



WVS PREMIER DISTRICT HONOUR CHOIR PROGRAM

2021-2022 Open House Information

Acknowledgement



We would like to acknowledge and thank the Squamish Nation upon whose traditional territory West Vancouver Schools reside.

We would like to express our gratitude to this Nation as we value the opportunity to learn and share educational experiences on this traditional territory.

Welcome & Introductions



Suzanne Fulton

WVS Premier Honour Choir Program Director
and Course Instructor
WVSS Choir Teacher



- Bachelor of Music, Opera Performance (UBC)
- Bachelor of Education (UBC)
- Masters in Music Education (UBC)
- Member of the BC Choral Mentorship project
- Has experience teaching music at the elementary and high school levels in West Vancouver Schools (since 2003)
- Has run choral clinics and adjudicated festivals around the lower mainland
- Has taught private voice lessons to all ages
- Runs the choral program at WVSS (3 choirs)
- Studies conducting regularly at workshops with various conducting mentors (Richard Nace and Geoffrey Boers from WA and Graeme Langager from UBC)

Hey Jung Choi

Pianist for the WVS Premier Honour Choir
Program



- Bachelor of Music, Kyung Hee University of Seoul, South Korea
- Masters of Music, Piano Performance, San Francisco Conservatory of Music
- Performed as a concert pianist in Japan, Korea, Europe, the USA, and Canada
- Pianist for the Hollyburn Elementary Choir
- Pianist and Director of the Silk Purse Singers in West Vancouver

What lead me to create WVS Premier Honour Choir Program?



Picture taken at the
first ever
WVS Premier Honour
Choir Program Holiday
Concert
in
December, 2013

General Concept

- Open to all students, however acceptance is based on an audition
- Must be registered full time in any one of our 3 secondary schools
- Grades 8-12
- Female, Male, Non-Binary



What are WVS Premier District Programs?

- Choice, fee-paying programs
- Area of interest, strength or passion for students
- Taught by WVS teachers, but can include partnerships with outside community members
- Course credits towards graduation
- Positive, challenging & fun environment



The Program: Honour Choir

Specific Areas of Study:

Vocal Technique

Ear Training

Rhythm Reading and Performance

Discussions of Tuning and Balance

Choral Performance Practice Discussions

General Ensemble and Presentation Skills

Context of Repertoire (Historical)

Communication Skills and Musical Nuance

Lyric Diction



The Rationale

Students will:

- Develop musical excellence
- Exhibit a high level of dedication and effort
- Sing and perform regularly in the district and community
- Develop a sense of community and pride in their work
- Be encouraged to participate in the art of choral music for life



The Schedule

Intermediate Treble Honour Choir-

Tuesdays 3:45-5:15pm

Grade 8 and 9 students who sing in the treble register

Senior Treble Honour Choir-

Tuesdays 5:30-7:00pm

Grade 10, 11 and 12 students who sing in the treble register

Mixed Honour Choir-

Tuesdays 7:10-8:40pm

Grade 8 and 9 students who sing (or will sing) in the bass clef and Grade 10, 11 and 12 students who sing in the treble register



The Location

The Honour Choir classes run at West Vancouver Secondary School in Room 64, in the South Campus Cafeteria building.



Our main Honour Choir concerts (2 per year) take place on stage at the beautiful Kay Meek Theatre in West Vancouver.





Course Credits & Assessment

Courses



District Honour Choir 8
District Honour Choir 9
District Honour Choir 10
District Honour Choir 11
District Honour Choir 12

*Course credit towards graduation can be earned at the Grade 10-12 levels.

Assessment & Evaluation

In Class Assessment

On-going

Report Cards

Report cards issued 3 times per year

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Available on request

Regular Communication

Open-door policy whereby parents can contact me at any time by email or by speaking to me before or after class to set up a meeting



“I would teach the children music, physics and philosophy, but the most important is music, for in the patterns of the arts are the keys to all learning.” Plato



Clothing / Equipment

Clothing / Equipment Requirements

PROVIDED:

Informal Uniform

Honour Choir students are provided with a hooded sweatshirt for informal clinics and travel. Students are welcome to wear these to school.

Formal Uniform:

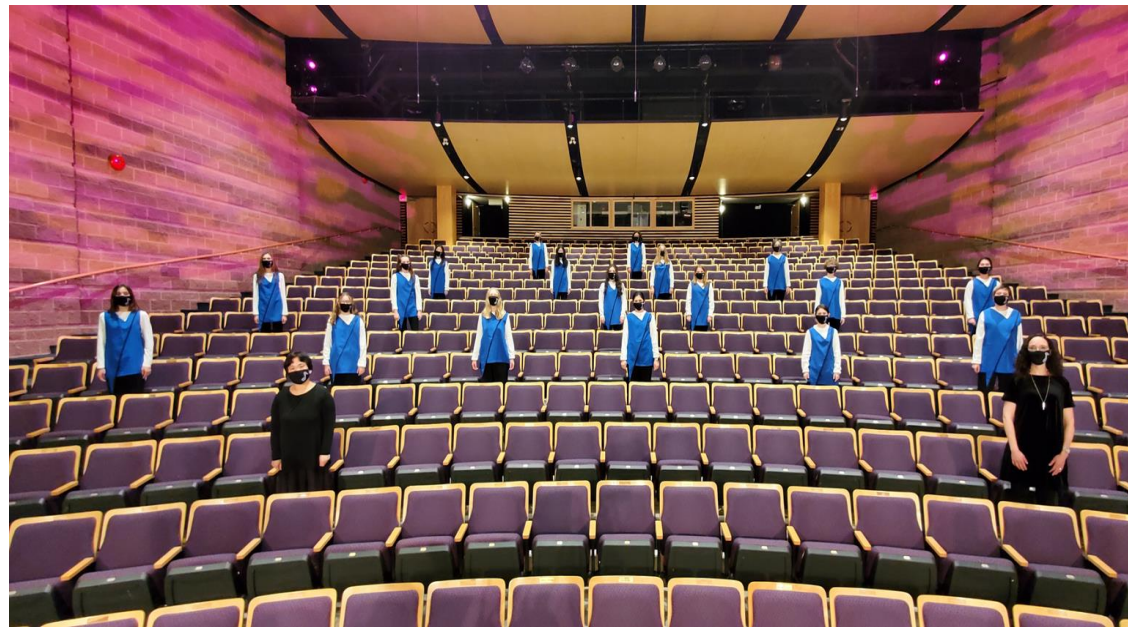
Students are also issued a blue smock and a long sleeve shirt (black or white, depending on the choir) for their formal uniform. These are to be returned at the end of each year.

Materials:

Choir Folder and Music

TO BE PROVIDED BY FAMILY:

- Solid black dress shoes (comfortable)
- Solid black dress pants
- Solid black socks or tights



Covid "Concert" Filming of Intermediate Treble Honour Choir
December 2020 (Socially distanced with masks)

Fees



Fees

\$200 annually for Sept-June which covers expenses such as:

- Local transportation fees (ex. bussing to festivals or concerts)
- Fees for guest clinicians
- Social activities (ex. Year-end party)
- Choir hoodies
- Formal uniform rental
- Leather choir folders



Fees are typically collected through School Cash Online. A non-refundable deposit of half of the fees is requested (\$100) at the time of acceptance to hold your spot in the ensemble.



Since the program began in 2013, the Honour Choirs have worked with some amazing clinicians:

- Carrie Taylor (CDN)
- Jen Williams (CDN)
- Richard Nace (US)
- Geoffrey Boers (US)
- Moiria Smiley (US)
- Frank Lee (CDN)
- Dr. Graeme Langager (CDN)
- Greg Quan (CDN)
- Karla Mundy (CDN)
- Dawn Pemberton (CDN)
- Dinah Helgeson (US)
- Les Nerling (US)
- Morna Edmundson (CDN)
- Ida Kellarova (Czech)
- Essi Wuorela (Finland)
- Sarona Myndhardt (CDN)
- Dr. Adam Con (CDN)
- Sandra Meister (CDN)
- Jim Sparks (CDN)
- Erick Lichte (CDN)
- Dr. Marc Hafso (US)
- Sherry Blevins (USA)

Upcoming in Jan 2021:

Dr. Angela Kaspar (USA), virtual session

Working with Clinicians...



Additional Costs for Travel Annually

*****Covid has changed travel for schools, however this slide has been left in. We hope to get back to travel as soon as it is safe/approved*****

Anywhere from \$250 - \$5000 for international travel, depending on location and length of trip. The District Honour Choirs will travel each year (when safe to do so), sometimes locally and sometimes abroad. **The choirs had a trip to Spain and Portugal on their schedule for the 2021/2022 school year, before the pandemic.**

International tours typically include flights, busses, hotel rooms, most meals, training sessions with local choral clinicians, performance venue rentals on tours, concert/experience tickets, travel insurance, and a professional tour guide/tour coordinator.

Yodelling
Workshop
Austria
March 2018



10 Day
European
Tour
At YVR
March 2018



3 Year Travel Cycle



****Observed when not in a pandemic****

The Honour Choirs are on a 3 year travel cycle (currently on hold due to the pandemic):

Year 1: 2-3 night trip to a local retreat centre to work with a high level choral clinician

Year 2: 2-3 night music festival (such as the Con Brio Festival in Whistler)

Year 3: 7-10 days international travel



Checking
out the
gondolas
in Venice
March
2018



"Sound of
Music"
Tour
Salzburg,
Austria
March
2018



The Selection Process

Selection Process & Criteria

- ☐ Genuine interest or passion – sound reasons for applying
- ☐ Commitment to participate for the full school year in Honour Choir AND school choir
- ☐ Complete the on-line registration form for the district program
- ☐ Participate in an audition (uploading audio files online)
- ☐ Submission of most recent report card
- ☐ Show evidence (report card) of satisfactory to excellent work habits
- ☐ Show evidence (report card) or answers within the completed registration form:
 - Ability to work well in classrooms academically
 - Ability to maintain good to excellent grades
 - Demonstrated good character: being responsible & respectful
 - Ability to work well with others
 - Ability to follow the rules of a special program, as well as the mandatory health safety protocols
- ☐ A virtual/phone interview with the applicant might also be requested in some cases



General Audition Information

Auditions will include:

- Vocalizes
- Chromatic Scale
- Passage learning
- Theory quiz
- Short written assignment about why the student would be a good candidate

Please also note that students do not need to prepare a piece.

Audition specifics are outlined, complete with audio examples, on the District website under Honour Choir.



Who is the Ideal Candidate for the WVS Premier Honour Choir Program

Candidate Prerequisites:

- Experience singing in a choir
- Knowledge of basic music theory
- Enrollment in your school choir for the year(s) you are registered for Honour Choir (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- An understanding that extra rehearsals and mandatory concerts will arise throughout the year and will need to be prioritized
 - a schedule is given out in the fall until Christmas and in January until June
- Focus and dedication



WVS Premier District Program

Next Steps

Next Steps



- Register Online at westvancouver.schools.ca
- Ensure that for the 2021/2022 school year the student is registered full time at one of the three West Vancouver Schools: École Sentinel, Rockridge or WVSS
- Submit audition online. Students should upload audio files based on the information outlined on the Honour Choir webpage found at westvancouver.schools.ca. Students should also upload their most recent report cards (e.g. December, 2020)
- Auditions will be reviewed and a decision will be made about your acceptance.
- Upon notification of acceptance to the program by email, complete the process for final registration (pay the deposit for September and fill out any other forms)
- Once the registration form is submitted, parents will receive ongoing communication about the process by email to be ready for September, 2021



Thank You for Your Time

sfulton@wvschools.ca