



Worcester Children's Chorus

## Choir Handbook

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Worcester Children's Chorus is to enrich the lives of children throughout Worcester County by providing a quality musical experience through training in choral singing. Membership offers professional-level instruction in vocal technique, music theory, sight singing, ear training, and presentation as well as exposure to a variety of choral styles. Involvement also enhances young people's lives, helping them to develop qualities of self-reliance, personal integrity, responsibility, compassion, and confidence in their abilities.

### STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

One of the criteria for acceptance and continued membership in the Worcester Children's Chorus is the ability of the student to commit him or herself to a high standard of behavior. This discipline is every bit as important as a student's musical ability.

1. Students will exhibit exemplary behavior wherever they happen to be representatives of the Worcester Children's Chorus.
2. Students will demonstrate a commitment to musical excellence through a positive attitude and diligent effort in rehearsal and performance.
3. Students will work cooperatively with choir personnel at all times.
4. Students will treat one another with respect and dignity.
5. Students will treat the rehearsal and performance facility with respect and dignity.
6. Students will not possess alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, or weapons. Smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages and use of illegal drugs is not permitted when members are under staff supervision.
7. Students cannot dispense any type of medication to one another, such as Tylenol, Advil, Pepto Bismal, etc.
8. Students will have all the uniform items needed at any performance.
9. Any student whose behavior, work ethic and/or performance drop below the standard of the group may be reviewed at any time to maintain and protect the integrity of the ensemble. This review may result in dismissal.

## FEES

Checks for tuition and fees should be made out to the *Worcester Children's Chorus*. A 50% refund is payable if a student drops out prior to the first rehearsal. After the season has started, there are NO refunds. Parents will be notified of checks returned due to insufficient funds. Payment, IN CASH, of the face value of the check plus a \$30 returned check fee is due upon receipt of the notification. All payments for the remainder of the choir season must be made in cash or money order. See registration form (on WCC Website) for fee schedule.

## UNIFORM

### Worcester Children's Chorus Polo Shirt

The red WCC polo shirt, purchased through Land's End, is required for the uniform. The cost for the polo is not included in the cost of tuition. Instructions for ordering the polo shirts will be available at the kick-off rehearsals in the fall.

### WCC Pins

The cost of this pin is covered by the student's tuition. Students receive their first pin at the end of the choir year at the award banquet. These should be worn on the left side of the shirt above the choir emblem. For specific placement, speak with one of the staff members

### Black Pants

Plain, docker-style, black pants are required for the WCC uniform. No stretch pants, jeans, baggy pants, or bell-bottoms are permitted. If you choose to wear a belt, it must be black. *Dark navy blue pants are NOT acceptable.*

### Black Socks and Shoes

Black means very little or no colored markings on the main body of the shoe. It should look solid black and wrap around the foot. *No sandals, tennis shoes, open-toed shoes, or clogs.* *Black socks that cover the ankle and foot must be worn as well.*

### Cantare Uniform

**Girls:** Black Laurel dress with red sash from Tuxedo Wholesalers. Instructions for ordering your dress will be available after the first rehearsal. Stockings and black shoes required.

**Boys:** White long-sleeved shirt, red tie, and black pants. Black socks and shoes.

## PERFORMANCE APPEARANCE

1. WCC members should have clean hair that is out of their faces. Long hair should be pulled back and secured with a clip or hair band. Hairstyle and color must be natural looking and fairly conservative. No hair bows or colored barrettes. Ponytail holders must be black. The idea is not to draw attention to your hair. A staff member may ask a student to change his or her hairstyle if it does not meet the standards.
2. No dangling earrings, visible necklaces, or bracelets. Keep rings small. Visible earrings can be worn only in ears. Remove any watches that make an audible signal.
3. Do not leave your cell phone in your pocket!
4. Make-up should be discreet. Nail polish should not be garish in color and should not be chipped.
5. Refrain from using perfume, cologne, scented lotion, scented hairspray, etc. The close quarters during performance make it very difficult for people to breathe, especially if they have allergies. Deodorant is a lovely idea!
6. Any singer arriving for a concert without a complete uniform may be unable to perform. This missed performance would count as an absence. Student's uniform should be in proper order until leaving the concert hall.

## ATTENDANCE POLICIES

1. Please plan to arrive a few minutes ahead of the scheduled rehearsal times in order to check in with the Program Manager. Three absences per semester are allowed. Any rehearsal or performance missed, excused or unexcused, is considered an absence. The WCC office should be notified of the absence prior to rehearsal or as soon as possible the following day. Exceeding your allowed number of absences could result in loss of membership.
2. Chronic tardiness or early check-out will be considered into the total number of absences. Be certain to check in with a staff member when arrive late or departing early.
3. All students must be checked out at the end of rehearsals and performances. Parents or guardians need to come into the building and see the Parent Coordinator before a student will be dismissed. Students who drive themselves to rehearsal do not need to be checked out by a parent.
4. **All performances are required** unless special permission has been given well in advance of the performance. An unexcused absence from a performance can result in dismissal from WCC.
5. In case of severe weather, rehearsal will be cancelled if the Assumption College campus is closed. Feel free to call the choir office for confirmation.

6. Do not assume that rehearsal has been cancelled simply because your school is not in session. Consult the schedule in this book and the information that has been sent home.
7. Students lose their place in WCC if they drop out of school.
8. The membership of WCC students remains in good standing until high school graduation as long as they meet the standards set out in the handbook. There is no need to re-audition each year unless you would like to move into another ensemble within the Worcester Children's Chorus organization.

## REHEARSAL POLICIES

1. Check in when arriving at rehearsal. Please arrive early enough to be in your seat, ready to rehearse by the start time of your rehearsal.
2. There are no bathroom breaks in WCC rehearsals. Please use the restroom before coming into rehearsal. Students are welcome and encouraged to bring water to rehearsal. Keeping your vocal cords hydrated during rehearsal is very important. Only water should be in your water bottle.
3. As a rule, all rehearsals are closed. No one may sit in on a rehearsal without receiving prior permission from the staff.
4. Frequently, printed information is sent home with the students. This information is also sent via email if you have given us an email address. Families will be held accountable for the contents of this information. If the student is absent, this information will be mailed to your home.
5. All choir members are allowed to take their music folders home. The singer is responsible for their folder and must remember to bring it back each week. Music should be marked in pencil only. No pictures, stickers, or decorations should be added to any part of the folder or music. The music and folder must be returned at the end of the choir season. You will be charged for missing or damaged music. The replacement for fee for lost WCC folders is \$100.
6. No food, candy, gum, or drinks (other than water) are allowed during rehearsal.
7. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off or silenced during rehearsal. You are "working" during this time and are unavailable. If necessary, these items will be collected by the staff until the end of rehearsal.
8. Singers should be picked up promptly following rehearsals and performances. If for some reason you are unavoidably delayed, please call the Worcester Children's Chorus Program phone.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Worcester Children's Chorus Office**

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Worcester Children's Chorus

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