

ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH
CHOIRS

MEMBER
HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION TO ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIRS

WELCOME

Welcome to Angelica Cantanti! We are happy to welcome your family into the Angelica Cantanti organization, and hope this handbook will answer any questions you may have. For more information about Angelica, and for the most up-to-date information about the current season, please visit our website at www.angelicacantanti.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

Angelica Cantanti gives young choral musicians a complete premier musical experience by providing quality music instruction, furthering artistic excellence in choral performance, developing teamwork, and fostering the social and personal growth of its members.

HISTORY

Angelica Cantanti began in 1980 as a class at the Bloomington Art Center. Bloomington resident Jeanne Mortenson developed the choir. The director and accompanist was Semyon Rosin, a Russian immigrant. During Mr. Rosin's four years, Angelica had one choir with 30-50 singers.

Currently, Angelica boasts four excellent choirs for up to 200 singers in grades 2-12. Musical staff this season includes Rita Docter, director of Con Brio Choir; Ann Schrooten, director of Cantabile Choir; Nancy Grundahl, director of Concert Choir; and Philip Brown, director of Cantanti Chamber Singers.

Performing highlights over Angelica's past seasons have included joint ventures with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Dale Warland Singers, the Apollo Men's Chorus, the University of Minnesota's Orchestra, the Bloomington Symphony with Tony Sandler, the Minnesota Chorale, and Cantus. We have performed for the American Choral Directors Association State and Regional Conferences and have sung on "A Prairie Home Companion," Garrison Keillor's radio show, most recently in June 2001.

In June of 2007 the Concert Choir went on tour to Vermont and performed at the von Trapp family lodge in Stowe, Vermont. In 2004 Concert Choir toured and performed in San Francisco, and in 2001 performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Cantanti Singers has toured in Australia and in Europe several times. In 2000, Singers toured in England where they had the opportunity to work with composer John Rutter. In 2004, Cantanti Singers toured in Italy and had the honor of performing in Spoleto and working with composer Gian Carlo Menotti.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Angelica Cantanti is a non-profit organization supported primarily by tuition, individual donations, fund-raising, grants, and performance fees. We also receive funds from the City of Bloomington as a member of the Fine Arts Council. Other members of the Fine Arts Council include the Bloomington Art Center, the Medalist Concert Band, the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, the Bloomington Civic Theater, the Continental Ballet Company, the Note-Able Singers, and the Bloomington Chorale.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Performance opportunities for the choirs are many and varied. Traditionally, we have two major concerts in which all of the choirs perform together: the Winter Concert in December and the Spring Concert in May.

In February or March, we sometimes present a “Musical Adventures” concert, in which the choirs have the opportunity to perform with an outside musician or musical group.

Each choir will also give several performances individually. Opportunities exist to sing locally, nationally, and internationally. Because the Con Brio and Cantabile choirs are preparatory groups, they do not perform as often as the other choirs.

TOURING

Sharing our music is a way of sharing our lives in a positive way. Angelica believes that traveling broadens a singer’s understanding of the cultures and people of the world, and gives greater understanding and appreciation of one’s own cultural heritage. The special bonding that occurs among the singers while on tour also contributes to their growth as young men and women and enhances their performances.

- Cantabile Choir goes on a weekend tour in April. As a preparatory choir, they travel short distances and may stay overnight one or two nights.
- Concert Choir and Cantanti Singers may go on major tours (traveling nationally or internationally), but often go on smaller tours.

The major national and international tours are approved and organized by the staff and Board of Directors. Tour payment is the responsibility of each singer. Fund-raising opportunities are available through the choir. Non-participation in a major tour will not exclude any singer from any choir.

SNOW DAYS

Each year in January, all of the Angelica Cantanti choirs (except Con Brio Choir) participate in the “Snow Days” weekend retreat. During this retreat, the singers stay at a camp in dormitories with parent chaperones and spend time in bonding activities, rehearsals – both individual and mass,-- and outdoor games. The singers arrive by bus on Friday night and leave on Sunday

afternoon. Often, a guest artist is brought in to work with the singers throughout the Snow Days weekend.

Many of our “alumni” cite the Snow Days weekends as their favorite experiences as members of Angelica Cantanti!

The Snow Days retreat has two main benefits:

1. The singers have a chance to bond with the fellow members of their choir and to meet singers from younger and older choirs.
2. The singers learn music at an accelerated pace in intensive, yet relaxed and informal rehearsals.

ANGELICA CANTANTI CHOIRS

CANTANTI CHAMBER SINGERS

Director: Philip Brown

Accompanist: Jennifer Hartsell

Ages: Grades 9-12

Rehearsals: Sundays 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard

Philosophy: The Cantanti Chamber Singers, through the study and performance of a wide variety of literature, strive to perform choral music to the highest artistic standards. This includes works of many genres: sacred, secular, classical, pop; works of many cultures: African, Native American, Asian, etc.; and works of many styles: accompanied, a cappella, major choral works, shorter motets/art songs. Singers will continue to study the basics of music and singing with sight-reading, vocal techniques, and language pronunciation drills in every rehearsal. Cantanti Chamber Singers participate in national and international tours. Through the intense study and performance of our art, our primary goal is to share our hearts and minds with each other and our audience, ultimately making a positive impact on the world in which we live.

CONCERT CHOIR

Director: Nancy Grundahl

Accompanist: Sandy Enstrom

Ages: Grades 6-8

Rehearsals: Mondays and Thursdays 4:15 to 6:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard

Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road

Philosophy: The Concert Choir strives to take treble choral singing to the highest level. During 3½ hours of rehearsal each week, the singers have time to work on vocal technique as well as note-learning, ensemble singing, and communicating emotion through music. Singing in other languages is a part of this format. Songs from around the world as well as classic and sacred pieces from all genres of music are found in the repertoire of this choir to make the singers and audience aware of the diversity and commonality of our world. There is always a place for tunes from the jazz and musical theater idiom on Concert Choir programs. These programs (as many as 12-15 per year) always aim to delight and inspire an audience.

CANTABILE CHOIR

Director: Ann Schrooten

Accompanist: Jeffrey Patry

Ages: Grades 4-6

Rehearsals: Mondays 4:15 to 5:45 p.m.
St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard

CON BRIO CHOIR

Director: Rita Docter

Accompanist: Jane Horn

Ages: Grades 2-4

Rehearsals: Tuesdays 4:45 to 5:45 p.m.
St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard

Philosophy of Cantabile and Con Brio Choirs: The younger choirs of Angelica Cantanti are preparatory groups. The main purpose of these choirs is to learn to sing beautifully and correctly using the best of choral literature from a variety of cultures. Performance opportunities can help the groups achieve this goal, but it is the learning that goes on in the weekly rehearsals that is most important. To sing beautifully and correctly, singers learn proper posture, correct breathing to produce a free floated tone and sensitively shaped phrases, good diction and articulation, how to release tension in the body, and how to listen and blend. Other important objectives for the singers are to learn to focus and concentrate on all aspects of music-making; to work as a well-disciplined, caring team; to learn to read music; to become aware of music history, musical styles, and the place of music in various cultures; and to become aware of the power of music as a form of expression.

Con Brio Choir will first sing mainly in unison; then rounds, canons, partner songs, and simple harmony will be added to the repertoire.

Cantabile Choir will sing some unison music. Two-part songs and songs with simple three-part harmonies will be added to the Cantabile Choir repertoire to bring the above objectives to a higher level.

AUDITIONS

NEW MEMBERS

1. Auditions for new members are held primarily in the spring and summer, although auditions are available throughout the year, depending on the number of singers in each choir.
2. Open rehearsals are scheduled each spring (March and April) for new singers to come and listen to a rehearsal before deciding whether to sign up for an audition.
3. Parents are given an application form to fill out at the audition. A \$35 registration fee is due at the audition. This fee is refundable only if we are unable to offer the singer a position in any of our choirs.
4. Auditions for Con Brio and Cantabile Choirs take about 10 minutes and are very informal. During the audition, singers are asked to do some or all of the following:
 - Sing a few exercises to find out how high and how low they can sing.
 - Listen to some very short tunes, usually from 3 to 10 notes, and then sing them back.
 - Sing *Are You Sleeping* and clap a short pattern along with it.
 - Sing a short solo – usually *My Country Tis of Thee*, *Happy Birthday*, or a song of the singer's own choosing.
5. Concert Choir and Cantanti Chamber Singer auditions include sight-reading, tonal memory, and rhythm.
6. The age/grade levels listed for each choir are meant as a guideline. Singers may be placed in other choirs at the director's discretion based on audition results.
7. Directors determine placement based solely on the singer's age, audition results, and musical experience. **Musical ability** is the most important criterion considered when evaluating all prospective singers.

Word-of-mouth is one of the best ways for other parents and singers to find out about our organization. If you know anyone who is interested in auditioning for Angelica Cantanti, please refer them to our web site at www.angelicacantanti.org or have them contact the Choir Manager at manager@angelicacantanti.org.

RETURNING MEMBERS

1. All choir members receive a registration letter in April or May along with instructions for auditioning for the next season. If singers wish to return as members of the same choir or wish to audition to advance to another choir, they should return their registration form with a check for the \$35 registration fee by the deadline given. The registration fee helps defray the cost of auditions, administration, and mailings for the next season.
2. Returning Con Brio, Cantabile, and Concert Choir members who wish to sing in the same choir again the next year do not re-audition.
3. Cantanti Chamber Singers re-audition each year. Returning Cantanti Chamber Singers are not guaranteed a position in the choir for the coming year. Placements are based on audition results, the singer's work habits and behavior, and attendance.
4. Auditions for returning singers who wish to advance to another choir are also held in the spring. Promotion to the next choir is not automatic. Singers are notified when audition sign-up sheets will be available during rehearsals.
5. Con Brio Choir members who are going into fourth or fifth grade may audition for Cantabile for the next year. Cantabile members who are going into sixth or seventh grade may audition for Concert Choir. Concert Choir members who are going into ninth grade may audition for Cantanti Chamber Singers.
6. Singers trying out for Concert Choir may be placed in Cantabile, depending on their age, audition results, and the number of openings available in each choir.
7. Auditions for Concert Choir and Cantanti Chamber Singers include sight-reading, tonal memory, and rhythm.
8. Directors determine promotion based on the singer's age, audition results, and musical experience. ***Musical ability*** is the most important criterion considered when evaluating all returning singers. The directors also take into account work habits; responsibility as demonstrated through rehearsal and performance attendance, punctuality, appropriate behavior, diligence in learning music, and general maturity for the age level.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All Angelica Cantanti singers

1. Attend all rehearsals and performances, including minor tours and Snow Days, except in the case of illness or family emergency. Each director has his or her own procedure for notifying singers of attendance issues. Singers who have continued poor attendance may be asked to leave the choir.
2. Arrive on time and stay until the end of each rehearsal or performance. Singers who arrive late or leave early miss important rehearsal time and disrupt the rehearsal for the other singers.
3. Submit a completed “Absence Form” at least one week in advance for any absences known in advance, such as conflicts with school events, family trips, etc. If a singer must be absent from a performance, an absence form should be submitted as early as possible. Two copies of the absence form are distributed to each singer at the first rehearsal. Please request extra copies as needed from the choir coordinators.
4. Report absences because of illness or family emergency to one of the *choir coordinators* on the same day as the rehearsal or performance, if possible.
5. Inform their director if they decide to drop out of choir before the end of the season. Singers should turn in their music at that time. Any paid tuition or fund-raising profits will be forfeited.

PERFORMANCES DURING SCHOOL HOURS

There may be a concert performance that occurs during school hours. Although it is highly encouraged that all singers attend every performance, it is up to the best judgment of the parents whether a singer should be taken out of school to attend the performance.

BAD WEATHER

Rehearsals are canceled on a case-by-case basis when the weather is bad or threatening. Conditions are monitored during the day and a decision about whether to cancel rehearsals is made in the early afternoon.

When rehearsals are canceled, every effort is made to notify singers by e-mail. Cancellation information is posted on the website at www.angelicacantanti.org.

In case of bad weather, check the web site at
www.angelicacantanti.org

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

All Angelica Cantanti singers

1. Arrive on time, prepared to sing at each rehearsal. Singers should arrive 5-10 minutes early to put their music in order.
2. Bring their music folder and any forms that are due to each rehearsal. Singers should not bring books, toys, etc. into rehearsals.
3. Keep cell phones turned off and in a pocket or purse during rehearsal. Choir Coordinators may ask to collect cell phones at the beginning of rehearsal.
4. Refrain from eating, chewing gum, or bringing beverages to rehearsals.
5. Refrain from wearing any kind of hat at rehearsals.
6. Respect the rehearsal sites. Singers do not run around the site, touch anything that does not belong to them, or leave trash behind them.
7. Use the rest room prior to rehearsal.
8. Use the lobby telephone only to contact their parents to check on rides or in case of emergency.
9. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Continued disruptive behavior will result in the singer being asked to leave the choir.

PARENTS/SIBLINGS WAITING FOR SINGERS

Parents are always welcome to stay and wait during rehearsals. For the safety and security of singers, parents, and siblings, please

- Respect the door monitor and respond to any questions he or she may have. The monitor is there for the safety and security of everyone in the building.
- Refrain from waiting in the lobby or halls. The lobby and hallways are fire lanes as well as traffic areas for other activities in the facility.
- Feel welcome to sit in and listen to rehearsals. Please sit in the back, and if you have a cell phone, turn it off or set it to vibrate. Please step out of the rehearsal space to answer calls.

- Keep younger siblings/other children outside of rehearsal spaces. Parents with accompanying children may wait in the room set aside for them. This room provides a safe and secure space for children and parents to wait in.
- Supervise all waiting children at all times, including in the rest rooms.
- Refrain from bringing food or beverages. Water fountains are available.
- Use the telephones in the building only for emergencies.

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

For performances, all Angelica Cantanti singers

1. Read the Concert Detail Sheet, which is distributed at a rehearsal before each performance. Concert Detail Sheets are always posted on the Angelica website. (See the “Concert Detail Sheet” information on the next page.)
2. Eat a nutritious meal and get plenty of rest before a performance. Use the rest room prior to arrival at the performance site.
3. Wear the uniform specified on the Concert Detail Sheet. The uniform should be neat, clean, and complete.
4. Know the music for the performance.
5. Arrive at the performance site by the call time specified on the Concert Detail Sheet. This may be an hour or more in advance of the performance time.
6. Notify one of the choir coordinators of any medication given to the singer less than three hours before the performance.
7. Respect the performance sites. Please do not run around the site, touch anything that does not belong to you, or leave trash behind.
8. Behave appropriately during the entire performance. Singers watch the director while they are singing and listen respectfully to the other performers. Singers do not talk during performances.

IF YOU FEEL ILL DURING A PERFORMANCE

If a singer feels ill during a performance, he or she should sit down quietly on the riser and rest for the remainder of the song. If the singer does not feel better at the end of the song, he or she should leave the stage. The choir coordinators are always watching and are ready to help.

One of our goals during our performances is to teach our singers appropriate formal concert behavior. We ask parents to help by respecting the same guidelines. Please refrain from using cell phones, flash photography, or videotaping. Leave or enter the performance site only during the pauses between musical selections.

CONCERT DETAIL SHEET

The Concert Detail Sheet is used to announce the details of each performance. The sheets are always printed on goldenrod-colored paper and are distributed at the rehearsal prior to each performance. Please check your singer's folder for these forms and review them carefully. Concert Detail Sheets are always posted on the Angelica website for your reference.

The following is an example of the information that might be included on a Concert Detail Sheet:

NAME OF CONCERT	Concert with Minnetonka Youth Choir and the Land O'Lakes Boy Choir
CHOIR(S) PERFORMING	Concert
DATE AND TIME	Saturday, May 22 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION	St. Therese of Deephaven 18323 Minnetonka Boulevard Directions: Take 494 west from Bloomington to Minnetonka Boulevard. Take the Minnetonka Boulevard exit. At the stoplight, turn right and head west on Minnetonka Boulevard. Stay on Minnetonka Boulevard until you reach the church.
CALL TIME	6:30 p.m. We will meet in our assigned call room. (Someone will be at the door to direct you.)
UNIFORM	Formal (Concert Choir formal uniform: White shirt with blue vest, black skirt, and <u>black tights</u> for girls; white shirt with blue vest, black pants, and black socks for boys. Black dress shoes for all singers – no patent leather. Formal uniform includes dark blue Angelica pin with bars worn on the left side of the vest. <u>No visible hair ornaments allowed. NO jewelry other than small stud earrings allowed. This includes bracelets, watches, etc.</u> Singers will be asked to remove excessive jewelry and give it to the choir coordinators. It will be returned after the concert.)
PICK-UP TIME	9:30 (approximate) Parents, please plan to attend the concert. There may be an admission fee.
REHEARSAL(S)	None
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	Do not bring music folders.

DROPPING OFF & PICKING UP SINGERS

For the safety of the singers, please follow the rules for dropping off and picking up singers. All rehearsals and performances are in buildings open to the public.

The following are the Angelica Cantanti rules for dropping off and picking up singers for rehearsals and performances:

1. Singers cannot be dropped off more than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled rehearsal or call time. There is no guarantee the director or coordinators will be there earlier and singers could be unsupervised.
2. Singers must be picked up no later than 15 minutes after a rehearsal or performance ends. Parents who know they are going to be late must make every effort to contact a friend, relative, or parent of another choir member to pick up the singers.
3. Singers will not be left alone at a rehearsal or performance site if parents are late. The choir coordinators will use the singer's Medical Release Form to attempt to contact parents at home or by cell phone. If they cannot contact the parents, they will call the alternate names provided on the form.
4. Singers who leave early from a rehearsal (with the exception of Cantanti Chamber Singers) will not be released until a parent comes into the rehearsal site (sanctuary, fellowship hall, etc.) to get them. It is not always possible for a coordinator to leave rehearsal and singers will not be permitted to wait for a parent alone.

MASS REHEARSALS

Singers in different choirs may have separate arrival times. Parents who are bringing younger singers with older siblings more than 15 minutes before their scheduled arrival time should come into the church with the younger singers and wait until their choir coordinators arrive. Younger singers are not allowed into the rehearsal area before their scheduled time.

In the event that an emergency or unexpected situation keeps you from picking up your child on time, please make every effort to arrange for a friend or relative to pick them up.

MUSIC FOLDERS

All Angelica Cantanti singers

1. Are issued a numbered folder of music at the beginning of the season. That number is on all the music in the folder and any music (except Xerox copies) added during the season. All music is returned at the end of the season.
2. Bring their music folders to every rehearsal.
3. Are responsible for taking care of their music. Be careful not to let it get crumpled, torn, stained, or lost. Extra copies may not be available.
4. Are sent home with important information in their folders. Please check your singer's folder after each rehearsal.
5. Make a \$25 music deposit, which is due the first day of rehearsal. This check is held and cashed *only* if a singer does not return all of his or her music at the end of the season. If the music is returned, the check is destroyed by the Choir Manager. Singers may be charged per item for missing pieces of music.

TUITION

It is the goal of the Angelica Cantanti Board of Directors and staff to make participating in one of our choirs feasible for any singer, regardless of financial status. Our tuition policies and procedures are designed to both make it feasible for any singer to participate and to meet our financial goals and responsibilities. Please review the following tuition policies and procedures.

REGISTRATION FEES

Prospective new members pay a \$35 registration fee when auditioning for Angelica Cantanti. If we cannot offer the singer a position with an Angelica Cantanti choir, this fee is returned. Otherwise, it is nonrefundable.

Returning members pay a \$35 registration fee when they register for the next year. This fee is separate from tuition and is nonrefundable. Singers pay this fee whether they plan to remain in the same choir or wish to audition to advance to another choir. The fee is paid prior to auditioning.

Note: The registration fee covers the administrative costs of holding auditions, processing applications, determining rosters, and preparing and mailing acceptance letters.

TUITION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Tuition amounts vary by choir and are based on number of hours the choir rehearses per week and the level of instruction. Tuition payments and scholarship forms are mailed to the Choir Manager. Please do not give tuition payments or scholarship forms to the directors or choir coordinators. All questions or concerns about tuition should be referred to the Choir Manager.

Tuition Payment Options

- 1) Lump Sum: Lump sum payments are due no later than the first rehearsal date. A “mail by” date will be given in your tuition statement.
- 2) Installment Plan: If your financial situation warrants it, you may request to pay tuition in 3 installments. You are given payment coupons that tell you when the payments are due.
- 3) Scholarships: Based on financial need, you may request a scholarship using our Financial Assistance form.

It is your responsibility to keep track of your payments and make your payments on time.

Note: Money from a singer’s individual fund-raising account can be used to pay tuition. (See the “Fund-raising” section for more information.)

Participation in Rehearsals

Before the first rehearsal date, parents who have not made their tuition payment in full, returned a scholarship form, or have not contacted the Choir Manager about installment payments are notified that their singer cannot participate in rehearsals until payment is received in full.

Payment Receipts

You are mailed a tuition receipt when you have paid your tuition in full or your scholarship request has been approved.

Tuition Refunds

The board has approved the following tuition refund policy for those who notify the Choir Manager in writing that they have decided not to participate in an Angelica Cantanti choir after already paying tuition:

- 1) If you notify us prior to your first rehearsal, you will receive a refund of the amount of tuition paid minus \$50.00.
- 2) If you notify us after your first rehearsal and before the second rehearsal, you will receive a refund of the amount of tuition paid minus \$100.
- 3) If you notify us after your second rehearsal, but before October 1, you will receive a refund of the amount of tuition paid minus \$150.
- 4) After October 1, no tuition will be refunded.

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR THE YEAR

	CANTANTI SINGERS	CONCERT CHOIR	CANTABILE CHOIR	CON BRIO CHOIR
Registration	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35
Tuition	\$540	\$635	\$475	\$405
Uniforms* (estimate)	Women/Men: \$101- \$145	Girls/Boys: \$66	Girls/Boys: \$55-\$65	Girls/Boys: \$55-\$65
Snow Days	\$115-\$125	\$115-\$125	\$115-\$125	N/A

*Uniform prices reflect the cost of new uniforms. Families may have the opportunity to purchase used uniforms. (See the "Uniforms" section for more information.)

UNIFORMS

GROOMING POLICIES

It is important that what our singers wear and how they appear does not distract the audience during a performance. Singers who are wearing inappropriate items will be asked to remove them for the performance.

All Angelica Cantanti singers

1. Wear the uniform specified on the Concert Detail Sheet. The uniform must be neat, clean, and complete. Singers who are in the incorrect uniform or who are inappropriately dressed may have to sit out the performance.
2. Wear black or navy tights (for girls) as indicated for each choir.
3. Wear black dress shoes with the formal uniform, and do not wear clogs, sneakers, sandals, or combat boot-like shoes. Loafers are acceptable.
4. Wear the informal polo shirt tucked-in with the top button unbuttoned. Wear a black belt, if needed with the informal uniform.
5. Wear the Angelica Cantanti pin and bars on the formal uniform. Wear the pin on the left side. Do not wear the pin and bars with the informal uniform shirt.
6. Wear their hair simply, and not hanging in the singer's face. Barrettes and headbands may be worn if they are close to the same color as the singer's hair. Do not wear bright colors or adornments such as flowers, ribbons, bows, etc. that will stand out from the hair.
7. Wear no other jewelry except for small pierced earrings.
8. Do not use perfume or cologne, or highly scented products such as lotion, hair spray/gel, etc. during a rehearsal, performance, or during Snow Days and tours. These may cause other people to have allergic reactions and asthma attacks.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS/DESCRIPTIONS

Each singer is required to have both a formal and informal uniform. The uniform required for each performance will be listed on the Concert Detail Sheet.

For the most up-to-date information on uniforms, such as what is required by each choir, how to order new uniforms, the used uniform sale, uniform costs, and vendor information, please go to the website at www.angelicacantanti.org.

PARENTAL SUPPORT/ VOLUNTEERING/FUND-RAISING

PARENTAL SUPPORT

Parental and family support is extremely important. The directors are responsible for the artistic excellence of the choirs. At times it may be difficult to understand the demands made to achieve this goal. However, the directors ask that all parents support them in their quest for excellence by doing the following:

1. Reviewing and adhering to the attendance, rehearsal, and performance policies.
2. Working with singers on music at home if necessary.
3. Helping singers make time for CD listening.
4. Checking the singer's folder after each rehearsal for special announcements, schedules, Concert Detail Sheets, etc. Parents can also check the web site for current schedules, etc.
5. Being financially responsible by making all tuition/tour/fund-raiser payments on time.
6. Being an active volunteer in the Angelica Cantanti organization.

USE OF SINGERS' IMAGES

Angelica Cantanti uses parent volunteers and professional photographers and videographers to help us compile photographs and video for publicity purposes. Any of our singers' images may be used for publicity purposes in pictures or videos, either for the Angelica Cantanti organization as a whole or for individual choirs. We will never identify a singer by name, address, phone number, or any other personal identification information.

If you do not want your child's image used in any publicity photographs or videos, you must notify the Choir Manager in writing.

VOLUNTEERING

Angelica Cantanti is a non-profit, volunteer-supported organization. The participation of singers' parents and families is vital to our success. Volunteer opportunities are numerous and diverse, including fund-raisers, choir coordinators, ushers, and work on special projects, among many others. The Director of Volunteers coordinates all volunteer efforts and welcomes all interested parents to help keep the choir going and growing.

All parents are expected to sign up for two or more volunteer opportunities. If their circumstances make this difficult, parents have the option of making a donation in lieu of volunteering.

All parents should complete the Volunteer Form and turn it in at the Back to Choir Night. Extra copies may be downloaded from the website or requested from the Choir Manager.

FUND-RAISING

Fund-raising in the Angelica Cantanti organization is done on three levels:

CORPORATE

Each parent should be an advocate of searching out corporate contributions and foundation grants. Many companies offer their employees matching funds for their personal contributions.

GENERAL

Angelica Cantanti is always looking for new ideas to raise money for the general choir fund. If any parents have suggestions for general fund-raising activities, please contact a board member.

PERSONAL

Singers may participate in many personal fund-raising efforts throughout the season. Singers are under no pressure or obligation to do personal fund-raising. It is simply a way for a singer to reduce out-of-pocket expenses. If a singer chooses to participate in fund-raising, the money he or she earns is held in escrow in the individual singer's account. The following policies apply to individual fund-raising:

1. Information on personal fund-raisers is distributed at rehearsals.
2. Fund-raising orders must be turned in on time and include complete payment.
3. Funds from individual accounts may be used to pay for tuition, touring costs, and for social and educational functions such as Snow Days. Funds from individual accounts cannot be used for uniforms or for tour spending money.
4. It is the singer's or parents' responsibility to inform the Choir Manager or Finance Officer when they wish to use funds from this account.

5. Only funds that are currently in the individual singer's account may be charged against. Singers may not charge over that amount on the premise that they have money earned, but not yet credited, or that they will be earning the money in future fund-raising activities.
6. Account statements are sent out at the beginning of each season. If parents have questions about any portion of the statement, it is their responsibility to notify the Finance Officer.
7. Funds left in an individual fund-raising account when a singer leaves the choir are transferred to the choir's general fund, unless the singer has requested an account hold. (See #8 below.) These funds cannot be paid out in cash to the singer and they cannot be transferred to another singer unless it is a sibling.
8. Singers who leave the choir may request to have their funds placed on hold for a maximum of one year by completing an Account Hold Request form. If the singer has not returned to the choir at the end of that year, the money is transferred to the choir's general fund. All singers who leave the choir receive an exit letter with instructions for obtaining an Account Hold Request form.

FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES

All fund-raising profits go directly into the singer's individual account unless otherwise noted on the fund-raising information letter. If you have any questions about fund-raising, please contact the Director of Volunteers.

The following are fund-raisers that may be offered this year, provided coordinators and sufficient volunteers are found to help. More may be added during the year. Please see the flyers distributed at rehearsal for cost and profit figures, instructions, and names of fund-raiser chairpersons.

Concession Sales

Target Center Concessions: Opportunities to work at the Target Center are available all year long. Notify the Choir Manager if you would like to be added to the email distribution list about upcoming events and opportunities.

Product Sales:

Wreaths: Orders due in October. Distributed in late November.

Poinsettias: Orders due in October. Distributed in early December.

Plant/Gift Certificate Sale: Orders due in March. Distributed in May.

ANGELICA CANTANTI STAFF

DIRECTORS

Philip Brown: Mr. Brown joined Angelica Cantanti in the fall of 2009 as the director of the Cantanti Chamber Singers. Mr. Brown graduated magna cum laude from Bethany College (Lindsborg, Kansas) in May 2001, majoring in vocal performance and K-12 music education. He is presently finishing his M.M. degree in Music Teaching from Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, Arizona).

Mr. Brown is now entering his eighth year of public school teaching and is honored to teach the students at Hopkins High School. Before arriving at Hopkins High School, he started teaching in Colorado (at Arvada West High School) and in White Bear Lake, Minnesota (at the North Campus High School). At Hopkins High School, Mr. Brown conducts seven choral ensembles and is the musical director for the school's annual musical. His choral groups have performed at local, state, regional, and national festivals under his direction.

Along with public school teaching, Mr. Brown is an active church musician. He is the choir director at First Presbyterian Church in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. He has been a clinician and adjudicator for various choir festivals and competitions. His professional affiliations include ACDA and MENC. He resides in Minnetonka with his wife, Molly Brown.

Rita Docter: Ms. Docter has been a member of the Angelica Cantanti conducting staff since 1986 and currently directs the Con Brio Choir. She graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in Music Education. Ms. Docter has taught choral music at Bakersfield High School in California, Sandburg Junior High in Robbinsdale, and Wayzata Elementary Schools. For almost 25 years, she was director of the children's choirs at Community of the Cross Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

Ms. Docter is the writer, trainer, and program manager of the BRAVO Music Appreciation Series for elementary age children. She has written educational materials and helped plan educational events for the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra and the Cavani String Quartet from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Ms. Docter has worked as a guide for the Minnesota Orchestra Kinderkonzerts and has taught Kindermusik to preschool children and parents. She has also been active in the American Suzuki Association, serving on the National Board of Directors and writing a column for parents in the Association newsletter.

Ms. Docter has performed with the Dale Warland Singers, the Dale Warland Symphonic Chorus, and the Normandale Choral Society. She is a member of the Minnesota Music Educators Association, the Music Educators National Conference, and the American Choral Directors Association.

Nancy Grundahl: Ms. Grundahl has been the director of the Concert Choir since 1992. She is a conductor, composer, and soloist, and holds vocal performance degrees from St. Olaf College

and the University of Minnesota. She is the conductor of the Riverside Singers of Augsburg College and is the Director of Music at Mayflower U.C.C. in Minneapolis. Over thirty of Ms. Grundahl's arrangements and compositions for solo voice and choirs have been published and are sung around the country. She is active as an adjudicator, clinician, soloist, and guest conductor. Her work with choirs draws upon her experience as a solo singer and voice teacher. As an active soprano soloist, Ms. Grundahl appears in recitals and concerts throughout the area, and has taught voice at St. Olaf College. Her exploration of vocal techniques for beautiful singing is a focus of her teaching and conducting.

Ms. Grundahl directed the Concert Choir in performance at the Von Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont in June of 2007, and at Carnegie Hall in New York City in June of 2000. In June of 2004, she took the Concert Choir on tour to San Francisco where they performed at a music festival.

Ann Schrooten: Ms. Schrooten joined Angelica Cantanti in 2006 as the director of Cantabile Choir. A native of southern Minnesota, Ms. Schrooten holds the B.M. degree in Vocal Music Performance from Saint Olaf College, and the M.M. degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Minnesota. As a college choral conductor and private voice instructor, she has held sabbatical replacement positions at the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse (2003) and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul (2003-2005). Over the last twenty years, Ms. Schrooten has also led choirs of all ages in Lutheran parishes – both large and small. She continues to work musically with children and youth at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. In the fall of 2006, Ms. Schrooten began a doctoral program in Choral Conducting at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Raised in a musical family, Ms. Schrooten learned early in life how to harmonize by ear and that when groups gather – whatever the reason – there MUST be singing! Ms. Schrooten states that she is dedicated to the philosophy that music, and singing in particular, can help us to traverse continents, cultures, and even time itself. She is completely fascinated by the human voice: its physical make-up, its potential to communicate ideas, and most of all, its power to transform our spirits.

ACCOMPANISTS

Sandra Enstrom: Ms. Enstrom accompanies the Concert Choir. She is a graduate of Moorhead State University with a Bachelor of Music in piano. Ms. Enstrom previously worked as an accompanist in the Bloomington public school system and as the accompanist for Emerson Congregational United Church of Christ in Richfield.

Jennifer Hartsell: Ms. Hartsell is a D.M.A. candidate in collaborative piano at the University of Minnesota. She received her B.M. and M.M. degrees in piano performance and composition, respectively, from the University of Alabama. She did additional graduate studies in composition at Cornell University and NYU. Ms. Hartsell is the staff accompanist for the choral department at Hopkins High School, and has recently been appointed music director at St. Paul's

UMC in Mendota Heights. Her compositions have been performed throughout the Eastern, Southern, and Midwestern United States.

Jane Horn: Ms. Horn accompanies the Con Brio Choir. She holds a B.S. in Education and Music from Concordia University, St. Paul. Ms. Horn is Director of Music at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington. She was formerly music director at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Richfield. She has also accompanied a variety of community theater groups in the Twin Cities area.

Jeffrey Patry: Mr. Patry accompanies the Cantabile Choir. He is currently the Director of Music and Principal Organist at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale. In addition, he is on the faculty of Normandale Community College as the staff accompanist. Mr. Patry graduated in 1998 from St. Olaf College with a B.M. in Organ Performance, studying under Dr. John Ferguson and Douglas Cleveland. Also in 1998, he won second prize in the American Guild of Organists Wichita Competition. Mr. Patry is a frequent accompanist for events around the Twin Cities.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The Angelica Cantanti organization is supported by 3 part-time staff positions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Audrey Riddle: Audrey joined the staff of Angelica Cantanti in February 2007. Audrey is responsible for leading the organization in partnership with the Administrative Staff, Artistic Staff, and the Angelica Board to support the organization's mission and artistic vision.

CHOIR MANAGER

Andrea Dittmer: Andrea joined the staff in February of 2007. Among her duties as Manager are communications with choir families, recruitment, registrations and applications, tuition, programs, and maintaining databases.

FINANCIAL OFFICER

Steve Engelkes: Steve has been the Finance Officer since 2000. As Finance Officer, he manages Angelica's accounts, including the singers' individual accounts.

STAFF LIST

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Steve Engelkes
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Rita Docter
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Jane Horn
Accompanist, Con Brio Choir

Ann Schrooten
Director, Cantabile Choir

Jeffrey Patry
Accompanist, Cantabile Choir

Nancy Grundahl
Director, Concert Choir

Sandra Enstrom
Accompanist, Concert Choir

Philip Brown
Director, Cantanti Chamber Singers

Jennifer Hartsell
Accompanist, Cantanti Chamber Singers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julie Morse, Chair
Barb Becker
Jennifer Bingham-May
Nancy Claycomb
Jennifer Jaimez, Secretary
Ellen Keesling
Jodi Schauer
Mike Sedwick
Kalley Sikich
Carrie Volante, Director of Volunteers

Please call or email Andrea Dittmer, Choir Manager to contact anyone above.

