



Children's Choir Handbook

2014-2015

Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church

Cherub Choir

4-year olds, Kindergarten and grade 1

Thursday, 4:00-4:55

Joyful Praise Choir

Grades 2-6

Thursday, 5:00-6:00

Brick Singers

Grades 7 - High School

Dear Parents,

September 3, 2014

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 12th year of children's choirs at Point Loma *Community* Presbyterian Church. I am looking forward to a great year as I help to guide singers and watch their potential unfold. God has entrusted each of us as parents and adults with the responsibility of shaping our children and helping them grow. I see our choirs as a significant way to help children discover many things about God, themselves, and music ministry.

A choir ministry, because of its Kingdom building commitment, is set apart from dance, sports, art and gymnastics. It is not just another activity option in the long list of activities available to children. Children who learn to use their singing voice at an early age grow up equipped to participate in worship through music. Children who are securely rooted in God's Word have the best possible anchor to secure them in the midst of life's raging storms and murky waters. - Linda Fray

This will be our third Christmas in our renovated Sanctuary and grades Pre-K - 6 will perform a **Christmas musical**: "Room for Christmas" by Mark Burrows at the 5p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. This is a fun new musical about children having to take over the Christmas Pageant rehearsal one week before the show because the director gets sick. With such memorable characters as the bossy angel, wisecracking shepherds and unruly sheep new twists in the story emerge and children come up with the idea of a toy drive for those in need. In "Room for Christmas" children discover in tangible ways what really matters and what Christmas is about.

Another fabulous performance opportunity for children grades 2-High School is to perform at our annual Christmas Concert on December 14th. This concert provides a unique opportunity for children to sing with adults accompanied by a professional orchestra. It is a magical evening for both performers and attendees. All singers have the opportunity to minister in worship during Sunday services in October and December.

The success of any children's program reflects the level of commitment that parents give. You are a vital part and the backbone of this ministry. Please sign-up for a day you can help or a special area of interest. Thank you for your dedication and support.

It is my hope that this handbook will give you a broader description and understanding as to how we can accomplish our goals and make this a wonderful experience for our children. I am looking forward to a great year of teaching and providing the opportunity for your children to minister to others. They are very special.

In Christ,

Alicia McMillan

Choir Mission

To Nurture the Spiritual Growth of children through Music

To Give children opportunity to share in worship and to offer their music for all in the corporate worship of God

To Minister in the community by singing at retirement centers and concerts

To Provide Christian fellowship

To Teach healthy vocal techniques

To Stimulate self expression and creativity

To Teach scripture based music

To Experience music through games and movement activities

To Develop strong faith and a positive sense of self and others

To Teach church tradition through hymn study

To Sing praises to God!



Meet the Choir Director

Alicia McMillan is the organist and Children's Choir director at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church and teaches privately. Alicia began her work with children in the

Pre-College music program at the University of Tampa in Florida in 1993. She worked for four years as a music teacher at St. Mary's Parochial School in Escondido teaching general music in grades K-8 and middle school choir. She also taught general music and recorders at Loma Portal Elementary School for 5 years. She has been working at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church since July of 1999.

Alicia earned her music degrees at the University of Tampa in Florida and Northwestern University in Chicago. She holds a California single subject teaching credential in music.

The Children's Choirs at Point Loma Church have grown from a handful of children to over 40 in the last 12 years. The choirs perform regularly during church services and special occasions. The choirs have performed at the Point Loma Library, retirement centers, North Chapel, Children's Festivals, and Annual Church Christmas concerts. Children's choirs perform spring musicals each year and lead the Christmas Eve family service.

Typical Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Cherub Choir

singing game as warm-up
 new song introduced
 music game (teach a concept)
 2nd song (w/posters, etc.)
 game
 music game (teach a concept)
 3rd song (instruments/movement)
 Closing song/benediction

Joyful Praise

stretches and warm-ups
 opening prayer
 singing rehearsal
 music game/activity

 singing rehearsal
 benediction

Brick Singers

stretches and warm-ups
 opening prayer
 singing rehearsal
 sectionals/snack/

 singing rehearsal
 benediction

Choir Rules

Be Kind and Respectful

Listen and Follow Directions

Keep food and drinks outside of choir room

Remain in your seat until given permission to stand



Keep hands and feet to yourself

Consequences

If a chorister chooses not to follow the rules, the following will occur:

1st time – visual or verbal reminder

2nd time – another reminder

3rd time - parent notified, sit away from the group for a few minutes

Awards

Cherub Choir

Stickers, positive praise, awards and party at the end of the year.

Joyful Praise Choir

Positive praise, awards for attendance (must attend 4 rehearsals in a row to get a prize), recognition awards at the end of the year, game time during rehearsals.

Early Bird Gets the worm - singers are rewarded for being on time during each rehearsal by picking up a laminated bird when they arrive and exchanging it for a gummy worm at the end of rehearsal.

Special Request: In order for your child to have the best choir experience I ask that you:

Keep younger exploring siblings outside of the choir room during rehearsal.

Talk with other parents outside of the choir room during rehearsal.

Young children have a short attention span and are easily distracted. I would like to keep the noise level to a minimum. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Choir Commitment/Attendance Rules:

* No more than 4 absences during Thursday rehearsals per semester

(September - December) (January - May)

* If you have a special part, you must attend the performance and all special part rehearsals.

* Christmas Concert Saturday rehearsal with orchestra and adult choir is Mandatory for concert participation

Regular attendance is crucial to the children's success in choir. Please inform the director if you will not be able to attend a rehearsal or sing for a Sunday worship service. Children who will be out of town during Christmas may still participate in choirs during the fall season.

Parent Organization

Parents are very important to the success of children's choirs! Your leadership, participation, and support are key to operating this wonderful ministry.

Connie Fortunato writes in her book *Music is for Children*:

First, parents need to participate because it is a fulfillment of their God-given responsibility. The church was not designed by God as the primary agency for Christian education – the home was! The role of the church is to serve as a stimulus and resource center to equip home to do their job better.

Second, parents need to participate because their children need it. The most influential power on a child's ability to learn – is his/her home.

Third, parents need to participate because the director needs it.

It is not humanly possible to care for all details – and minister to the children on a meaningful personal level. A good parent organization can solve these operational complexities.

The parent organization is an integral part of giving our children a worthwhile and memorable experience in choir. The success of a leader is directly proportional to the support system sustaining his/her ministry. Thank you for your participation. Together we can expect to have a great year.

Volunteering Job Descriptions

Name of Child _____

I am able to help in the following areas to help my child succeed in choir. Please check all that apply and return to the director.

Choir Robes Coordinator

Keeps robes in numerical order,
helps children dress on Sundays,
helps assign robes

Supervision

Helps supervise singers during
special rehearsals, concerts, etc.
Sign-ups for specific dates tba

Rehearsal Help

Help during rehearsal with supervision,
issues that arise, practice speaking parts,
calls parents if child is sick, etc.

Snacks/Drinks

Provide Snacks/water for
long performance rehearsals

Costumes

Helps assign/organise special costumes, obtains materials and helps make costumes.

Hospitality

Creates sign-ups for potlucks, Christmas Eve help, collects pizza money for Christmas Concert dinner and helps organize such things

Photography

Takes good pictures of children during performances and special rehearsals

Pre-Christmas Round Up 12/20 8-noon

Helps with activities, supervision, transitions. Cooks pancakes, set-up, clean-up, etc.

Props/Sets Design

Helps to design and build sets for musicals. Finds and researches special props.

Name of parent _____

Volunteering Interest _____

Phone # or e-mail _____

THANK YOU!