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Office: 1828 12th Ave., Suite A
Seattle, WA 98122
206-526-1900

Seattle Girls' Choir

Audition Kit

Dear Prospective Choir Member:

Thank you for your inquiry about Seattle Girls' Choir! We appreciate hearing from you, and hope to welcome you soon into one of our six choir levels. You have chosen the program that is nationally recognized in choral music and music education. The choir combines a world-class faculty with an integrated education approach that gives girls the opportunity to develop their passion for singing, learn about all aspects of music, perform together within an ensemble and study the art of music theory and composition.

The Seattle Girls' Choir has grown to become one of the premier musical organizations in Seattle since its inception in 1982. We are proud to contribute to our community musically literate, sophisticated, confident and mature young women. We teach musicianship, voice, music theory and sight singing in an environment where students enjoy the company of intelligent and talented peers, make world-class music and develop life-long friendships. We provide excellent performance opportunities locally, regionally and abroad. Maestro Gerard Schwarz calls Seattle Girls' Choir "a cultural treasure."

We have a six-level program for girls ages six through high school at our Choir Center conveniently located in the north Capitol Hill neighborhood at 13th & Aloha.

"Dolcinettes" and **"Dolcine"** – for girls ages 6 & 7 meets Thursdays from 4:15 to 5:05 with Dolcine level continuing on until 5:55

"Vivissimi" – for girls primarily 8 & 9 meets Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30

The two-hour class includes a break and a half hour each week alternating between sight-singing and music theory classes.

"Allegra" – for girls 10 and above – meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30.

The two-hour class includes a break and on Thursdays a half hour alternating between sight-singing and music theory classes

"Cantamus" (Intermediate Choir) –middle & high school girls, meets on Mon. and Wed.

Monday: Choral Rehearsal 4:30 to 6:15

Sack Dinner Break 6:15 to 6:35

Weekly Sight-Singing class and rotating schedules for Music Theory and Voice classes from 6:35 to 7:35

Wednesday: Choral Rehearsal from 4:30 to 6:30

"Prime Voci" (Advanced Choir) – includes international tours, professional recordings and special performances. Prime Voci meets Monday and Wednesday at the same time as Cantamus; and girls from these two choirs attend theory, sight-singing and voice class together. We combine the Upper Division choirs when a large choir is needed.

SCHEDULING YOUR AUDITION:

Send in a completed Audition Application (the final two pages of this document) and a deposit of \$25. Appointments are in demand and the deposit reserves a time just for you. Please mail to:

Seattle Girls' Choir Auditions
1828 12th Ave. Suite A
Seattle, WA 98122

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION:

Auditioning for the Seattle Girls' Choir is not as difficult as the term "audition" implies. Our auditions are a forum to get acquainted with you and a parent, hear your voice, and determine placement in our program. We look for potential, rather than polished performances. You will be asked to choose a solo and sing the first verse of "My Country 'Tis of Thee". We are quite informal with the youngest girls, and simple songs are just fine. Choose a solo that you like. Songs you choose need not be complicated – we just want to hear you singing something you enjoy that demonstrates your voice. Your solo can be from a musical, a hymn, a folk song, something from a movie, a lighter popular song or an operatic aria or art song. (Please no rock) The rest of the audition is matching pitches, clapping rhythms and getting to know you!

THINGS TO BRING TO YOUR AUDITION:

1. A small photo of yourself (a school photo is fine)
2. A copy of your latest grade report
3. 2 Letters of Recommendation (from a music teacher, classroom teacher, youth leader, pastor – that sort of thing)

If you have these items available when filling out your audition application please feel free to mail them all together.

AUDITION APPOINTMENTS:

Upon receipt of your audition application, we will call you, followed by an email, to set a firm appointment day, time and location. Directions to the audition will be given at that time.

Because we offer more class time, depth and course offering, our tuition is the best music education value in the area. Please feel free to phone with any questions you may have about our program. Phone 206-526-1900 (then press "1" for Auditions Mailbox). You may visit our website: www.seattlegirlschoir.org

Sincerely,

Jerome L. Wright, Ph.D.
Founder & Artistic Director

CHOIR HIGHLIGHTS

AWARDS:

- International Youth and Music Festival, first place award – Vienna, Austria
- Youth Choir Division: Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, first place award – Wales
- Youth Choir & Chamber Choir Divisions: International Choral Kathaumixw – Canada (NB: Cantamus won the second prize in the Children's Choir Division in the summer of 2000 – the highest ranking among all North American choirs!)

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

- Salzburg Festival Opening Concert, Salzburg, Austria – July 2009
- ACDA Northwest Division Convention, Portland, OR – March 2006
- Pacific International Children's Choral Festival, Eugene, OR – June 2005 and 2007
- World Festival of Women's Singing – Featured Choir, Salt Lake City, Feb. 4-7, 2004
Other Featured Choirs are: Seoul Ladies' Singers, Viva Voce! and Brigham Young University Women's Choir. Concerts at the Mormon Tabernacle & Assembly Hall
- Czech Sacred Music Festival, Prague – Featured Choir, 2003
- Seattle Girls' Choir 20th Anniversary Concert – Benaroya Symphony Hall, Seattle – June, 2002
- World Festival of Women's Singing (Americafest) – Co-host Choir with Elektra – 2001 Concerts at Town Hall, St. James Cathedral and Benaroya Symphony Hall, Seattle
- ACDA National Convention, San Antonio, Texas – March 2001
- Mass at St. Peter's Basilica & Concert at St. Ignatius in Rome – July 2000
- Portland International Children's Choir Festival – "Featured American Choir" – 1998
- Harvard University Festival of Women's Choirs – 1996
- International Choral Sympaatti – Tampere & Helsinki, Finland – 1990
- International Society for Music Education International Conference, Finlandia Hall, Helsinki – 1990
- Goodwill Arts Festival: "Soviet-American Youth Choir Concert" – 1990
- Chorus America National Convention
- Music Educators National Conference (MENC, WMEA) – National Convention, Anaheim, 1986
- Hosted some of the world's finest young choirs in Seattle (the Moran Choir of Israel, MaedchenChor Hannover, the Tapiola Choir of Finland, The Shchedryk Choir of Ukraine, and many others!)
- Twentieth Anniversary Concert – June 22, 2002 at Benaroya Hall. .

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL TOURS:

- European Concert Tours: 1985, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, and 2009
- AmericaFest 1994: America's first traveling multicultural choral festival. One of four Founding Choirs (the others: Tapiola Choir of Finland, Efroni Choir of Israel and Shchedryk Choir of Ukraine). Concerts in Minneapolis, Des Moines, Chicago, Grand Rapids, Toronto, Quebec City, the Maritimes and New England.
- Millennium Jubilee Cathedral Tour: Prime Voci sang in cathedrals and churches in Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Venice, Ravenna, Siena, Florence and Rome (at the invitation of Pope John Paul II) in the summer of 2000. This was a great experience for us, as a non-sectarian community choir!

TUITION RATES

Seattle Girls' Choir rehearsal season is essentially made up of two five month semesters: September through January and February through June plus August Sleep-Away Choir Camp required for girls in our three upper choir levels. Tuition for upper choir levels is spread over 12-months and includes the majority of camp fees. One additional camp payment will be due in June. The tuition rates below are effective as of September 1, 2009. Scholarships are available with demonstrated need.

Families may choose from three payment options:

- 1) Pay for the entire season – if paid by check, receive a \$50 discount
- 2) Pay twice within season (Sept. 1st and Feb. 1st) - if paid by check receive \$20 discount
- 3) Pay monthly

DOLCINETTES:	90 per month, for 10 months September through June	50 min. of instruction weekly
DOLCINE:	\$100 per month, for 10 months September through June	1hr 30 min. of instruction weekly
VIVISSIMI:	\$110 per month, for 10 months September through June	2 hours of instruction weekly
ALLEGRA:	\$150 per month, for 12 months September through August	Four hours of instruction weekly Choir Camp first week of August
CANTAMUS:	\$163 per month, for 12 months September through August	Five hours of instruction weekly Choir Camp first week of August
PRIME VOCI:	\$167 per month, for 12 months September through August	Five hours of instruction weekly Choir Camp first week of August

Tuition must be current for a girl to be admitted to class and to perform in concerts.

For the second girl in a family, deduct \$200 per season, confirming payment details with Office Manager.

FROM MUSIC CRITICS

One of the best choirs of the evening, Seattle Girls' Choir, under the direction of Jerome Wright, sparkled with warm tones and flexibility. They were able to color their voices in a wide range of choral styles from light pops to dark dramatic pieces. Seattle Girls' Choir sang directly to the audience, openly and with joy. – **Helsinki Sanomat (newspaper), Finland**

The well-blended Seattle Girls' Choir was at its artful best in a superb arrangement of "Steal Away", with an echo chorus adding to the rich harmonies. – **Melinda Bargreen, Seattle Times**

The Choir has a focus rarely heard in any choral group less than professional and an enviable sense of ensemble. – **R.M. Campbell, Seattle Post-Intelligencer**

The Seattle Girls' Choir school offers tremendous education and experience under the guidance of world-class teachers. And while that sort of education is a superb foundation for those going into music professionally, this experience is equally important for those who go on to be lawyers, plumbers, and/or moms! Learning some discipline and a love of music is always a good thing. And what a sense of accomplishment, belonging, and friendship! – **Bryan Lowe, Program Director, 98.1 Classical KING FM**

QUOTES FROM ALUMNAE AND PARENTS

How grateful we are for what you do for all the fortunate girls who come under your tutelage as well as the friends and general public who you will probably never hear from concerning the gift of music you have given them over the years... Thank you again for your dedicated life to not only music, but for the excellence you give your music. Excellence is the difference between so many ordinary, average musicians and you...you have that extra touch that thrills. – **Betty & Jonathan Brooks**, chorister grandparents

Sheila Houlahan – 2009 Graduate - Joined in 1998 – Conservatory of Music at Webster University

“Besides the extensive training, I’m really grateful for the friends I made at SGC. Choir friends are different from school friends. I believe that there is some psychological bond that forms between choristers that isn’t there necessarily in other friendships. We have to get along and understand each other in order to produce a unified sound. Because participating in the act of singing means you really have to put yourself out there artistically, I’m comfortable with really being myself around choir girls since they’ve already seen a part of me through the music that most other people don’t see. Some of my favorite choir memories are from choir camp, where choristers form deeper bonds from being in close proximity to each other for a long time.”

Hilary Johnson – 2007 Graduate - Joined in 1996 – Entered USC Thornton School of Music – Vocal Jazz Studies

” I’ve acquired the understanding of self-discipline. Internal motivation cultivated during my experience in SGC has manifested itself in all other aspects of my life. The individual accountability the Seattle Girls’ Choir preaches has expressed itself in my academic life, relationships and activity in music. While the expectations to meet demands as an individual and a choral group is high, higher yet, however is the expectation that these aspirations will not only be met, but will be revised upward and even be exceeded.”

“My deep love of jazz has combined with my choral experience to form the new concept that I, alone, was capable of creating music. The personal experiences and emotions I’ve had were given meaning in this vocal expression. By expressing them, I was forced to recognize them and examine parts of myself.”

Ekaterina Kalfov – 2006 Graduate - Joined SGC in 1997, Entered Cornish College of Arts

”Each new song, each new girl, each concert or tour has been a learning and life event. When all of these elements were combined in front of an audience, the reward was their appreciation, acknowledgement and applause. The real reward, however, is the internal one where I have been one voice amongst many and I was part of the acknowledgement to the team of girls and the director that made that successful concert.”

Megan Billingsley – 2006 Graduate - Joined 1998, Entered Cottey College

”...Having the Patriarch of Romania hear and bless us in a cathedral filled with people was also something that will stick with me forever. However, for me the most memorable moment was our last concert in Hungary where we sang in front of 5000+ people. Being in such splendid surroundings sharing our music with so many people was an amazing experience.”

Kate Macfarlane – 2006 Graduate - Joined SGC in 1998, Entered Middlebury College, in Vermont

”... because choir is so much more than just singing, or even just music. When I think over my years in choir, I remember much more than the time that I’ve spent practicing my intervals, memorizing lyrics in Estonian, Welsh, and German, and learning the modes. How could I forget flying kites with my 'little sister' at choir camp, singing for the Patriarch of Romania, or laughing myself sick doing Hungarian water aerobics with friends I've known since I was ten?”

Nina R. Zendejas – 2005 Graduate - Joined SGC in 1998, Entered Boston Conservatory

“As a growing adult, whomever and whatever I choose to divert my complete attention to also receives, because of choir, the benefit of my full focus and energy. It’s just a switch that turns on...I will remember the attitudes of everyone I worked with. Standing in a semi-circle, you can tell that everyone wants to be there and loves singing. There is a standard and there is a connection. There is exquisitely beautiful music.”

Sofie Sparkman - 2004 Graduate Joined in May 1993. Entered University of Washington.

“In SGC, I have been fortunate enough to sing sublimely beautiful music with extremely talented girls and be taught by phenomenal conductors and teachers. ...Never forget that singing is a celebration of oxygen.”

SEATTLE GIRLS' CHOIR AUDITION APPLICATION FORM

Instructions: Fill in all information on both pages, printing everything, and return with your audition deposit. Thank you!

(If you have the photo, copy of the report card, or letters of recommendation feel free to include at this time.)

Girl's Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Nickname: _____ Age: _____ Grade fall 2009: _____

Home Address: _____

Street address: include apartment number, if applicable

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Parent Cell #: _____

Parent Cell #: _____

Parent Name: _____

Place of Work: _____ Occupation _____

Email Address: _____

Parent Name: _____

Place of Work: _____ Occupation _____

Email Address: _____

Do you live with: Both Parents Mom Dad Guardian

Name of School: _____

Music Teacher(s): _____

Choral, Vocal, or Band

Instrument(s) Played: _____ How many years of lessons? _____

Organized Activities (check all that apply) dance gymnastics baseball/soccer/basketball scouting

Other: _____

How did you hear about Seattle Girls' Choir? Mailer Radio Poster School Church

Magazine/paper Internet Phone book Music Teacher saw a performance

OR - who referred you to SGC? _____

Is the person who referred you an SGC member or parent of a member? _____

Do you subscribe to: Symphony Opera Ballet NW Chamber Orch. Other Choral

Children's Theater ACT/Seattle Rep/Empty Space Theater Other Theater

Mail both pages of form with a \$25 Audition Deposit – made out to “Seattle Girls’ Choir” to:

SGC AUDITIONS – 1828 12th Ave. Suite A, Seattle, WA 98122

Questions? Call 206-526-1900

Upon receipt of your deposit and form, you will be phoned to set a firm appointment time. **Thank you.**

RESUMÉ OF ARTISTIC TRAINING and/or EXPERIENCE

Please give us some highlights of ANY musical experiences you feel we should know about. Include choirs or vocal groups, lessons, instrumental groups, dramatic and/or dance experience, recitals. Please give us names of groups, roles played and approximate dates of the experiences.

Please give a brief statement about your artistic goals and ambitions:

Why do you wish to become a member of Seattle Girls' Choir?

What is your favorite *academic* subject (subject other than artistic)? _____

Anything else you would like us to know?

Faculty Audition Notes

Brief Description _____

Grade Report Info _____ School Attendance _____

Letters From _____

Solo _____

MCTOT _____

Intervals /2, /2, /2 II /3, /3, /3 CHORDS /3, /3, /3, _____

Sight-Reading and/or Rhythm _____

Range _____ below Middle C to _____

Comment _____

Probable Choir _____ Section _____

Starting Date _____

Comments _____

Signature of Faculty Member: _____
