



CHOIR ASSESSMENT Frequently Asked Questions 2018-2019

Choristers, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir Chorale: Men's Choir, Women's Choir

➤ **What is Tacoma Youth Chorus?**

Tacoma Youth Chorus is a choral arts education program for boys and girls, kindergarten through high school, where kids develop and grow their passion for music as they interact with audiences and one another through rehearsals, music sharings, concerts and touring. For 27 years, Tacoma Youth Chorus has inspired young singers through the joy of music, carrying that joy and passion into adulthood. Singers learn the values of respect and hard work and, in turn, inspire those around them. But more than anything, Tacoma Youth Chorus is a place for kids to be themselves and have fun with music!

➤ **What choirs are currently available?**

Our program consists of an introduction to choral music class (nonperformance) and the six choirs listed below, each dedicated to providing a rich and rewarding education:

Music Makers: grades K-1 in Fall (nonperformance)

Choristers: grades 2-3 in Fall

Concert Choir: grades 4-5 in Fall

Chamber Choir: grades 6-7-8 in Fall

Women's Choir: grades 9-12 in Fall*

Men's Choir: grades 9-12 in Fall*

Connie Schmidt, Teacher

Connie Schmidt, Director

Leann Conley-Holcom, Director

Judy Herrington, Director

Judy Herrington, Director

Alonso Brizuela, Director

**Chorale is created by combining the Women's and Men's Choirs and directed by Judy Herrington.*

➤ **What is the teaching and performing season?**

Rehearsals begin in September and end mid-June; they are held at Charles Wright Academy in University Place. Several major concert events are sponsored by Tacoma Youth Chorus during the year and are held throughout the South Puget Sound region at a variety of locations, including Lagerquist Hall (PLU), Kilworth Chapel (UPS), and churches. In addition, choirs of Tacoma Youth Chorus are invited to perform with numerous organizations, including Symphony Tacoma, Tacoma Opera, and other professional music organizations.

➤ **What is involved in an audition/assessment (grades 2-12)?**

The assessment is designed to be a learning experiences -- for the director to learn about the singer and for the singer to learn new skills. During an assessment, the singer will be asked to match pitch, sing melodic phrases, broken triads, and scales. Although these concepts will be explained and taught during the assessment, it may be helpful for a student to ask his or her music teacher to spend some time practicing these skills. All singers are taught a new song during the assessment. Advanced applicants may wish to bring a solo, but it is not required. We are looking for young musicians who match pitch, are highly motivated, and demonstrate a willingness to work with others and the director.

➤ **Should the parent attend the assessment?**

Parents are asked to attend the assessment to learn how we work with young musicians and to appreciate the work of their child.

➤ **What criteria will be checked for admission to Tacoma Youth Chorus?**

To insure the best musical and education experience for our singers we check for matching pitch as well as appropriate behavior (positive attitude, willingness to take coach and focused attention. Families make a

tremendous effort to provide this opportunity for their children, and it is important that rehearsals and performances are a worthwhile experience for everyone.

➤ **What kind of musical training is required for admission?**

There is no specified requirement; however, training through school or church choir programs is very valuable. Lesson experience on an instrument is helpful but not required.

➤ **When will families be notified regarding acceptance?**

Singers are notified at the time of their audition. If a child has difficulty during the audition, the identified concerns will be addressed immediately, and a plan will be discussed with the parent.

➤ **What should I do if my child is not accepted?**

We recognize that it can be difficult for a child to sing for a person they have just met; if a child is especially nervous it may affect their performance. If so, a follow-up assessment may be scheduled. When specific skills are in need of improvement, it is expected that the child will practice these skills before re-auditioning.

➤ **What kind of literature is taught?**

Music literature is varied for each choir level. Singers will experience music of the "classical" tradition, folk song arrangements, foreign languages, sacred and secular texts.

➤ **Do members of the choirs wear uniforms?**

Yes! We wear formal and casual uniforms. Our goal for uniforms is to have a clothing combination that is reasonably priced. It also needs to fit the variety of sizes inherent in a group of young people aged 7 to 18 years, and to make an attractive group presentation. Complete uniform information is provided to families during the summer.

➤ **What are the costs and what do they cover?**

Tuition is paid monthly and helps cover expenses directly related to concerts, rehearsals, classroom materials, music, accompanists, rehearsals, and our award-winning directors and musicians. **Financial aid (need-based scholarships) is available; no child is ever turned away for inability to afford our program.** An annual fee is also assessed at the time of registration to help defray administrative expenses. For more information about costs, please visit the following link: [Costs & Tuition Policy page](#).

➤ **Where can I get more information about Tacoma Youth Chorus?**

Our website www.tacomayouthchorus.org has information about our program, including our extraordinary artistic staff, choirs, concerts, values, and other things that may be of interest to you. Phone calls are always welcome at our office (253-588-1391) or contact the director by e-mail or phone.