



Handbook for Choristers and Parents
2011-2012

Welcome!

Welcome to the Fireweed Children's Chorus. We are a part of the Yellowknife Choral Society (YCS), which has 4 choirs including Fireweed. Aurora Choralis is a non-auditioned community choir for adults and presents concerts throughout the year. The third choir under the Choral Society umbrella is the Chamber Choir, which is a smaller choir made up of members from Aurora Choralis. The Boys' Choir is the newest addition to the Yellowknife Choral Society and came into being last year. Fireweed is now beginning its fifth year!

We look forward to a wonderful year of singing and performing together. We have been busy preparing for the upcoming year with great anticipation and excitement! Every child in the Fireweed Children's Choir is a valued participant and we look forward to seeing friendships grow and develop as much as our singing skills. It is our goal to bring each child further along on their musical journey through performance, practice and theory training. Thank you for deciding to take the journey with us!

Rehearsal Expectations

Punctuality

Participants are expected to arrive at Calvary Community Church before the rehearsal begins. Each member should have their music ready and be sitting in their assigned seat, ready to begin at 4:30 pm. The doors will be open at least 15 minutes before the start of choir. While we do understand that there are times when a child will be late, please keep in mind that it is a disruption to the rehearsal when children are coming late and needing to find their seats. We make every effort to finish choir at 6 pm. Please be prompt in picking up your child at 6 pm, as the Director and Accompanist often have other commitments following choir.

Choir Folders

Each choir member will receive a choir folder with a number on it. All choral music is to be kept in that folder and brought to each rehearsal. Members are responsible for their music and will be expected to cover the cost of lost or damaged music, as it is the property of the Fireweed Children's Chorus. It would also be wise for members to bring a pencil to each

rehearsal and lightly print their name on each piece of music, so it can be quickly returned to that person in case it goes missing.

Parents

Seats at the back of the church are available to parents who would like to listen in on a rehearsal. We would like to encourage parents to stay for at least one rehearsal so you have a good idea of what the Fireweed Children's Chorus is all about. We would also ask that any parents, who do stay, remain seated at the back and refrain from talking, as this becomes a huge distraction for both the participants and the Director. If you bring a child with you, please keep your child seated with you. Please make sure your choir member understands that s/he may not leave their seat during rehearsal to speak with a parent (and vice versa) as this too is a distraction. We thank you for respecting the rehearsal time by following those guidelines.

Attendance

It is expected that all choir members will attend all rehearsals (unless sick). If for some reason, your child is unable to attend a rehearsal, you are asked to contact the Director and let her know that your child will not be at the rehearsal. Attendance will be taken, and those whose attendance is inconsistent will receive a call or an e-mail from the Director. Singers are expected to attend all rehearsals and all dress rehearsals in order to perform in a concert. Every effort is made to ensure that performances do not interfere with school concerts or other performances when at all possible. As a choir, we work together as a team, with each member contributing to the performance. Missed rehearsal time may result in your child not performing in the concert.

Food and Drink

Members of the choir are asked to eat their snacks before choir begins or save it for break. Every child should bring a water bottle (with water) to keep with him or her during the rehearsal. Drinking water will help our voices to perform their best! No food or drink (other than water) will be allowed in the sanctuary of the church.

Behaviour

It is expected that all participants in the choir will behave in a respectful manner whether in rehearsal or at a function involving FCC.

Performance Dress Code

Unless otherwise requested by the Director, all members of the choir are expected to wear black on the bottom and white on top. Bottoms could be pants or a skirt (MUST be longer than the child's arm extended down their leg). White tops must not be tank tops and may not show midriffs. Please wear black socks or nylons with black dress shoes. **No jeans or running shoes.** We appreciate the effort put into finding an appropriate outfit to wear for choir performances. If we look uniform, we look professional and we feel professional. When we feel good about ourselves, we sing better!

If your child has outgrown any clothing that would benefit another choir member, you might consider donating it to the choir. We are accepting donations of black shoes, black pants or skirts and white shirts. Please only donate clothing that is in good condition. If you are in need of items that fit the dress code, please don't hesitate to speak to the Director or the Accompanist.

Parental Involvement

Opportunities for Involvement

As with any organization, it takes many hands to make it a success. We appreciate and encourage all parents to volunteer in a way that best suits your time and talents. There are many different areas where parents can use their gifts and talents. Following is a list of some of the volunteer opportunities available (ranging from a one time commitment to a weekly commitment). Positions directly relating to children will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check (FCC will cover the cost involved).

- phoning
- putting up posters in workplace / community
- concert set-up or clean-up
- attendance secretary
- fundraising
- serving on the Yellowknife Choral Society Board
- chaperone
- ticket sales
- greeters / ushers
- concert assistant (choir lineups, dress code etc.)

- graphic design for programs, posters or advertising
- as other opportunities arise, we will let you know

Newsletters / Notices / E-mails

Please be sure to read all newsletters or notices that go home, as they will give you current information about upcoming rehearsals or concerts. We will also send e-mail notices to those parents who have their e-mail addresses on file with us. E-mail is the easiest and most widely used form of communication between the choral Director and you!

Permission Form

Please be sure to return the permission form requesting permission to include your child's name and phone number on a membership list. You are also asked for permission to have photos taken of your child. These photos may be used in displays, promotional materials or the Yellowknife Choral Society website.

Final Thoughts

This choir is meant to be an extension of the already existing school music programs. All choir members are strongly encouraged to be participating in their school choir programs. The Fireweed Children's Chorus is meant to encourage and challenge young singers in the hopes that they will bring what they have learned back to their school music programs and find ways that they can contribute to their school musical community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Director or Accompanist through the e-mails below.

Contact Information

Jackie Boersma	Director	jackieboersma@ssimicro.com
Sharon Chynoweth	Accompanist	sharonandpeter@theedge.ca