

Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs (ACYC)

frequently asked questions:

Updated Spring 2011

1. Why choose this choir over other activities?

Choral singing offers a complete educational growth experience that challenges, develops, and rewards the body, mind, and spirit. It builds self-esteem, teaches discipline, demands commitment, and fosters community and teamwork. Singing is likely to continue as a rewarding, lifelong pleasure.

2. How is this choir different from a school or church choir?

ACYC is not intended to replace school or church choirs. The purposes ACYC and these other valuable choral experiences are different. We encourage all ACYC singers to maintain membership in school and/or church choirs. We are able to sing a more challenging and varied repertoire than is found in a typical school or church children's or youth choir because our singers are auditioned and because they have sought out the kind of rigor and commitment that ACYC involves.

3. When can my child audition?

Please contact our office at 952-563-8572 or email us at contacts@angelicacantanti.org and we will set up an audition time that fits your schedule.

4. What can I expect will happen at the audition?

Our auditions are meant to be non-intimidating for the singers. The directors may want to hear a song of the singer's choosing, the singer's range (high and low) and ability to echo back simple patterns (sung and clapped).

5. Which choir will my child be in?

We currently have 4 choirs. Con Brio is for singer's 2nd – 4th grade Cantabile is for singers 4th – 6th grade. Concert Choir is for singer's 6th – 8th grade and the Cantanti Chamber Singers is for singer's 9th – 12th grade.

6. What is different about each choir?

Each choir is designed for the age and ability of the singers. Musical skills, like singing in harmony and reading music, become progressively more challenging with each choir.

7. Can we start in the middle of the year?

Yes, we do accept singers throughout the season.

8. What kind of music do you sing?

We sing a variety of music from around the world, including some sacred music and lots of interesting secular music in many languages. We sing music from early historical times to music of today.

9. What will my child learn?

Music: Artistry, expressiveness, tuning, rhythmic accuracy, music reading, aural skills, music theory, score reading

Language skills: poetry and language skills in English, pronunciation and vocabulary in many languages

Cultural awareness: awareness of and information about many cultures through songs, and geography

Self-esteem growth: teamwork, discipline, respect, self-confidence

Etiquette: manners, commitment, ability to focus

Listening skills: ability to follow directions, improved memory, ability to apply previously learned musical concepts to a new piece of music

Angelica Singers learn how to use their voices to sing correctly, how to use a musical score, how to read music, how to sing in harmony, how to work together as a team. The mission of Angelica Cantanti is to provide a

premier music experience for young choral musicians through quality musical instruction, artistic excellence in choral performance, the development of teamwork, and the social and personal growth of its members. Statistics now prove that participation in a choir, band or orchestra raises a student's IQ and increases their ability to think and reason. These same students also had higher SAT scores. The longer the students participated in music programs, the more impact it had on their learning.

10. Who are the directors?

We have 3 professional directors that are very active in the Twin Cities choral community. Ann Schrooten is the Interim Conductor for the Con Brio Choir. She also conducts the Cantabile Choir. Nancy Grundahl conducts the Concert Choir and Philip Brown conducts the Cantanti Chamber Singers. Full bios on each director can be found on the Angelica Cantanti website at www.angelicacantanti.org.

11. Are you a religious organization or are you affiliated with a church?

No. We rent rehearsal and performance spaces from churches. ACYC is not affiliated with any religion and we welcome new members regardless of religious affiliation.

12. Do you sing religious songs?

Yes, sometimes the ACYC will sing sacred music. This music is considered part of the great cultural heritage of music, and is not approached as a personal statement of faith.

13. Do you sing in churches or at church services?

Yes, sometimes.

14. Do all the choirs sing together?

Yes. All of the choirs will sing together at our annual winter and spring concert.

15. When, where and how often do you rehearse?

All the choirs rehearse at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, Rehearsal Hall (1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington. Near 98th St. and 35W exit). Cantabile rehearses on Monday's from 4:15 to 5:45pm. Con Brio rehearses on Tuesday's from 4:30pm – 5:30pm. Concert Choir rehearses on Thursday's from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Cantanti Chamber Singers rehearse on Sunday evenings at St. Michael's from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

16. Can we visit a rehearsal?

Yes! We welcome parents into rehearsals. It is important for you to see what training your child is receiving in choir to more fully understand and appreciate what he/she is experiencing. Please call our office at 952-563-8572 or contacts@angelicacantanti.org if you would like to visit a rehearsal.

17. Are all the rehearsals, concerts, retreats and tours required?

We expect that all of our singers will attend all rehearsals, concerts and retreats. Tours are not required but we highly encourage all our singers to participate.

18. Is it okay to miss some rehearsals?

Every voice plays a strong part in the sound of the choir and every rehearsal is crucial in the success of the singer and the group. It is important to attend all rehearsals.

19. What if my singer needs to miss a rehearsal because of a school activity, vacation or other?

We understand that sometimes there are conflicts. Please fill out an absentee form at least one week before you will be gone. Communication is very important. Please turn in this form and be sure your director has been contacted in advance.

20. What is your season?

We have a back to choir event at the end of August and our season starts the 2nd week of September and runs

through the 1st week of May.

21. Where are the concerts held at?

Our winter and spring annual concert is held at St. Michael's Church, 9201 Normandale Blvd., in Bloomington. All of the choirs may perform throughout the year at different venues all over the Twin Cities metro area.

22. Are the concerts free?

There is no charge or admission to attend our annual winter and spring concerts.

23. Are you a Bloomington Choir?

Our home base and office are located in Bloomington. Our rehearsal and mass concert venues are located in Bloomington. The Angelica organization does receive some funding from the City of Bloomington. We welcome singers from all over the Twin Cities. At this time we have singers from Lakeville, Burnsville, Prior Lake, Afton, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka and Hopkins, just to name a few.

24. What is the time commitment?

This varies for all 4 choirs. We have weekly rehearsals, a concert in December and a concert in early May. There are other performances scheduled throughout the season. The Cantabile, Concert and Cantanti Singers attend a weekend retreat in January.

25. Will my singer need to miss any school to participate in your program?

Sometimes there are valuable performance opportunities that happen to fall on a school day. We are sensitive and careful about this and understand that each family has to decide what is best for their child. None of these performances will be required.

26. What do the singers wear?

Each choir and singer will have informal and formal performance attire.

27. Is there carpooling?

We do compile a list of singers who can provide or who are in need of transportation. The Angelica organization will not coordinate this effort, but will forward names of those interested in being on the list.

28. Will my singer go on tour?

There are times when the Concert and Cantanti Chamber Singers may have the opportunity to go on an overnight, weekend or week-long tour. Tours will be announced in advance and will only happen if enough singers can go.

29. What is expected from the parents?

To get the most out of the ACYC experience, a singer should be present at all rehearsals and performances. Parents need to ensure that their child can get to and from rehearsal each week and are responsible for singer promptness. Parents also volunteer to help with retreats, fundraisers, concerts and other ACYC activities. Our parents are an extremely supportive group who share their time and talents in a variety of ways.

30. Where can I find a calendar or schedule for the season?

On the Angelica website: www.angelicantanti.org

31. How much will this cost?

Fees for participating include: registration fee, tuition and performance apparel. Additional costs may include: bus or transportation fees, retreat weekends and tours. Singers are encouraged to fundraise to help pay for their expenses.

32. What does tuition pay for?

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir is a 501 (3) non-profit organization. Tuition pays for rehearsal and concert

venue rental, director and accompanist fees, 4 part-time administrative contractors (Executive Director, Choir Manager, Artistic Director and Finance Officer), sheet music and other operating costs.

33. Do you provide fundraisers?

Yes! ACYC does provide fundraising opportunities to help you earn money for your personal singers account to pay for tuition, tours and other expenses.

34. Do you provide any financial assistance or scholarships?

There is limited scholarship money available through the Rita Docter Scholarship Fund. Contact the choir office for more information.

35. Are you non-profit organization?

Yes. We rely on tuition and fundraising to pay for our expenses.

36. Do you have a Board of Directors?

Yes, there is a volunteer Board of Directors that governs the organization.

37. Where is the Angelica office?

Our office is located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts Building, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.