

THE
CLEVELAND
ORCHESTRA

BLOSSOM
MUSIC FESTIVAL
2024

WELCOME TO THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA CHILDREN'S CHORUS AT BLOSSOM

Jennifer Rozsa, *Director of Children's Choruses*

Jacob Young, *Assistant Director of Children's Choruses*

Please read the following pages carefully for important information regarding the Children's Chorus. If you have any questions about membership policies, please ask!

Important Contact Information

Angel Tyler, Children's Chorus Manager

(216) 456-8408

at Tyler@clevelandorchestra.com

Severance Music Center Ticket Office

11001 Euclid Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44106

(216) 231-1111

The Ticket Office is open Monday – Friday from 9am – 6pm & three hours prior until intermission on concert days.

www.clevelandorchestra.com

Chorus Hotline - (216) 231-7384

(Updated weekly with rehearsal information)

Blossom Music Center

1145 W. Steels Corners

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

(330) 920-8040

The Blossom Box Office is open Saturday & Sunday from 1pm – 5pm and through intermission on concert days.

Communication Guide:

If you wish to contact the Chorus Office, please address all Children's Chorus questions or concerns to Angel Tyler, Children's Chorus manager at atyler@clevelandorchestra.com or (216) 456-8408). The Chorus Office communicates ALL rehearsal information such as scheduling and rehearsal changes via email; please make sure to check your email regularly. Email is the Chorus Office's primary form of communication. Choristers and parents alike should check their email several times each week, and once a day during concert weeks.

Children's Choruses Hotline

For last-minute conflicts on the day of a rehearsal, please leave a message on the Children's Chorus hotline: **(216) 231-7384**. All other absence notifications should be communicated via an absence request form. For more information on absences and absence request forms, please see the "Attendance Policy" in the sections below.

You may also call the Children's Choruses Hotline to confirm the status of a rehearsal, if you are ever unsure. Upon calling the hotline, you will hear a recorded message confirming the time, location, and date of the next COCC service.

"Remind" Text Messaging System

Chorus members and their families will sign up for text messaging service through Remind to receive day-of reminders about rehearsal times and locations, updated release times in the event of an early dismissal (most often during orchestra or conductor rehearsals), and other regular reminders pertaining to chorus schedule. Lord of the Rings choristers and their families will have a separate Remind alert system from the traditional Remind system for all COCC choristers. To receive specific updates for Lord of the Rings, use the following sign-up information:

LOTR COCC members: text @df9837e to 81010

Please note that standard text message rates apply.

Inclement Weather & Cancellations

It is extremely rare for a performance to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Concerts at Blossom are not cancelled due to rain. However, in the unlikely event that a performance is cancelled, all of the above messaging systems will be implemented (text and email). We will notify parents immediately with further instructions and details. In the case of inclement weather in which choristers have already arrived or are present, we will have them take shelter in the basement of the pavilion at Blossom.

Additionally, the Children's Chorus Hotline will be updated, and you may call this number at any time to hear the most current information on the outgoing message. If you leave a message for the Chorus Manager in the middle of a weather emergency, she will likely not have the opportunity to return your call. Please assume that your message has been received even if you do not receive a response.

If a service is NOT cancelled, and you feel it is unsafe to travel to the service location, then you should not do so. Chorus members commute from all over northeast Ohio and the weather in one area may be more severe than in another; you have to decide what is in your best interest. If you must miss rehearsal due to weather, you may be asked to test at the following rehearsal. The Chorus Manager will follow up with information and instructions for the testing session if needed.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and to be in your assigned seat prior to warm-up. Please plan on arriving 10 minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal start time. Late arrivals are disruptive to the rehearsal process and may contribute to your number of accrued absences. If you are not in your seat, you will be marked late when warm-up begins. There are three types of absences:

1. Examples of excused absences:

- Religious holidays
- Funerals
- Family emergency: must be explained to be considered excused.
- Family weddings
- Illness: If you are seriously ill or contagious, please refrain from attending rehearsal.

2. Examples of unexcused absences:

- Too much homework
- Studying for an exam
- Any last-minute absence that does not fall under the category of an excused absence.

3. Last-minute: Last-minute absences on the day of the rehearsal must be communicated via the Children's Chorus hotline by calling (216) 231-7384. Depending on the nature of the absence, this may be counted as an excused or unexcused absence at the Director's discretion.

Absence Requests

If the nature of an excused absence allows you to inform the chorus office ahead of time, you must submit an absence request form through the following procedure:

The absence request google form may be found on the COCC website in the MEMBERS section under FORMS and COCC CHORISTER CORNER section under IMPORTANT RESOURCES. Absence request forms also include a space to request early dismissal from or late arrival to a COCC service.

Forms must be submitted via the google doc form at least 2 weeks prior to the requested absence date. Forms submitted via email will be forwarded to the Director for approval. The Chorus Manager will contact you to inform you if your absence request was denied.

Testing Sessions for Missed Rehearsals

After a chorus member has had two excused absences, they will be asked to attend or record a testing session. During a testing session, singers will be asked to sing an excerpt from any music that was rehearsed in their absence, which can include the most difficult passage. A singer may be asked to test in one of two ways:

1. Call Google Voicemail and record the testing session excerpt.
 - a. The Chorus Manager will email you detailed instructions which will include the deadline to submit the voicemail and what music to prepare and record.
 - b. The voicemail message will mention the passage to record and give you a starting pitch.

OR

2. Arrive early at the following rehearsal for an in-person testing session with the chorus director.

- a. The Chorus Manager will email you detailed instructions which will include the date, time, and location of the session and what music to prepare.
- b. In-person testing sessions typically occur 30-minutes before the start of the regular chorus rehearsal and in the chorus rehearsal space.

The method of the testing session will be determined by the Chorus Director. If there are unique circumstances that prevent you from arriving early for your testing session, you must communicate that information to the Chorus Manager via email.

If the results of the testing session are unsatisfactory, the chorister will be notified and asked to either resubmit their testing session or arrive early for the following rehearsal for an in-person testing session with the director covering the same material.

COCC Google Voicemail: (216) 282-7887

Music/Study Materials

You will receive your Return of the King score on the first day of rehearsal (Tuesday, July 2nd). Chorus Members are encouraged to make notes in their music to assist in remembering the Director's instructions. Pencils are always provided at rehearsals.

If illness or other emergency causes you to not sing a concert, all music is required to be returned to the Chorus Office, Severance Music Center, 11001 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106.

It is the responsibility of each chorus member to bring their music to every rehearsal.

Study materials are available for Children's Chorus members on their website at cocc.cochorus.com under COCC Chorister Corner. The 2024-25 season password for the MEMBERS section is **cantata25!** (no caps, no spaces). Students should utilize a black 3 ring binder or a stringed choral folder. A folder with only two pockets is not appropriate for concert usage.

If you wish to purchase a stringed black chorus folder, they are available for purchase through the chorus office for \$25.00. Additional 3-ring inserts are also available for \$2 (quantities are limited). Choral folders are a great investment for your choristers for their use for the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus or elsewhere.

Rehearsal Decorum

Please be respectful of the people around you and adhere to the following rehearsal guidelines:

1. Turn off and/or silence all cell phones, tablets and any other electronic devices and put them in a place where they will not distract you! The Chorus Manager and/or the Directors reserve the right to confiscate a cell phone if it is out during rehearsal. The cell phone may be picked up at the conclusion of the rehearsal.
2. Do not wear perfume, cologne, or scented hair products to rehearsals or performances. Many of your fellow choristers are sensitive or allergic to such aromas. Take care with personal hygiene.
3. Always have a pencil with you during rehearsals. If you forget to bring a pencil, we will have a box of pencils for you to borrow from.
4. Allow enough time to find your place on the seating chart and your chair before the start of a rehearsal. Be in your seat before a rehearsal resume following a break.

5. Do not bring food or drink into any rehearsal space before, during or after rehearsals.
6. Do not bring homework or books to rehearsal unless you have been notified in advance that there will be downtime.
7. Visitors are allowed in rehearsal only with the permission of the Director. Visitor attendance must be cleared in advance through the Manager.

The Director may give the Chorus a break at the mid-point of rehearsals. Please remain in your seat until this break. Use the restroom before rehearsal starts. In the event of an emergency that forces you to leave the rehearsal before a scheduled break, please be as quiet and unobtrusive as possible while exiting and returning to the room.

Stage Rehearsal Decorum (at Severance or Blossom)

In addition to all the guidelines outlined above, please note the following for rehearsals held on stage at Severance Hall and Blossom:

1. Only music and folders are allowed on stage. Please leave other items (coats and personal belongings) in the warm-up space.
2. If you arrive late for an on-stage orchestra rehearsal, you must find and check in with the Chorus Manager and they will determine if you are allowed to go on stage or must wait in the Hall until break.
3. Talking is NOT permitted once tuning begins.
4. Dress rehearsals do not require concert attire, unless specifically noted.
5. Guest attendance at Chorus-only stage rehearsals is allowed only with the permission of the Director. All orchestra rehearsals are closed to the public.
6. In the event that you begin to feel ill during a rehearsal, you must inform the Manager of Children's Chorus and go home.
7. During onstage rehearsals, it is unacceptable to leave the stage except in cases of extreme emergency. If you must leave the stage, do NOT attempt to re-enter the stage until the break and find the Children's Chorus Manager.

Concert Decorum

Avoid doing anything that might detract from the audience's perception of a concert or your fellow chorus members' performance. On-stage conversation is not only distracting and unprofessional; it is extremely rude to the conductor, chorus members, and orchestra members. Talking is NOT permitted once the concertmaster enters the stage.

1. While entering and exiting the stage, please always carry your folder in your upstage hand (upstage is the side facing away from the audience).
2. Stand and sit as quietly as possible and in unison. Please refer to your music cues and watch the conductor.
3. If for any reason you miss the filing-on process, you must sit out that portion of the concert.
4. Please do not applaud after a concert.
5. During concerts, nothing but music and folders may be taken on stage (no water bottles). Do not take cellphones onto the stage. Electronic wristwatches (which may have alarms or audible notifications) are also not permitted to be worn during a performance.

Concert Attire

There are two attire options that choristers may choose from:

Option 1:

- Black long-sleeved button-down dress shirt, with black buttons (Undershirts should be black, if worn)
- Black dress slacks
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks

Option 2:

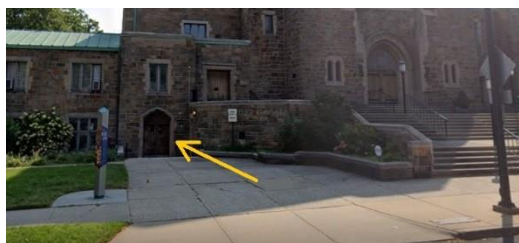
- Black below-the-knee length dress/skirt or black full-cut dress pants
- Black ¾ length or wrist-length blouse or jacket
- Black dress shoes (no boots, heels, jewels, or distracting embellishments)
- No stockings required at Blossom

All:

- All hair should be off the face and shoulders. Singers with long hair and/or bangs should prioritize keeping their hair away from their face. Obtrusive hair pieces or headbands are not permitted.
 - Suggested styles: Half-updo, half-pony, braided crown, simple pulled back ponytail, etc.
 - If you have questions about the hair policy such as whether your bangs needed to be pinned back or styles that work according to our policy, please contact the Chorus Manager.
- The only permissible jewelry items are stud earrings and non-electric wristwatches.
- Perfumes, colognes, scented shaving lotions, deodorants, and scented hair products are not permitted.
- COCC Members should not wear their blazers.
- Please avoid shiny, shimmery fabrics, clothing, or headbands.
- Masks are optional for all rehearsals and performances.

Rehearsal Venues

Regular piano rehearsals this summer will take place at **University Circle United Methodist Church** (1919 E 107th St, Cleveland, Ohio 44106) in **the Chapel** on the first floor.



The entrance door in the front is NEXT TO the sanctuary entrance. Do not go UP the big stairs. You'll want to look for our gold directional signs and enter the door that the gold arrow is pointing to.

Upon entering through the entrance doors, you'll want to take the stairs leading up to the first level. There will be signs pointing towards the Chapel. There is a small elevator from the back entrance for those needing to avoid the stairs.



There is free parking available along MLK drive, directly behind the church, across the street along E. 107th in the lot for Judson Manor, and Pentecostal Church of Christ (PCC) which is on the corner of East 105th Street and Chester that families should utilize. The church has a small parking lot off E. 107th street but we want to reserve this lot for those needing to use the accessible entrance in the back.

When parking at Judson Manor, please leave the last row along the fence (row 4) open for Judson’s people. As a heads up, the lot at Judson may fill up more quickly due to people attending Wade Oval Wednesdays. You can also expect that there will not be parking available on MLK.

Parking at Severance

Parking at rehearsal/performance venues is free of charge for chorus members. For rehearsals held at Severance Music Center, each chorus member will receive a dated parking voucher for access into the Severance parking garage. Parents may use the voucher to park if waiting. Students may also be dropped off at the East Blvd pull-off (see below). It is likely that parents may wait in Smith Lobby (near box office) but the Chorus Manager will confirm the week of the rehearsal at Severance.



Rehearsals at Blossom

Please allow MORE time than you think necessary to arrive ON TIME for warm-ups and rehearsals at Blossom. The summer construction can (and will) cause delays. Allow enough time to walk from your car to the Pavilion *BEFORE* the call time.

For rehearsals/concerts held at Blossom Music Center, chorus members will receive a dated parking hang tag for lots **C, D** and **E**. **OBSERVE THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT OF 25 MPH AT BLOSSOM** - even if you think no one will see you or you are running late to rehearsal. Parents should park in the lots C, D or E and then escort their child all the way into the park to the pavilion backstage gate. A chorus staff member will be waiting to greet you at the gate and escort your child to the chorus room (see last page for Blossom map).

Please do not bring valuables to Blossom. We have one shared space for warm-up, changing, and eating. There is no place to secure valuables.

Chorus members will receive wristbands that will be required to access the Blossom backstage area on concert days. Wristbands will be distributed at rehearsal the week of the concert. Do not lose your wristband; you will not be able to access the backstage area without it! You do not have to wear your wristband; simply keep it with you. For Return of the King, three wristbands will be issued (one for each concert).

Social Media Policy

Every member of the Choruses acts as an ambassador of our organization. The responsibilities of a chorus member relating to personal use of social networking and other third-party websites are:

1. Only information about The Cleveland Orchestra and its family of Choruses that is in the public domain should be disclosed. If it is posted at www.clevelandorchestra.com, it is safe to copy/paste and use in social networking activities. When in doubt, check with the Manager of Children's Chorus before posting anything.
2. Do not engage in online activities that might bring The Cleveland Orchestra into disrepute.
3. Do not post derogatory or offensive comments about other chorus or orchestra members, especially in situations where the name The Cleveland Orchestra is involved.
4. Do not criticize other choruses and arts groups in a non-constructive manner.
5. Use social media responsibly, to express yourself and your own opinions, but not as a Children's Chorus representative.
6. Tag only photos that will showcase The Cleveland Orchestra as the reputable organization that it is. Please be respectful when posting photos of other chorus members and ask for permission before tagging them.

Behavior Expectations

Any organization that has high performance standards must also have high behavioral standards. Being a member of any of The Cleveland Orchestra choral ensembles should be a positive and enriching experience for everyone. Choristers are therefore expected to treat all directors, staff, and other chorus members with respect.

All members of the Children's Choruses are expected to:

1. Choose comments and actions that are positive, kind and constructive.
2. Choose learning behaviors that show the best possible effort.
3. Choose to be an active listener at all rehearsals and performances.
4. Choose to occupy their own learning space in a manner which shows dignity and respect, and free of distractions that interfere with teaching and learning.

If a chorister does not adhere to the expectations described above, the Director will first have a private conversation with the student to discuss the exhibited behavior and identify solutions for improvement. Should the behavior not improve, the following steps may be taken:

- The Manager of Children’s Chorus will contact the member’s parent/guardian on behalf of the Director to discuss the Chorister’s behavior. The Director will meet with the Chorister’s parents/guardians, and at this time the Chorister may be placed on probationary status.
- The Chorister may be removed from the Chorus. Depending on the severity of the infraction, the Chorus Directors and Staff reserve the right to immediately act upon any of the steps listed above.

Blossom Tickets and General Info

Each member of the Lord of the Rings Children’s Chorus can receive two (2) complimentary **Lawn** tickets for the Friday, August 2 performance **and** the Sunday, August 4 performance and one (1) complimentary Lawn ticket for the Saturday, August 3 performance.

These tickets will be distributed by the Children’s Chorus manager during the concert performance week. You can request your tickets through the “Lawn Ticket Request for LOTR” Google Form on the website.

The gates at Blossom will open to the public 2 hours and 30 minutes prior to the performance. The Pavilion/seating area will generally open 2 hours before the performance. If an afternoon rehearsal runs late, or the stage is not ready in time, opening may be delayed.

Knicht Grove (Pods)
1 2 3 4 5 6

Picnic Tables



Blossom Grille

Lawn Terrace

Lawn Seating

Cleveland Orchestra Store

Concessions

Frank E. Joseph Garden

Eells Gallery

Tasting Room

Lot A Gate

Guest Services
First Aid
Security

FirstEnergy
Lot A
(RESERVED-PREPAID)

Information Center*

Woods Picnic Area

Subscriber
Lot B

Lot C
PARK

Lot E
PARK

Lot D
PARK

Concessions



Concessions

Family Restroom

Hood Meyerson Suite

Students should be dropped off and picked up at backstage gate, where staff members will be waiting to escort them.

Pavilion

Kulas Plaza

Concessions

Tram Circle

Concessions

Concessions

Concessions

Lawn Chair Rental

Information Center*

Herbert E. Strawbridge Garden

Emily's Garden

Smith Plaza

Special Events Center

Main G

If main gate is locked when you arrive, try side gate all the way to your right.

Box Office

Pedestrian Bridge

Lawn Ticket Booth

Chorus Path

Driving Lanes

T Tram Stops

*Blossom Friends of The Cleveland Orchestra

Porthouse Theatre, Grass Lots 1, 2, 3, & 4, and Steels Corners Road Entrance

WATCH YOUR SPEED!!