



# **WVS PREMIER DISTRICT HONOUR CHOIR PROGRAM**

2023 - 2024 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
- Studies conducting regularly at workshops with various conducting mentors (including Richard Nace, Dinah Helgeson, Geoffrey Boers & Graeme Langager)



## 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
- Regular pianist for the music program at Hollyburn Elementary
- 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 public secondary schools
- Grades 8-12
- All genders (inclusivity is valued)





# 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

## **Treble Honour Choir:**

**Tuesdays 3:40-5:10pm**

Grade 8-12 students who sing in the treble register

## **Mixed Honour Choir:**

**Tuesdays 7:10-8:40pm**

Changing/changed voices who sing in the bass clef in Grades 8-12 and treble voices in Grades 8-12





## The Location



The Honour Choir classes are held at  
West Vancouver Secondary School in Room 64  
in the South Campus Cafeteria



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:

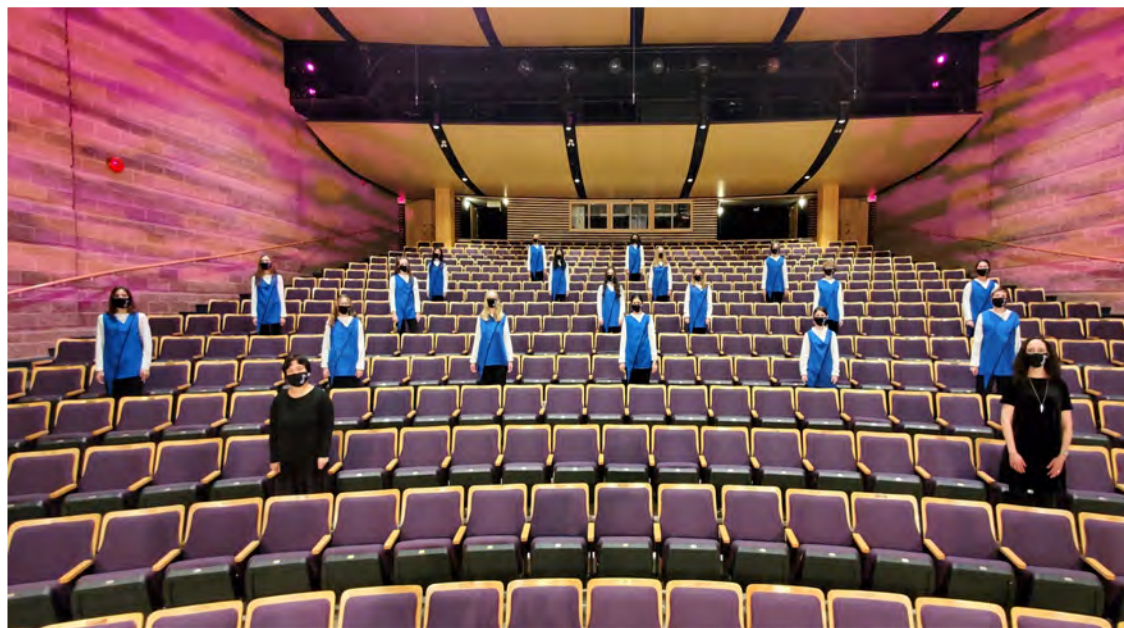
Students are also issued a blue smock for their formal uniform. These are to be returned at the end of each year.

### Materials:

Choir Folder and Music

## **TO BE PROVIDED BY FAMILY:**

- Solid black dress shoes (comfortable)
- Solid black dress pants
- Solid black socks or tights
- Solid black or white long sleeved t-shirt (shirt colour depends on choir)



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 (e.g., bus transportation to festivals or concerts)
- Fees for guest clinicians
- Social activities (e.g. year-end party)
- Choir hoodies
- Formal uniform rental
- Leather choir folders



Fees are 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.



## Working with Clinicians...



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)**
- **Moir 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)**
- **Dr. Angela Kaspar (USA)**



## Additional Costs for Travel Annually

**Anywhere from \$250 - \$5000 for international travel, depending on location and length of trip.** The District Honour Choirs will travel each year sometimes locally and sometimes abroad.

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





# The Selection Process

# Selection Process & Criteria



- ☐ Genuine interest or passion – sound reasons for applying (online writing submission)
- ☐ Commitment to participate for the full school year in Honour Choir and school choir
- ☐ Experience singing in choir, playing an instrument, and/or with basic music theory
- ☐ Complete the online registration form for the district program to request an audition
- ☐ Participate in an in-person audition (in the spring)
- ☐ Submission of most recent report card (online) to show evidence of the following:
  - Ability to work well in classrooms academically
  - Ability to maintain good to excellent grades
  - Demonstrates good to excellent work habits
  - Demonstrated good character: being responsible & respectful
  - Ability to work well with others
  - Ability to follow the rules of a special program
- ☐ An understanding that additional "extras" will come up during the year (concerts, festivals, workshops) and that these dates must be prioritized

# 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.





# WVS Premier District Program

## Next Steps

## Next Steps



- Register Online at [westvancouver.schools.ca](https://westvancouver.schools.ca)
- Ensure that for the 2023-2024 school year the student is registered full time at one of the three West Vancouver Schools: École Sentinel, Rockridge or WVSS
- Submit a request for an audition online. Students should review the criteria and audio files for the audition outlined on the Honour Choir webpage found at [westvancouver.schools.ca](https://westvancouver.schools.ca). Students should also upload their most recent report cards (e.g. January, 2023)
- Applicants will be emailed with an audition time. Auditions will then be reviewed and a decision will be made about 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, 2023



**Thank You for Your Time**

**[sfulton@wvschools.ca](mailto:sfulton@wvschools.ca)**

**Instagram: [wv.schools.honour.choirs](https://www.instagram.com/wv.schools.honour.choirs)**