

# So you want to be a Chorister at Holy Comforter???

Choristers at Church of the Holy Comforter are young men and women in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

## **Choristers...**

- Are members of a very important ministry, playing a key role in Sunday worship weekly at the 9:30 AM service, and at special liturgies throughout the year. They offer their time and talent to God and fellow parishioners as they participate in the faith life of the church, leading the congregation in all the musical aspects of the service.
- Develop discipline and confidence as they respond to an assigned level of responsibility during rehearsals and worship.
- Learn worship music, leadership skills, proper use and care of their voice, and music theory as they follow the 'Voice for Life' curriculum of the Royal School of Church Music. Once or twice each year, qualifying singers are promoted to the next level they have attained in the curriculum, and are privileged to wear the RSCM medal on the appropriate color ribbon.

## **Choristers...**

- Rehearse Thursday afternoons at specific times between 5:00 and 6:00 pm, depending on their level of accomplishment or voice part. If absent for two consecutive rehearsals, choristers may not sing on Sunday until having attended a Thursday rehearsal.
- Enjoy dinner together twice a month from 6:00-6:30 PM, following extra rehearsal time for all singers.
- Participate in a mini-camp on fifth Thursdays in months that have five Thursdays.

## **Beginning Choristers...**

- Rehearse with the choir for several weeks before singing in church, and are referred to as 'Preps.' Preps rehearse from 5:00 – 5:30; supervision is available until 6:00 on non-dinner nights, and Preps join us for dinner twice a month, ending at 6:30 PM. They have several requirements to fulfill before becoming Novices and wearing the white ribbon and RSCM medal:
  - 1) Learn the Chorister Prayer
  - 2) Learn the sung Grace Before Meals
  - 3) Be able to find a numbered hymn in the blue hymnal
  - 4) Be able to read aloud the text in hymn verses as requested
  - 5) Follow along in the Sunday service bulletin to 'know what is happening next'
  - 6) Learn the Lord's Prayer
  - 7) Be able to match pitch reliably

## **Parents...**

- Bring their Chorister (or arrange for transportation) to rehearsal every week, and have their Chorister in the Choir room in time to vest and be ready to sing at 8:45 AM on Sunday mornings....ie 8:30 am
- Volunteer to help with our twice-monthly chorister dinners
- Are responsible for reading the calendar to know what is happening and when
- Watch for emails from Dr. Kelley (Director) and Ms. Lolly Mixter (Program Assistant)
- Inform Dr. Kelley in advance if your Chorister will miss a Thursday rehearsal or a Sunday service

Contact David Kelley at 703-938-6521, ext. 19, or [dkelley@holyccomforter.com](mailto:dkelley@holyccomforter.com). Interested singers and parents may have a short meeting with Dr. Kelley to determine a child's readiness for the program. Questions: Dr. Kelley or Lolly Mixter ([lollymix@gmail.com](mailto:lollymix@gmail.com))

## Information Form for Church of the Holy Comforter Chorister Program

Please complete the form below and return to Dr. Kelley or Miss Lolly

Singer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Current School Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s): In case we need to reach you:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: Food or Other \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: If we cannot reach you in an emergency....

\_\_\_\_\_

What should we know about your child? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Music Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you attend Holy Comforter? \_\_\_\_\_