



**2023 - 2024 SEASON
MEMBER HANDBOOK**

**The Everett Chorale Association – PO Box 485, Everett, WA 98206-0485
Karin Larsen, Artistic Director – (425) 210-3634
Snohomish County Youth Chorus email – snocoyouthchorus@gmail.com
Snohomish County Youth Chorus website – www.snocoyouthchorus.org
Everett Chorale website – www.everettchorale.org**

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY YOUTH CHORUS
2023 - 2024 SEASON
MEMBER HANDBOOK**

1) Welcome!	2
2) Calendar at a glance	3
3) Rehearsals	4
a) Rehearsal Schedule	
b) Attendance Policy	
c) Rehearsal Etiquette	
d) Sheet Music	
e) Phones and other e-devices	
4) Performance Schedule	6
a) Schedule	
b) Soloists and Instrumentalists	
c) Stage Etiquette	
d) Concert Dress Code	
5) Respiratory Health and Other Health Procedures	9
6) Tuition	10
a) Payment Schedule	
b) Financial Aid	
7) Forms to Be Turned In Before First Rehearsal:	11
Forms in SCYC Online Registration	
(unofficial; for information only)	
Handbook & Procedures Acknowledgement	16

Welcome!

Welcome to the Snohomish County Youth Chorus. SCYC is a not-for-profit, non-auditioned, community-based youth chorus dedicated to the artistic and personal development of all children and youth who love to sing. Our goal is to offer affordable, high-quality vocal instruction and outstanding performance opportunities to young people residing in Snohomish County and beyond.

In the 2023-2024 season, SCYC will be divided into two choral ensembles:

- Primo - Kindergarten - Grades 2/3
- Cantare - Grades 3/4 - 8+ (treble voices)

If enough high-school-aged students express interest, SCYC reserves the right to reopen our mixed-voice ensemble Bella Coro (grades 7/8-12) this season. (Exact placement of any chorister will be determined as the Director gets to know choristers and what level of instruction will benefit everyone the most, as described below).

Membership in SCYC is open to all interested singers who can commit to the terms of membership and the effort required to keep pace with the musical progress of the ensemble. At times, enrollment may be limited based on balance between the sections and individual voices. All singers will have an initial and possibly subsequent voice assessments with the director to further guide their successful participation.

The assessment is a short, informal process to give the director some idea of the vocal qualities and capabilities of individual singers. The director will vocalize you to assess range, color, and other vocal elements, then lead you through a short segment of sight-reading, rhythm, and pitch recall assessments. Having any difficulty with these components does not mean you may not join SCYC but does give the director important information about the singer's ability to be successful as a Chorale member and may lead to specific guidance and advice for areas that require attention.

2023 Season-at-a-Glance Calendar
Subject to Change

Fall Quarter 2023

11 September	Monday	SCYC Orientation Night Everett Chorale Rehearsals Begin
18 September	Monday	SCYC Rehearsals Begin
30 October	Monday	(Optional) Costume Day! (details TBA)
3 December	Sunday	Everett Chorale + Evergreen Community Orchestra Winter Performance at Everett PAC
4 December	Monday	SCYC + Chorale Winter Recital at OSLC (open to family, close friends, & ECA members)
11 December 2023 & 1 January 2024 -- <i>Winter break!</i>		

Winter Quarter 2024

8 January	Monday	Rehearsals Resume with Winter Quarter Orientation
15 January	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day -- No Rehearsal
19 February	Monday	Presidents' Day -- No Rehearsal
11 March	Monday	Dress Rehearsal
17 March	Sunday	3PM - SCYC Spring Performance; OSLC (public)
18 March	Monday	Springing into Spring -
25 March	Monday	Quarter-End Celebration!

Spring Quarter 2024

1 April	Monday	SCYC Spring Break (<i>in line with Everett School District</i>)
8 April	Monday	Rehearsals Resume with Spring Quarter Orientation
28 April	Sunday	Audience opportunity: Everett Chorale Spring Performance
19 May	Sunday	Thank You performance in morning at OSLC
27 May	Monday	Memorial Day Holiday -- No Rehearsal
9 June	Sunday	Audience opportunity: Everett Chorale Performance
10 June	Monday	Dress rehearsal
16 June	Sunday	3PM - Year End Concert; OSLC (public)

Rehearsals

Rehearsal Schedule

Most SCYC rehearsals for the 2023-2024 season will take place at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Everett, WA, on Mondays at 5:30PM starting in September 2023.

Choir	Description	Rehearsal Time
Primo	K - Grades 2/3 (treble)	5:30 - 6:15pm
Cantare	Grades 3/4 - 8+ (treble)	6:20 - 7:20pm

SCYC's mixed-voice ensemble Bella Coro, for grades 7/8-12, is currently on hiatus. Treble voices in grade 9 and above are welcome in Cantare. Bass clef voices are encouraged to reach out to the director to be added to a waitlist in the event Bella Coro might be able to resume activities this concert season. SCYC reserves the right to open Bella Coro at any point in the concert season according to interest, registration, and director discretion.

The ECA adult choir and our partner organization, Everett Chorale, will also meet on Mondays, starting at 7:00PM. We may occasionally have rehearsal overlap or even join rehearsals with the Chorale.

Effort will be made to follow the year-at-a-glance schedule as closely as possible. Occasional changes to our rehearsal schedule, especially for any joint rehearsals with Everett Chorale or dress rehearsals at our performance venues, will be announced at least three weeks in advance.

Attendance

Attendance at rehearsals is of the utmost importance to prepare for quality performances and to make sure choristers all progress at similar paces. Parents/guardians are asked to notify the director in advance if a chorister will be absent for a rehearsal. Similarly, please notify the director at the beginning of the quarter if you have a conflict with a final rehearsal or concert call time.

If more than three rehearsals are missed in the quarter, or if a chorister has a conflict with the final rehearsal or a concert call time, the chorister, family, and director will confer; the chorister may be asked to excuse themselves from the performance, dependent on circumstances and at the discretion of the director. Attendance records will be maintained and monitored by the director in conjunction with the ECA board.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Maximum enjoyment of SCYC participation can be realized by all if members give their full attention to the director and the music, refrain from chit-chat with neighbors, and listen carefully to all instructions. This helps the group experience a smooth flow during the rehearsal and maintain steady progress in mastering their music. Members all want to have fun singing together!

Specifically, choristers will work with the director to form some of our “rehearsal rules,” but in general choristers are expected to be willing to learn and ready to listen. This will include listening to and following the director’s and accompanist’s directions, respecting the physical space of fellow choristers, keeping track of one’s own belongings, etc. Singers use their bodies a lot during rehearsal, and sometimes choristers will need to be able to quiet their bodies for specific exercises and pieces. Choristers are expected to give this their best effort.

Food and drink are not allowed in rehearsal, except for medical reasons which must be discussed with the director ahead of time (can be marked on health release form when registering). Chewing gum and chewy fidgets are not allowed during rehearsal for safety reasons. Water is allowed in a bottle.

Neurodivergent choristers and their families are especially encouraged to speak with the director about possible accommodations (ear plugs, fidgets, etc.) to help their chorister be successful.

Our goal is to curate a safe and compassionate rehearsal environment. Consistent disruptive behavioral issues, as well as any behaviors that put a chorister or their fellow choir members at risk, may lead to disciplinary actions such as probation, suspension, expulsion, etc., and will be carried out under the oversight of the SCYC Planning Team and ECA Board of Directors.

Sheet Music

SCYC music will be learned either by rote or from sheet music loaned from the SCYC library. Pencil may be used to mark sheet music, but all marks, if possible, should be erased before the music is returned to the library. Please do not use a highlighter or ink to mark music.

A procedure for returning loaned music will be designated and communicated prior to the end of the quarter, or prior to performances. Pieces must be returned at the conclusion of a quarter or concert, or whenever a chorister leaves SCYC. In the event that a singer must drop out of SCYC prior to the performance, the singer must return loaned music to the director.

Phones and Other Electronic Devices

At most rehearsals, chorister phones and electronic devices will be kept in a basket near the front of the rehearsal space. Exceptions will be allowed if a chorister continually uses an e-device to help monitor a medical condition (insulin levels, etc.), or if the director specifically invites students to document an element of rehearsal via photo, video, or audio recording. If invited to use devices for this purpose, choristers will be expected to return their devices to the basket after completion.

Families may contact the chorister via the director in case of emergencies during rehearsal.

Performances

Schedule

The year-at-a-glance calendar shows the dates for our performances. Our first performance will be “studio-style,” meaning it will be a smaller, more informal recital intended just for family, close friends, and members of the ECA. Other performances may be open to the public. Decisions about the openness of our performances may be determined by a variety of factors -- rate of student learning; the trajectory of the cold, flu, RSV, and COVID-19 season; venue availability; and more. The Artistic Director and ECA board will make a reasonable effort to provide performance details to families as soon as they are available.

We have also scheduled one thank-you performance at our host venue, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, during one of their worship services. Though ECA understands that not every family may feel comfortable participating in the service itself, we must also acknowledge that we are guests in this space, and that expressing our gratitude is appropriate. If you foresee concerns, please discuss with the director.

Soloists and Instrumentalists:

The director determines the nature and composition of SCYC programs. Soloists and small ensembles may be selected from within or outside SCYC membership, and any auditions for these parts will be announced in advance by the director. Other local soloists and ensembles may be invited by the director to participate in our programs. Solo and small ensemble assignments may not be contested.

Stage Etiquette:

SCYC sometimes performs on risers and will be in no way liable for injuries or death of a singer on or off the risers. A singer will notify the conductor of any reason they cannot be on a riser or cannot stand for the length of a performance so that accommodations can be provided.

When entering or leaving the stage, performers should carry their black folders with their music in their upstage hand. Music should remain at their side until the director cues it to be raised.

When accompanist, orchestra, or soloists are performing alone, do not follow along in the score unless directed to do so. Instead, turn pages to the next choral entrance and be prepared to sing on cue by the director. Skipping to the next vocal section can be assisted by paper clipping pages together. Singers should maintain eye contact with the director during performance.

Choristers should never chew gum on stage for safety reasons. Food, drink, and cell phones are not allowed on stage and should be left in the warm-up space.

Concert Dress Code

SCYC choristers are expected to wear “concert blacks” for all 2023-2024 season performances.

What are concert blacks? Concert blacks are a type of uniform: all-black, logo-free, and head-to-toe -- socks and shoes included! Even with tights or leggings, knee length and longer skirts are recommended for chorister’s comfort as venues might have a variety of seating angles; reasonably modest necklines are recommended for similar reasons. As much as possible, concert blacks avoid sequins, heavy beading, and stiff metallic finishes to fabrics; they can be itchy for choristers. Hijabi choristers are encouraged to use black scarves for concerts. SCYC recommends close-toed shoes with 1.5 inch or shorter heels, both for comfort and for safety.

Still, concert blacks allow students to express some individuality while also ensuring a uniform look for performances. A choir presents an image as a whole ensemble, so concert blacks help ensure focus stays on the music that choristers have worked so hard to prepare rather than on whatever clothes they might be wearing. Acceptable outfits across genders include (assume all items are black):

- Trousers, button-down shirt, socks, tennis shoes with no visible logo
- Knee-length dress, leggings, cardigan, ankle boots
- Midi skirt, tights, plain t-shirt, ballet flats
- Slacks, polo, socks, oxford shoes
- And more!

Many different configurations of concert blacks exist! If unsure if a chorister’s black clothes are appropriate for performance, please speak with the director.

Finding black clothes can sometimes be difficult. If a chorister needs assistance in obtaining appropriate concert blacks due to financial hardship or growth spurt, please let the director know as early in the season as possible.

Respiratory Health and Other Health Procedures

Everett Chorale Association takes the health of all our members seriously.

At SCYC, we recognize that even when community transmission rates are low for respiratory illnesses, we take certain health risks when we sing, due to the nature of singing as a “super spreader” activity. For the 2021-2022 season, ECA formed a task force that has done its best ever since to provide guidelines to help choristers and their families stay as safe as reasonably possible during SCYC and Everett Chorale activities.

To that end, ECA has instituted rehearsal protocols that may at times include incorporating physical distancing and running a powerful air filter. Singers are asked to stay home when they feel ill, and to stay home for a full 14 days if they become infected with COVID-19. When the Director is ill, either a substitute director will run rehearsal, or rehearsal will be canceled. In this event or the event of chorister illnesses necessitating rehearsal cancellation, information will be sent to families as soon as is reasonable.

We want the medically vulnerable among us to be able to be full participants in our activities. To that end, SCYC choristers must be vaccinated for COVID-19 to participate in the 2023-'24 concert season; exceptions will only be allowed through a note of explanation from a board-certified doctor. Proof of vaccination should be submitted by first rehearsal and updated when boosters are completed.

It's likely that it will become necessary for all choristers to sing in masks at various points throughout the year, especially during cold, flu, RSV, and COVID-19 season. It is also possible that a health waiver discussing chorister and family adherence to specific risk mitigations surrounding respiratory health may become necessary at any point throughout the season. Health waivers will be distributed at such a time. ECA Board of Directors will make decisions surrounding rehearsal risk mitigations according to community transmission rates of illness, hospitalization rates, respiratory conditions or medically vulnerable members, etc. It is likely such decisions would include requiring the wearing of well-fitting N95 or KN95 masks, or two surgical-style masks as a double-layer. This will be non-negotiable if implemented.

In the event of any health emergency such as major injury, SCYC or ECA adults will contact emergency services. A health waiver surrounding such emergencies is included among the online registration forms to be submitted before choristers' participation in their first rehearsal.

Tuition

The Everett Chorale and SCYC have the same tuition rates. Tuition for the 2023-2024 season will be \$80 per quarter.

Payment Schedule

Tuition must be paid no later than the first rehearsal of each quarter (11 September 2023; 8 January 2024; 1 April 2024).

Financial Aid

The Everett Chorale Association uses federal guidelines for poverty in determining need-based financial aid. The financial aid application form is provided on the SCYC website, or http://bit.ly/ECA_FinancialAid

Find federal poverty guidelines for 2023 at <https://bit.ly/2023PovertyGuidelines> or <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1c92a9207f3ed5915ca020d58fe77696/detailed-guidelines-2023.pdf>

This form is included in the online registration and is provided here for information purposes.

INFORMED CONSENT & RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Although I understand that Snohomish County Youth Chorus (SCYC) will make a reasonable effort to provide a safe environment, I am fully aware of the special dangers and risks inherent in participating in this activity. There is a risk of being injured or getting sick inherent in all camp activities, including singing and games. Some of these illnesses include, but are not limited to, cold, flu, COVID-19, RSV, and other contagious illnesses.

I hereby give my approval for my child's participation in any and all activities during the selected camp. I assume all risk and hazards incidental to the conducting of the activities, and release, absolve, and hold harmless SCYC and all its respective officers, agents, and representatives from any and all liabilities for illness or injuries to said child arising out of participating in choir rehearsals and performances.

In case of injury to or illness of said child, I hereby waive all claims against SCYC, including all directors and affiliates, all participants, sponsoring agencies, and owners of premises used to conduct events.

This form is included in the online registration and is provided here for information purposes.

MEDICAL RELEASE & AUTHORIZATION

In the event of illness, accident, or medical emergency, I authorize Snohomish County Youth Chorus personnel to seek medical care of the minor child by a qualified and licensed medical professional, which in the opinion of the attending medical professional requires immediate attention to prevent further endangerment of the minor's life, physical disfigurement, physical impairment, or other undue pain, suffering or discomfort, if delayed.

This release is authorized and executed of my own free will, with the sole purpose of authorizing medical treatment under emergency circumstances, for the protection of life and limb of the named minor child, in my absence.

This form is included in the online registration and is provided here for information purposes.

RESPIRATORY HEALTH & VACCINATION POLICY

At SCYC, we recognize that even when community transmission rates are low for respiratory illnesses, we take certain health risks when we sing, due to the nature of singing as a “super spreader” activity. We also want the medically vulnerable among us to be able to be full participants in our activities.

To that end, ECA has instituted rehearsal protocols that may at times throughout the season include incorporating physical distancing, masking, and running a powerful air filter during rehearsals. Current policies are as follows:

1) SCYC choristers must be vaccinated for COVID-19 for participation in the 2023-24 Concert Season; exceptions will only be allowed through a note of explanation from a board-certified doctor. Proof of vaccination should be submitted at first rehearsal and updated whenever boosters are completed.

2) ECA Board of Directors will make decisions surrounding rehearsal risk mitigations according to community transmission rates of illness, hospitalization rates, respiratory conditions and medically vulnerable members, etc. Such mitigations and policies will be non-negotiable once implemented.

I agree to make every reasonable effort to meet vaccination requirements. I understand failure to do so will limit my chorister's participation until requirements have been met.

I understand that the ECA reserves the right to amend risk mitigation policies in response to community health trends.

This form is included in the online registration and is provided here for information purposes.

SCYC IMAGE AND AUDIO RELEASE WAIVER

By digitally signing my name below, I grant permission to the rights of my chorister's image, likeness and sound of their voice as recorded on audio or video tape without payment or any other consideration. I understand that my choristers image may be edited, copied, exhibited, published or distributed and waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein their likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of my image or recording. I also understand that this material may be used in diverse educational settings within an unrestricted geographic area. Photographic, audio or video recordings may be used for the following purposes: conference presentations, educational presentations or courses, informational presentations, on-line educational courses, educational videos, media, and promotion.

By signing this release I understand this permission signifies that photographic or video recordings of my chorister may be electronically displayed via the Internet or in the public educational setting. I will be consulted about the use of the photographs or video recording for any purpose other than those listed above. There is no time limit on the validity of this release nor is there any geographic limitation on where these materials may be distributed. By signing this form I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound thereby. I hereby release any and all claims against any person or organization utilizing this material.

HANDBOOK AND PROCEDURES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*This form will be provided online to families after orientation night.
Please submit before first rehearsal.*

The student handbook describes important information about Snohomish County Youth Chorus and Everett Chorale Association. I understand that any and all policies and practices may be changed at any time by ECA or SCYC, and the organization reserves the right to modify these policies at any time. All such changes will be communicated through official notices, and I understand that revised information may supersede, modify, or eliminate existing policies.

I have received the SCYC 2023-2024 Handbook, and I understand that it is my responsibility to read or have someone explain its contents, and to comply with the policies contained in this handbook and any revisions made to it.

Chorister's Name:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: