



2015 – 2016 Season Handbook

Eric Johnson, Artistic Director
Freda Herrell, Accompanist
Emily Potter, University Assistant
Tammy White, Choir Administrator

lrycsings@gmail.com

Remind Texts: text @9b8bff to phone number 81010

Minnesingers is a choir for young singers who have demonstrated the ability to match pitch. This choir provides a foundation for progress and development in vocal music. Attention span and quiet concentration are a point of focus, as well as practice and development in vocal technique, basic note reading, solfege, and unison to 2 part music. Rehearsals are on Mondays from 5:30 – 6:45.

Meistersingers is a choir comprised of treble singers who have demonstrated advanced vocal technique and music reading skills. The dedicated young artists of the ensemble present a season concert series in Hickory and the surrounding areas. This is also the primary touring choir of the organization. Emphasis is placed on more advanced vocal technique, music reading skills, performance, teamwork and leadership. Rehearsals are on Mondays from 7:00 – 8:30.

Chamber Singers is a small ensemble designed to work with more mature treble voices that are self-motivators and independent workers. This group focuses on small group and advanced literature. Singers should have spent time developing healthy vocal skills as a Meistersingers before auditioning, but exceptions can be made for advanced students that are new to the ensemble. Rehearsals are on Mondays from 8:30 – 9:00.

Program Overview

The Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus is an educationally based choral ensemble program. Participants learn healthy vocal technique, sight-reading, and music theory while experiencing performance excellence. The learning environment is creative, explorative, and fun. The students form lasting relationships with others outside of their community and develop a lifelong appreciation of music.

Auditions

Auditions for LRYC can be scheduled by emailing the Artistic Director, Eric Johnson; at lrycsings@gmail.com Auditions for singers are held in the fall and spring of each year. Auditions may also be scheduled throughout the season by special request.

Membership

Singers are invited to participate in the choir based on the skills demonstrated in audition. Students in grades 3 – 12 are eligible and invited to audition. LRYC welcomes young people of all races, backgrounds, and abilities to be a part of the program. A limited amount of tuition assistance is available for those demonstrating financial need.

It is expected that members of LRYC understand the meaning of commitment and responsibility in a choral setting. Each child and parent should consider membership in the choir as an honor. Dedication to the program will enhance the singer and their family's personal experience and will foster a strong foundation of responsibility for the singer. Membership in LRYC is for one full season which runs August through May. Each singer is expected to remain active and committed for the entire season. Tuition is to be paid in full even when a child is unable to fulfill their commitment and resigns mid-season.

Resignation

We expect each singer who has made a commitment to sing for the entire season to live up to that commitment. However, if an unusual situation arises which would make it impossible for the singer to honor that commitment; a letter of resignation is requested documenting the reason for discontinuing participation in the program. *If a student resigns, the parent is still responsible for all fees.*

Registration and Tuition

- Administrative fees (\$25) are based on one-year involvement in the Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus. This administrative fee includes scarf/tie for uniform, rehearsal bag and folder, t-shirt and pencils.
- Tuition for each semester is \$120 and is due by the third rehearsal of each semester. *Tuition does not include the cost of other festivals and tours.*
- Cash and check are accepted forms of payment for tuition and fees.
- A \$10 late fee will be assessed to bills that have not been paid by the third rehearsal of each semester. Participation will be suspended for any account that becomes 30 days past due unless special arrangements have been made with the Choir Administrator or Artistic Director.

Uniforms

It is as important to the team effort to appear professional and artistic as it is to sound professional and artistic. Upon arrival at a concert venue, all singers should be clean and well-groomed with no obvious make-up, hair accessories, or hair colors. Jewelry, earrings (except earring studs) and other accessories will not be permitted. If a singer is not in designated concert attire, they will not be allowed to perform in the concert. Please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne because it can potentially cause allergic reactions in other singers and guest performers.

Performance Dress Code:

- Black dress shoes.
- Black dress socks/hose.
- Solid black dress pants that meet the shoe.
- Solid black 3/4 or long sleeve dress shirt.
- Designated scarf / tie (included in registration fee).

Commitment to School Music Programs

The Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus is grateful to and reliant upon the support of the dedicated music teachers in the Hickory and surrounding areas. Therefore, we strongly encourage that each of our singers be leaders of their school choirs. Exceptions may be considered in circumstances such as when the school music program requires that students choose between instrumental ensembles and choir or when the singer's advanced education schedules do not allow time for participation, therefore leaving LRYC as the only alternative for choral study. We also consider it a privilege to provide music instruction for our Homeschool students.

Attendance Policies

It is an honor to be a member of one of the choirs of the Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus. Each singer (and their parent) is expected to demonstrate commitment by being punctual and consistently attending all rehearsals and performances. Each child is independently important to the success of the program. Just as with any other team effort, the success of the choir is reliant on the attendance of all of its members. Therefore, the child and family should make participation a priority in the child's life and schedule. We understand that there will be unavoidable conflicts from time to time, so please consult school calendars, sports calendars, and family calendars early in the year to avoid as many as possible.

In an effort to make our attendance expectations consistent among all members, we will adhere to the following attendance policy:

- 1) Any conflicts that the student has with rehearsal dates must be communicated in writing as soon as possible, but not less than one (1) week prior to the missed rehearsal. Whether or not the submitted absence will be "excused" is left to the discretion of the ensemble director.
- 2) Students will be granted up to a maximum of three (3) "excused" absences per semester. Beyond those three "excused" absences, the singer will have to pass off his/her music for a panel of directors in order to be eligible to perform at the concert at the end of the semester.

- 3) Singers with more than one (1) “unexcused” absence per semester may be dismissed from the program, pending a review and conference with the artistic director and the choir administrator. If a student is dismissed from the program, tuition will not be refunded.

Each singer should make attending weekly rehearsals a priority. The LRYC calendar provides dates months in advance. Because of this, LRYC singers should make all effort to respect the policy. *“if LRYC is first on the calendar, LRYC is first priority.”*

School Related Absences

LRYC members are expected to treat school choral and/or instrumental performances as a priority over a LRYC performance unless otherwise negotiated between a LRYC conductor and the school director. School performances are identified as performances for which a grade in school will be given (orchestra, band, choir concert); not an extracurricular activity (school plays, musicals etc.).

Dress Rehearsals and Performances

All dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory. An absence for any reason from a final rehearsal may result in the singer being excluded from the following concert and is up to the discretion of the conductor. Punctuality is imperative, especially on concert days. Students arriving after concert doors open will not perform.

Weather Policy

The Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus will follow the Catawba County School Board decisions on closings due to weather unless there has been a substantial change in the weather subsequent to the school announcement. We will attempt to post our closings on our Facebook page, send email and remind texts when practical.

Singer Procedures

The following policies will be enforced for the children’s safety and in order to achieve productive, professional quality rehearsals out of respect for each other.

1. Arrive no more than 10 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal time and immediately check in with your Choir Manager. Late arrivals must always check in before taking their seat.
2. Please do not hand any payments to your conductor or artistic staff.
3. Do not roam the building or campus at any time. Students should check in and go directly to the rehearsal area.
4. Do not bring food or drinks into the rehearsal area. A tightly sealed water bottle containing water will be permitted.
5. At all times, show respect for each other, parent volunteers and the facilities.
6. Pay attention to the conductor at all times and do not talk or in any way distract other singers.
7. We are guests of Lenoir-Rhyne University and any other venue we rehearse/perform in. Please do not run, yell, or demonstrate any other disrespectful behavior.
8. Always bring your music, pencil, and any other hand-outs given by the director for the singer’s use.

9. Folders and music are the singers' responsibility. If folders and music are lost or irreparably damaged, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs of the music.
10. If a singer is unable to actively participate in the rehearsal, s/he should still bring all necessary materials and observe quietly. It will benefit the singer to quietly listen when experiencing a minor illness rather than stay home and miss rehearsal completely. Additionally, research has proven those who sing through colds and minor illnesses encounter shorter, less-severe symptoms.

Disruptive Behavior

Removal from a rehearsal will result in a requisite meeting with the choir's conductor immediately following the rehearsal which may involve, at the conductor's discretion, the student's parents, and/or the Choir Administrator. Severe or repeat offenses will result in a leave of absence from the program, the length to be determined on an individual basis. It may also result in removal from the program. Any singer caught with alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or any type of weapon (including pocket knives) will be immediately suspended from the program.

Every singer is entitled to participate in LRYC free from harassment, threats or fear. Singers harassing, threatening or making it difficult for others to participate will be subject to consequences through their choir director and the LRYC staff.

Expectations of Parents

1. Parents are responsible for collecting and reading any handouts, emails and letters from their child after rehearsals or via e-mail regularly.
2. Parents are responsible for delivering their child safely to rehearsal. Please, do not leave your child unattended on the college campus. Additionally, parents are responsible for promptly picking up their singers. Failure to comply will jeopardize the safety of the singer and participation in the program.
3. Parents, please respect that rehearsals take place in a professional, artistic, and learning environment. Noise in the hallways by groups of adults or young children can be very disruptive to rehearsals and to university professionals in nearby offices.
4. Parents, teachers, and anyone else interested are always welcome to observe rehearsals. Please remember that it is imperative that the choir's surroundings be quiet so that the singers can concentrate. If disturbances occur, the director reserves the right to close that and subsequent rehearsals.
5. Final dress rehearsal and pre-performance rehearsals will always be closed to the audience, including families. Only the Choir Managers will be allowed into the rehearsal area prior to a performance. This will enable the singers to concentrate on the music, the director, and any final instructions void of any possible distraction.
6. Performance halls will remain closed to all audience members, including parents, until 30 minutes prior to a scheduled concert.
7. For their safety, be sure your child knows who is picking them up from rehearsal. Children are asked to let the Choir Assistant know if someone shows up that they were not expecting.

Cell Phones

All cell phones must be turned off prior to entering the rehearsal space. There will be no texting, photography or playing with phones during rehearsal. A singer observed using a phone during rehearsal may be dismissed from the rehearsal. Repeat offenders may be considered for removal from the choir program.

Fundraising Project Chair

Anyone interested in chairing a fund raising project should prepare a project presentation, and, via email, schedule a time to share your ideas with the Artistic Director and the Choir Administrator. Please include a thorough description of the project to give to the Artistic Director. After reviewing the presentation, the Artistic Director will meet with the appropriate parties for approval. The project chair will be notified if the project is approved.

Responsibilities of a Project Chair:

- Supply information and handouts for all participants
- Order, distribute, and store items sold.
- Keep accurate record of products sold and profits earned.
- Present/keep accurate and current receipts
- Secure collected funds
- Turn money over to Executive Director weekly with appropriate paperwork
- Keep a detailed list of amount earned by each singer; presented, upon completion of the project, to the Artistic Director.

Tour Policy

Tours are very important to LRYC. They establish lasting friendships in a way that no other choir function can provide. Tours also assist the program with national and international recognition and networking. Singers are highly encouraged to participate in any tour scheduled for their choir. Currently, performance tours are offered annually to Meistersingers and Chamber Singers. Additional spots with the group will be opened to members of Minisingers when accompanied by an adult family member. During the year, LRYC assists with fundraising opportunities for tours. Watch for information to find ways to earn money towards your tour.

Public Relations

The Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus staff works to promote our organization and to build awareness of and participation in LRYC. If you would like us to make sure a particular resource such as your community newspaper is on the list, please email the Artistic Director with the appropriate information. All public contact must be coordinated by the LRYC staff

Privacy & Disclosure Statement

All official LRYC information will be distributed through the LRYC Office, Facebook, Remind, and email. Any other communication should not be trusted as accurate unless otherwise stated.

Email, Postal Addresses, Telephone Numbers

We won't trade, rent or sell any of these to other parties. The only time these items will be distributed is if an LRYC family requests a carpool list of people in their area. If you do not wish to appear on these lists, please contact our Choir Administrator immediately.

Membership Registration Forms

Every LRYC singer must have an up-to-date Membership Registration Form on file in our office in case of an emergency. This information will remain confidential and only available to LRYC staff and LRYC chaperones in extenuating circumstances.

Emergency Medical Forms

Every LRYC singer must have an up-to-date Medical Release Form on file in our office in case of an emergency. This information will remain confidential and only available to LRYC staff and LRYC chaperones in extenuating circumstances.

Permission to Photograph

Every LRYC singer must have an up-to-date Permission to Photograph form on file in our office in case of an emergency. This information will remain confidential and only available to LRYC staff and LRYC chaperones in extenuating circumstances.

We are approaching a new and exciting time for the Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus. Through many years of artistic excellence set forth by our Founder, Florence Jowers, this choir has rich heritage and strong standing in our communities. I consider it a privilege to be able to work with each and every one of you as we prepare our singers for a lifetime of music making. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

In Music,



Eric Johnson
Artistic Director, Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus
lrycsings@gmail.com