attend all remaining rehearsals. Failure to do so will be probable cause for dismissal from the PCC program. Unexcused absences from a concert or tour will result in dismissal of the member from the program. Tardiness or leaving early will be noted, with every three (3) occurrences counted as a single absence.

How should I report an absence?

All planned absences must be reported to the Administrator at pcchoir1@gmail.com

AND the singer's director via email at least one week in advance of an absence.

Last minute absences due to illness or emergency should be emailed to the

Administrator at pcchoir1@gmail.com. Directors are not likely to be reached 30 minutes prior to rehearsal.

An electronic submission absence form can be found on the PCC website: pchorale.org

When reporting any absence, the following information must be included:

- 1) singer's name
- 2) singer's choir
- 3) best email address and phone number
- 4) date of absence
- 5) reason for absence (required)

Expect a phone call from the choir intern during rehearsal time if you do not follow the above procedure.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Platteville Chorale Board of Directors is dedicated to ensuring that PCC is affordable for every member. PCC encourages members with financial need to request a scholarship. Full and partial scholarships may be awarded, and amounts are awarded based on need, available funds, and the number of requests received. Scholarships are not based on musical merit. Submit your request verbally or in writing to Phillip Wagner, Chorale Board President. Requests are kept confidential.

FUNDRAISING

There are NO fundraising activities required or requested from singers in the program. Each year, tuition covers less than 60% of the cost of PCC programs. Concert ticket sales, donations, and community grants and support funds from the Platteville Chorale, Inc. make up the balance of the program costs. Since Platteville Children's Choir is an operation of the Platteville Chorale, Inc., you will be offered an opportunity to make a tax deductible donation to the Chorale in the fall. When additional Cantabile tour costs are required, an opportunity may be offered to its members for individual fundraising activities.

AUDITIONS, CHOIR ASSIGNMENTS, AND PROMOTIONS

MUSIC EXPLORERS

Children do not need to audition to participate in the Music Explorers. This choir helps children develop basic musical skills through singing, dancing, playing instruments, and improvising music. They are filled on a pre-paid basis. Currently, this program is open to 20 members. [HYPERLINK "http://www.pchorale.org/images/training-xylophone.jpg"](http://www.pchorale.org/images/training-xylophone.jpg) At the end of the program, students will be offered the opportunity to audition for entry into the Apprentice Singers or Choristers. Acceptance is dependent upon vocal and maturity levels.

AUDITIONS

All singers in the Platteville Children's Choir, except the Music Explorers, are admitted by audition. Singers in grades 1 through 7 may audition. Those who are members of the choir may remain in the program until they complete grade 8 without re-auditioning. Auditions are held in the early May each year. Those accepted into the Choir must sign a contract with the choir stating their understanding and agreement with the expectations of the choir. PCC is a choral music education organization; children are taught how to sing as a choral ensemble, not as soloists. Potential singers are often recommended by their school music teacher.

The directors who hold auditions are music educators who know and love children, are kind and gentle, and will be very supportive. A parent or guardian may accompany the singer for the audition at the discretion of the singer, but siblings and friends are not allowed in the room. At the audition, the directors will have the child sing some familiar songs with and without piano accompaniment and will check the singer's voice range. The total audition is about 10 minutes long. No preparation for the audition is required. However, it is useful for the singer to practice singing with someone, become comfortable singing by themselves, and practice singing their own part in a round like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." The directors will rate the singer's ability to match pitch, remember rhythms, read with fluency, follow instructions, and read music. They will also observe the singer's breath support, posture, vocal technique, and tonal memory. This does not mean the singer must be greatly advanced in any of these areas, but it does help the teacher know in which areas learning is required and helps with proper choir placement.

The most important qualities children need to participate in PCC are an ability to match pitch, a clear and pleasant singing voice, ability to read, and a love of singing! Parents/guardians of singers who audition will receive a written notice or an email giving the audition results and possible choir placement for your child.

PROMOTIONS

The Platteville Children's Choir program consists of up to 130 children in four groups. Each choir differs in the singers' ability and experience, generally based on age and grade level. Progression from choir to choir is based mainly on vocal skill level. Commitment, behavior, and musical knowledge are also considered.

The Music Explorers will schedule group vocal hearings for all singers at the conclusion of the season. Advancement to the performing choirs will be determined based upon this hearing and observations throughout the season.

The Apprentice Singers' Director makes promotion decisions based upon observation of the singers during the choir season.

The Choristers Director will schedule individual vocal hearings for recommended singers at the conclusion of the season. Advancement to Cantabile will be determined based upon this hearing and observations throughout the season.

PCC CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the Platteville Children's Choir, members are "ambassadors" for the entire organization and behavior reflects upon the entire group. Members are expected to use good manners, display common courtesy, show consideration for others, and respect the staff and facilities. Members understand that a successful PCC experience requires a cohesive group wherein each individual accepts and follows the same standards of behavior. PCC is dedicated to educating a diverse population of young singers. PCC affirms its commitment to a community in which all students and staff are accepted as individuals.

1. Members will respect the guidance and authority of the PCC staff at all times
2. It is a privilege for PCC to use the facilities of the University of Wisconsin – Platteville and the First English Lutheran Church. Members will respect these facilities as guests.
3. Members will be required to act appropriately during rehearsals. Although the directors acknowledge the appropriate energy and enthusiasm children are known for, if a member disrupts the musical process with inappropriate behavior, the directors will act to modify that behavior with verbal warnings, time away from the ensemble and/or removal for the rehearsal followed by parent conference prior to readmission to rehearsal. Two such instances may result in permanent dismissal from the choir.
4. Members are expected to arrive at choir events on time, having used the restroom just prior to rehearsal. Members should bring a water bottle and a pencil to rehearsal.
5. **Cell phones and other electronic equipment must be turned off during rehearsals. No texting is allowed.**

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