



**Youth Choirs  
Handbook  
2016-2017**

**PO Box 3358  
Abilene, TX 79604  
(325) 673-SING (7464)**

**info@ChorusAbilene.net  
www.ChorusAbilene.net**

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# **CHORUS ABILENE**

*Educating Voices, Hearts, & Minds through Music*

## **General Information**

Chorus Abilene office hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office observes all AISD school holidays. The office is located in the Elks Arts Center on the corner of N. 1<sup>st</sup> and Cedar Streets downtown. Entrance is from Cedar Street. The office is closed at various times during the summer. Although we are generally open during the singing season, it is wise to call before coming.

**Office Address:** Mailing – PO Box 3358, Abilene, Texas 79604

Physical – 1174 N. 1st

**Office Phone:** 325-673-SING (7464)

**Office Email:** info@ChorusAbilene.net

**Website:** www.ChorusAbilene.net

**Office Assistant:** Marisue Meyer (Monday & Tuesday, 10am-1pm)

Simone Hester (Wednesday & Friday, 9am – 2pm)

**Office Hours:** 10 – 3, Monday-Friday

**Like Us on FB:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chorus-Abilene/115276891859134>

**Charms:** <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/parents.asp?username=ChorusAbilene>

Or Charmsoffice.com and follow login instructions.

School Name: ChorusAbilene and you will need your singer's ID #.

**Flickr:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/chorusabilene/sets/>

### **Gwynn Haseltine, Executive Director**

Office Email: [gwynn@chorusabilene.net](mailto:gwynn@chorusabilene.net)

Home Telephone (325) 672-9667

### **Mr. Luke Burnam, Children's Chorus Conductor**

Email: [Lburnam@chorusabilene.net](mailto:Lburnam@chorusabilene.net)

Telephone: (214) 500-7992

### **Mr. Adam Samuels, Youth & Chorale Conductor**

Email: [Asamuels@chorusabilene.net](mailto:Asamuels@chorusabilene.net)

Telephone: (325) 672-7814, x106 for longer messages; 817-597-6891 for texts or short msg

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The overall mission of the organization is to promote choral music through performance and participation. Our vision for the youth choirs is to educate voices, hearts, and minds through music.

## COMMUNICATION

The success of any organization is based on the disbursement of accurate information. When you have questions concerning non-musical Chorus Abilene information, try to direct your question to: **1) The Handbook, 2) Recent email or rehearsal notes, 3) Charms, 4) Executive Director, 5) Conductor.** The conductor is happy to speak with you about any musical concerns you may have; however, the time around rehearsal is short and best used for their communication with singers.

### Office Phone Calls

When you call the Chorus Office, please identify yourself, and/or your child, and the choir in which you or your child sing. There is voicemail to take your calls when the office is not open. If you receive a phone call from the Chorus Office that requires a response, please return the call as soon as possible. We rarely call at work; however if you do not wish to receive phone calls, please let us know.

### E-mail Communication

Our primary method of communication is by e-mail. Therefore it is very important that the office has a correct email address for each parent and/or singer. Some information will be for the singer and some information will be for parents, so the Chorus is happy to have any/all email addresses that you wish on our list. **Please make an effort to obtain an email address and check it regularly.** G-mail is a free email service provider that works well with our processes.

### Rehearsal Notes

Before each performance or special event we try to send a short printed rehearsal note home with each singer with all details. As singers often forget to mention that they received a note, please check your child's music folder for this information. We encourage them to slip the rehearsal notes in the back outside cover or the inside front pocket. If your singer misses that rehearsal, please call or check your email, since we usually send the same information via email. We will also try to have these uploaded onto Charms.

## CHOIRS AND THEIR HISTORIES

Chorus Abilene was founded in 1990-1991 with 23 adult singers as The Classical Chorus of Abilene by Dr. Betty Karol Wilson, who led the chorus from 1990-2004. Chorus Abilene is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The chorus is not affiliated with AISD, any of the three universities in Abilene, or any church. Chorus Abilene is artistically and financially independent and therefore must raise all its own funds and supply all its own needs. Funding comes from singer tuition, ticket sales, fundraising events, individual and corporate donors, and, if awarded, grants from foundations and arts councils.

The Classical Chorus, as the original adult chorus is known, sings a wide variety of repertoire: oratorios, masses, and motets, as well as spirituals and contemporary secular literature. During most seasons, they perform in the fall and at Christmas in conjunction with the youth choirs, and present a Masterworks concert of their own in April.

**The Youth Chorus** was founded in 1993 and sings classical, contemporary, and

international music. The Youth Chorus consists of singers, grades 5 - 8, from Abilene and surrounding communities. They usually perform in three to four subscription concerts per year as well as many community sings such as Artwalk, at hospitals and retirement communities, and for various other civic organization by request.

In response to parent requests following the first tour, the Board of Directors approved the founding of **Chorale** in 1999 for more experienced young singers, grades 9 - 12, as well as young men with changed voices, who are ready for even more challenging choral literature. Chorale, an SATB choir, also performs in three to four subscription concerts per year as well as community sings such as Artwalk. Chorale sings performances at hospitals and retirement communities, as well as accepting other performance invitations.

In 1997, the Board of Directors created the **Children's Chorus** for musicians in grades 1 - 4. This choir meets weekly, studies the basics of reading music, and does not tour. Performances for the Children's Chorus include singing at three - four of the subscription series concerts and occasionally at retirement homes or other community singing events.

Some years a small ensemble is formed. This ensemble may come from either Chorale members or from Youth Chorus members, as enrollment, talent, and time allows.

The youth choirs have performed with the Abilene Philharmonic, the Abilene Opera Association, the inter-collegiate opera, McMurry Opera, and the Abilene Ballet Theater. They have hosted the Fredericksburg Children's Choir, the Amarillo Boys' Choir, the Manila Children's Choir, the New Zealand Youth Chorus, the Moscow Boys' Choir, the Vienna Choir Boys, the Texas Boys Choir, and have performed for Barbara Bush.

Chorus Abilene also believes that singing in many different places and in intensely musical situations trains better singers; therefore the Chorus is dedicated to international tours on a regular basis. (For information about where the groups have been, see Tours.)

**Acceptance into any of the Chorus Abilene groups is based on the musical skills exhibited in a yearly audition, not by financial status, race, creed, or gender.**

## LEADERSHIP

### Board of Directors

Chorus Abilene is a non-profit organization whose policies are determined by a Board of Directors. The Board will generally meet at 5:45 on the first Thursday except December, March, July, & August, normally at the Chorus Abilene office location. Board meetings are open to any interested parent or adult singer. A list of Board Member names, addresses, and the calendar of meetings is kept at the chorus office and is available upon request. Names of board members are also available on the website.

### Conductors

**Adam Samuels** is beginning his fourth year as Director for the Youth Chorus and Chorale. He has been Director of Worship & the Arts at St Paul UMC Abilene since 2007. His primary duties are focused on overseeing the music ensembles of the church, conducting the Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers, and leading the worship planning teams. Prior to St Paul, Adam was Minister of Music at First UMC, Weatherford, Texas. He has also served churches in Cleburne and Corsicana. The first time he lived in Abilene was while completing his Bachelor of Music in Church Music at McMurry University. While at

McMurry, Adam was active in the Music Department serving as the founding president of the McMurry Student Chapter of the American Choral Director's Association, President of Chanters (McMurry's touring choir), and participating in faculty search committees. Since McMurry, Adam has studied at SMU and TCU, and completed extensive continuing education at Baylor. Adam is married to Holly, a 4th grade writing teacher at Austin Elementary. They have two daughters: Rigby, in Youth Chorus and Hazel, in Children's Chorus. Outside of family, community arts organizations remain a passion for Adam. In the Fort Worth area, Adam sang with Schola Cantorum of Texas. In Abilene, Adam has served on the Board of Directors for the Abilene Opera Association and Chorus Abilene prior to this appointment.

**Luke Burnam, Director for the Children's Chorus**, began working for Chorus Abilene in 2012 as assistant director. He received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from ACU in December, 2012. He serves as the assistant director of Clyde JH and HS choirs. "Mr. Luke" has sung with the ACU A Capella Choir, the ACU Singers, Chorus Abilene, the Abilene Philharmonic, and has been in various opera productions with ACU Opera and the Abilene Opera Association. He is married to Karaline (formerly Southward).

### **Executive Director**

**Gwynn Haseltine, Executive Director**, graduated from Oklahoma Christian College with a degree in Social Work. She has been involved with Chorus Abilene since 1994 in a variety of roles, serving as Rehearsal Assistant and Head Parent, and on the Board of Directors, before accepting the position of Executive Director in 2002. She is married to Jeff Haseltine and they have four daughters: each of whom sang multiple years with Chorus Abilene, from 1994 - 2007.

### **Accompanists**

**Van Hayes, Accompanist for the Youth Chorus and Chorale**, has accompanied the Chorus Abilene Youth choirs since 1995. He has accompanied many of our international tours and in 2005 served as Tour Conductor for the youth cruise tour. Mr. Hayes is the organist at Aldersgate United Methodist Church and teaches music at Wylie Elementary School. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from McMurry College and his Orff Schulwerk training in music education at Southern Methodist University. In 2005, he was voted Teacher of the Year at Wylie Intermediate School. In 2014, he was voted runner up for favorite teacher in the Abilene Reporter News Readers' Choice Awards. His wife, Kristy, is a retired Wylie Choir Director & Elementary Music Teacher.

**Susan Teel, accompanist for the Children's Chorus**, currently serves as instructor of music education, musicology, and piano at Abilene Christian University. Mrs. Teel holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree with piano emphasis from Abilene Christian University, and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Georgia. Mrs. Teel teaches piano lessons for non-majors and classes in music appreciation, music literature, elementary music education, and aural skills. She is an active performer, playing viola with *Strings Unlimited*, a local string quartet. She and her husband Allen have

performed for thousands of elementary school children in Abilene and the surrounding area under the auspices of Young Audiences.

## **MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS**

Accepting membership in any of the choirs requires a faithful commitment to the mission statement of Chorus Abilene. The Board of Directors respectfully asks that all parents:

1. Encourage your child to honor their commitment to participate for the entire singing season (August 2016 – April 2017);
2. Assist your child's individual daily practice of their music at home;
3. Pay the monthly tuition in a timely fashion;
4. Participate in Chorus Fundraisers to benefit all singers;
5. Volunteer your time and energy to Chorus events.

## **TUITION AND REGISTRATION FEE**

The Chorus Abilene youth singing season is August, 2016- April, 2017. Each chorus member is required to pay a **tuition fee of \$400 for the year**. Families may choose to break this amount into 8 monthly payments of \$50/each that are due by the first day of each month (September-April). **A late fee of \$10 is assessed if payment is not received by the 10th day of each month.** Some families may choose to pay the entire yearly amount (\$400) in advance or pay by semester.

### **Multiple Family Member Monthly discounts**

If a family has more than one member participating in the chorus, fees will be reduced \$5 per month for each member. For example: The Smiths have two children singing: one in the Children's Chorus and one in Chorale. Their yearly commitment would be \$360 for each child. Their monthly payment would be \$45 for the Children's Chorus member and \$45 for the Chorale member.

**Tuition scholarships are available (see Scholarships)** if financial circumstances are such that additional help is required and if funds are available.

### **Registration Fee**

In addition to monthly tuition, a **one-time, non-refundable registration fee of \$50 is required of every singer annually**. In order to purchase music at discount prices and have the music ready for the first rehearsal, this fee is due annually by **June 20** to assure a spot.

### **Payment Reminders**

An email monthly tuition payment reminder **only** will be sent as a courtesy. If payment is not received by the tenth of the month, a \$10 late fee will be invoiced with an additional reminder emailed. If you have any questions about payments, scholarships, fundraising totals, etc. please speak directly with the executive director. Neither the Rehearsal Assistant nor conductor has any financial information.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of Tuition Scholarships are available. To apply, please fill out an application form available from the office and mail to the Chorus Abilene Office no later than June 30. Notification of scholarships will be mailed by July 30.

A singer may be granted a full or partial scholarship. The names of those applying for scholarships are kept confidential. The parent of every scholarship recipient or the recipient him/herself will be asked to volunteer five hours to the organization each year that a scholarship is received.

In the past, scholarships have been supplied by local foundations, civic organizations, and anonymous individuals. If you know of someone who would like to sponsor a child in the chorus, please call the Executive Director with that information.

If a singer joins the choir after the scholarship dates have passed, he/she should call the Executive Director and ask about potential scholarships still available.

## PAYMENTS

**The following information is required** on any payment to Chorus Abilene:

- 1) Reason for payment (tuition, tour, retreat, tickets, etc.);
- 2) Singer's name (make sure last name is included if different from check remitter);

Your clarification on the memo portion of your check will help us with proper accounting of the money we receive.

Payment may be made by:

1) Cash, which should **always** be given **in an envelope with the singer's name** and reason for payments written on the outside.

- 2) Checks or money orders should be made payable and **MAILED TO:**

**Chorus Abilene PO Box 3358 Abilene, Texas 79604**

Money mailed to the office physical address may not reach us. All checks returned to Chorus Abilene by the member's bank will be charged the same fee per item that is charged to us.

3) Online by credit/debit card. There will be a 3.1% processing fee for online payments. See the bottom of the "Current Members" page of the website.

- 4) If you have a Paypal account, you may send money to [info@chorusabilene.net](mailto:info@chorusabilene.net).

**Never give the conductor any payment.** Although it may be convenient for you, each conductor has their own full-time job and none come to the office regularly. We do have a system for Rehearsal Assistants to transmit payments to the office; however they are volunteers and also do not regularly come to the office. All are trustworthy but you must accept responsibility for making sure your payment is received.

Tour payments, when applicable, must be made separately.

## OTHER EXPENSES

Singers will pay additional fees for retreats, social activities, tours, and other special opportunities. Parents will be notified of payment deadlines as they arise. The following are some examples:

Choir shirt	\$15	Mandatory for new singers – due Sept. 6, 2016
No pencil/no music Fines	\$ .25 - 1.00	per violation ( <b>we take this seriously</b> )



Lost Music Folder	\$40	Singers should be responsible with music
Tickets to Concerts	\$ 7	Optional - The cost is per person, per concert. This is discounted price for singers. (See <b>Ticket Sales</b> )
Choir Photos/Recordings	Variable	- Optional

## REHEARSAL

<u>Choir</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Children's Chorus	Tuesday	6:00 - 7:15 p.m.	St. Paul's UMC
Youth Chorus	Tuesday	6:00 - 7:15 p.m.	St. Paul's UMC
Chorale	Tuesday	7:45 – 9:00 p.m.	St. Paul's UMC

Small Group Rehearsals may occasionally be requested by the conductor.  
Guest Wi-Fi is available at St. Paul.

### Rehearsal Attendance

Membership in Chorus Abilene is a commitment to faithful, consistent, and punctual attendance. All members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.

Choral music is a group experience, yet each individual is very important. The absence of just one person changes the sound and artistry of the entire group. Attendance at rehearsal is very important as choirs only meet once a week. In addition, the type of repertoire and the number of copies of music that are ordered are based on the complete enrollment. With this in mind, it is understood that the commitment to Chorus Abilene is from August through April. If members feel that they are unable to fulfill these expectations, they should reconsider their decision to participate. We do understand that occasional school conflicts may arise. When this happens, please speak with the conductor.

### Attendance Policy

If two absences accumulate prior to any particular concert, the singer will not be allowed to sing in the concert *unless the singer has made arrangements with the conductor to show the conductor that the singer knows the music*. Because the choirs rehearse only once a week and have approximately 6-7 rehearsals prior to a concert, two absences would mean a singer has missed about 33% of the rehearsals. No child benefits from trying to perform unprepared; nor does the group benefit from trying to maintain balance disrupted by a constantly absent singer.

It is also extremely important to be timely. If a singer is late, they will be counted as tardy. **3 tardies equal 1 absence.** This rule will be followed when counting absences as related to performing. Being tardy not only means your child has missed the important beginning of rehearsal, but disrupts the flow of rehearsal for the other singers and takes conductor time to re-explain.

Occasionally a conductor will call an additional rehearsal. These rehearsals are necessary for group performance and will be counted as make-up rehearsals.

When a singer accumulates 2 absences, the Rehearsal Assistant sends to the parents a written summary of the singer's attendance. The conductor retains the right to a final decision concerning the readiness of each singer to perform. A review of attendance records is done prior to auditions for the next singing season.

**Attendance is taken at all events:** Weekly Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsals, Concerts, Community Sings, & Fundraiser Singing Events. Before August arrives, the chorus administration and conductors create the performance and rehearsal schedule for the

whole year and try to inform parents of all scheduled events. Everything on the calendar is considered as a regular rehearsal - not “make-up” or optional rehearsals.

At times, the Chorus receives an invitation to a community sing after August and is accepted because it constitutes a valuable performance opportunity for your child. It is hoped that each choir member will want to perform with the group; however these additions will not be counted as “missed rehearsals.”

**If the singer has a contagious illness, please do not send them to rehearsal.** If the singer has the flu, a stomach virus, bronchitis, a fever or strep throat, pink-eye, please do not send them to rehearsal. Should such illnesses or an emergency occur prior to a rehearsal or event that prevents the singer from participating, please contact the Rehearsal Assistant for the singer’s choir as soon as possible.

For **all** absences, please let the Rehearsal Assistant know in advance if your singer will miss. If you were unable to notify them ahead of time, please let them know as soon as possible.

**Please be respectful of all those in the Chorus who are relying on your participation at performances and scheduled events.** Do not cancel your Chorus commitment for another event planned at the last minute when we have been courteous enough to give you a schedule well in advance.

At the end of the year, we have a celebration and honor those singers with excellent attendance records.

### **Charms Office Assistant**

Charms is an online service that allows us to post information such as tuition payment, rehearsal notes, attendance, points, music checked out and checked in, fundraiser payment, and much more. It will allow you or your singer to log in and see all of this information for your own singer, as well as to record homework, practice logs, and upload audition recordings. Please use this on a regular basis and let us know how it is working for you. Our choir name is ChorusAbilene and you will log in with your singer’s ID number, which will be in their music folder.

### **Canceled Rehearsals**

All AISD school holidays are observed. If AISD is closed due to weather (snow, ice, flood) on a rehearsal day, all rehearsals will also be canceled. If AISD delays opening, we will make a decision at some point during the day. If a tornado warning has been issued by the national weather service (meaning a tornado has been sighted in our area), of course we are not having rehearsal. If a tornado watch is issued, rehearsal will be held. It is up to the parent to decide whether or not to bring the singer to rehearsal. If rehearsal is canceled, every effort will be made to have it listed with other cancellations via community calendars. We will also send out a group email and post on our Facebook page.

### **Yearly Calendar**

A yearly calendar of important dates is included in the back of this Handbook. Please carefully **read the dates and reserve concerts and rehearsal times in each singer and family’s personal schedule.** We also try to keep an updated version available via our website and Charms. Although we do our best to give you a schedule at the beginning of the year, occasionally this may change slightly.

## Missed Rehearsals

### **When a singer misses a rehearsal they should:**

- Check on Charmsoffice.com for rehearsal notes, etc.
- Determine if any music was distributed; if so, pick up the music at the Chorus Office. If music was distributed at rehearsal, it is the **Singer's or Parent's responsibility** to go to the Chorus Office that week and pick up the music. **It is not the office or conductor's responsibility to bring the music to the next rehearsal.** Singers should not come to the next rehearsal and say "But I don't have that..." *Please* help your child to be responsible.

## Dress Rehearsals

**Mandatory attendance - If you miss a dress rehearsal, you cannot sing in the corresponding concert.** At Dress Rehearsal, come to the performance location wearing complete concert attire. The purpose of the dress rehearsal is to run through the logistics of the concert and touch only on musical issues as they relate to the performance space. Every effort will be made to honor the **suggested** ending time. If we are running late, please do not interrupt. If you have a concern that must be addressed, please speak to the Backstage Parent, and your concern will be "messed" to the conductor or executive director in the most efficient manner possible. Please do not "double book" dress rehearsal times!

High school students often have many demands on their time. We work very hard to accommodate these and will often reschedule their rehearsal **IF THEY NOTIFY US AHEAD OF TIME.** Please have them check their calendars and let us know as far ahead as possible of a school conflict.

## Rehearsal Procedures

The following weekly rehearsal procedures help us achieve the discipline and professionalism for which Chorus Abilene is known. Our rehearsal rules are created: 1) for the safety of the singers; 2) to achieve an orderly rehearsal where much learning can be accomplished; and 3) to show respect and courtesy for others.

1. **Arrive at rehearsal 5 minutes prior to rehearsal time, but no earlier.**
2. No matter where the rehearsal is, remember that we are guests of that facility and the facility may have other events occurring at the same time. Respect the facility. Do not roam about the building. Stay in the rehearsal area. Keep conversations quiet. Parents, St. Paul allows us to use Room 101 for both early arrival and the time during rehearsal. Please feel free to relax in the appropriate area but do not use any of St. Paul's supplies and watch younger children in their movements. We are guests!
3. **Singers, check in with the Rehearsal Assistant** as you enter the rehearsal room, clearly stating your name.
4. If you arrive late, please stop to check in with the Rehearsal Assistant. A singer is counted as being late if they arrive after warm-ups have begun.
5. **Always bring music to rehearsal – it matters.** Put your music in alphabetical order inside your folder. Use the outside back pocket of your folder to add any handouts that are distributed at rehearsal.
6. Take your assigned seat before rehearsal begins.

7. At all times show respect for every singer, the accompanist, the conductor and any parent helpers. Be kind, polite, keep yourself in your own space, and listen.
8. **Do not bring food or drink (except water) into the rehearsal area.** Try to eat before you arrive at the rehearsal. If you forget and arrive with food, the Rehearsal Assistant will ask you to go outside to finish eating. The singer is still responsible for being on time. **Bringing a bottle of water is encouraged** so that singers do not have to leave the room in order to get a drink. Plan to go to the bathroom prior to rehearsal, so that you do not use rehearsal time for this.
9. Questions pertaining to the music are always welcome. However, as we rehearse only once a week, make sure any questions you have about rehearsal and performance schedules, what to wear, etc., have not already been answered in a handout, the newsletter, or a letter sent directly to the singer or the singer's parent. Please ask questions (not pertaining to music) before or after rehearsal. **Rehearsals are for rehearsing.**
10. If singers bring a cell phone to rehearsal, it **MUST** be on silent and put away. If it rings during rehearsal, it will be taken up until the end of rehearsal. Please remind your singer that no texting is allowed during rehearsal.
11. Because music and pencils are required for rehearsals, a small fine will be assessed and recorded by the Rehearsal Assistant if a singer does not arrive at rehearsal with both of these items. A singer cannot rehearse to the best of their potential without their music or a pencil to take notes. They will be charged the following:
 

\$ .25	Without a pencil
\$1.00	Without music folder

The money gathered from these fines will help pay for choir operating expenses.

## **SAFETY**

**Safety is an ongoing priority.** All requests and procedures have been developed with both efficiency and safety in mind.

### **Rehearsal Safety**

**Parents, please do not drop off your child more than 5 minutes early or leave the child unattended.** If the singer is young, escorting them into Room 101 is a good idea, especially when it begins to get dark early. If the singer is older, wait a minute before you leave. Very rarely changes must be made, and you and your child may have forgotten or our communication attempts may have failed.

**Please pick up your child promptly after rehearsal is over.** The conductors generally run a tight schedule and will release singers promptly at the ending time of each rehearsal. We will never leave a child unattended; however no one wants to stay for 30 minutes. Of course, we understand that at times unexpected events arise for all of us. Children's Chorus and Youth Chorus singers not picked up by 7:30 will be asked to sit inside the Chorale rehearsal where you must come to get them. (Please, no texts asking them to come outside unattended.)

**Children's Chorus singers should be escorted inside the first door,** if possible. Please do not drop them off and drive off immediately. Occasionally they may come running back outside, having forgotten something. After rehearsal, if possible please wait to pick them inside. We do not allow them to go past the sidewalk outside the door at St.

Paul's to wait for you at any time.

**For Chorale singers who drive themselves:** We will expect them to depart as soon as rehearsal is over (and watch them do so). **If you pick your singer up**, please be on time. Mr. Samuels will not leave your singer, either in the parking lot talking to friends OR waiting for you, but would really like to go home to be with his family.

### Concerts

You may not always be able to attend a concert and be there to pick your child up just as soon as it is over. **Please do not ask them to wait outside for you** – please plan to come inside to get them. It is not always possible to give you an exact time of when the concert will be over.

If you have some special occasion arise and are picking up your child early, please make sure you check with the backstage parent at dress rehearsal and again before taking them. Do not ask them to “meet you” anywhere – we do not allow that, no matter their age.

### Medical Release

We have not yet had occasion to use our medical releases; however should an emergency arise, the medical release may be extremely valuable in securing prompt medical attention for your child. Please make sure that we have your notarized copy and that all information is accurate. Although you do not have to have a new medical release each year, **please be sure to notify the office if there is any change in information, such as a change in physician or insurance.** We have no way to know of changes and only want to safeguard your child's health.

## TICKET SALES

### General Public Individual Ticket Sales

Individual tickets to regular concerts are \$10 for Adults and \$8 for seniors, military, and students (see information below for children under 5) for October & April concerts. Christmas ticket prices are \$15/adults and \$12/seniors, military, & students.

### Choir Discounted Ticket Sales

**Each singer in Chorus Abilene is entitled to up to 4 discounted individual tickets per concert. Discounted tickets must typically be ordered and payment received in the office by the Monday of concert week.** For example, if the concert is on Saturday, October 22, the discounted tickets would need to be **purchased** by Monday, October 17, 2 p.m. Please do not call on Monday and ask if we will hold your tickets at the discounted price for you to pay at the door or at dress rehearsal. For most concerts, we try to have a staff member on site during 1 rehearsal in order to facilitate ticket purchases and will notify you ahead of time about that date. Usually this day will be the Tuesday evening of the week before the concert: in this instance, October 11.

	<u>Oct &amp; April Concerts</u>	<u>Christmas Only</u>
Regular Price Adult Individual Ticket	\$10	\$15
Regular Price Sr/St/M Individual Ticket	\$ 8	\$12
<b>Choir Discount Ticket</b>	<b>\$ 7</b>	<b>\$ 7</b>

For Choir Discount Tickets, you may purchase all of your tickets for the year at once or for each concert. Spotlight on Feb. 25 is a fundraiser (not a subscription series concert) and includes food. Reservations are sold separately.

### **Ticket Orders**

How to reserve your tickets for a performance, when not purchased at a rehearsal time:

**1. Phone Order: 673-7464 or email: info@chorusabilene.net**

With the following information: Name, Which choir(s) the singer is in; Number of tickets needed; Designation of tickets (choir, senior, adult.)

**2. Online:** Same as phone order – via the online form. It is also helpful for you to email us quickly that you have placed that online order. You may pay online via credit/debit card, with the added 3.1% processing fee. Note that choir discount tickets are not available online.

**3. Send your check to the Chorus Office (see Payments).** Once your check is received in the Office, your tickets will be mailed or delivered to you.

**4. Come to the Chorus Office, pay in person (cash, check).**

The seating chart, if applicable, is available only in the Chorus Office.

**5. At the Door - tickets will be held at the door before the performance ONLY IF they are pre-paid.** Choir discount tickets are not available at the door.

Children over three years old must have their own seats at a performance and pay the full student price or choir discount price. Formal concerts are usually 1 hr. in length and may not be suited for all children under three. There are other opportunities to attend local free concerts of shorter duration where it may be easier to move around with your child. We always welcome family members at these community sing concerts (**See Types of Concerts**). **Please be aware that if during a concert a child is making noise that may disturb the performers, the recording, or the rest of the audience who have paid for their seats, ushers or staff will ask the parent to take the child to the lobby.** We love families and having young children grow up listening to the music, but we must balance the needs of the audience and group as a whole.

No choir discount tickets are ever available at the door, but regular priced tickets are always available at the door.

## **MUSIC**

For each singer, a music folder and music for the concert will be distributed at the first rehearsal. The folder will have their name page on the front cover and a roster of their choir inside the back plastic cover. Two #2 pencils must be brought by the singer to every rehearsal. A pencil pouch for a ring binder is a good way to stay up with this. **If the singer loses his/her music, the lost music fine of \$40 must be paid.** At the first rehearsal following each concert, music will be returned and new music received. The conductor will specify any exceptions to this rule at rehearsal.

Please make every effort to maintain music in good condition. If music is returned stained with coffee, water, dog slobber, etc., the singer should pay replacement cost.

## **UNIFORMS**

### **Informal Choir Uniforms**

This uniform consists of Choir shirts, Dark Blue Jeans, and tennis shoes, all

purchased by parents. The Jeans should not be low rise, have rips or holes or decorative fading, or contain rhinestones, pockets zippers, or other decorative additions. Jeans should be dark blue: not black, not faded, not light blue. Choir shirts and jeans are worn at all community sings, unless otherwise specified. Shirts must be worn tucked in when performing. **Flip-flops are never permissible.** New Choir shirts are ordered every other year (new shirts in 2015 and again in 2017). However you may order a replacement shirt in the fall of each year, if needed.

### **Formal Uniforms**

**Chorus Abilene provides each singer with a formal uniform worn for all subscription concerts.** To complete the formal uniform for **boys**, parents should provide black pants, black dress shoes, and black socks. For smaller boys, we have a few pairs of black pants at the office which may be borrowed. To complete the formal uniform for **girls**, parents must provide black hose and black shoes. Acceptable styles of girls' shoes are low-heeled and plain, since safety on and off risers is a key issue. Shoes with open toes or sandals are not acceptable for safety reasons. High heels are inadvisable, also for safety reasons.

#### **For all concerts, girls may NOT wear:**

Fingernail polish; large hair-bows of any color; watches, necklaces, or dangling earrings. (Girls may wear small pearl or silver earrings and age appropriate make-up.)

**Boys' Hair styles** should be neat and pulled away from the face.

**Girls' Hair styles** should be pulled back from the face. Do not try to individualize your child's appearance. When the singer arrives for a concert call time, the backstage parent will assist any singer who has not followed the dress code.

**Do not make permanent alterations to the uniform or cut the uniform fabric** - they are expensive. Your child will be assigned the uniform that best fits him/her from the available uniforms. Please take good care of the uniform and do not allow your child to wear it for functions other than choir concerts. Please remember that these uniforms are just that - uniforms - and not a fashion statement for either boys or girls. We want a unified appearance so that audiences will focus on our sound and the fact that we sing and work together as one. You may dry clean the uniform as needed between concerts.

Uniforms are assigned in the fall of every year. If the Costume Parent deems it appropriate, re-assignment of uniforms may occur and new body measurements may be taken at any time, and especially between semesters of singing. **All uniforms belong to Chorus Abilene and must be returned following the last concert or at the End of the Year Celebration.** A cleaning fee is included in the Registration Fee. If the uniforms are not returned by this date, the singer will be charged a \$65 replacement fee. The singer will not be eligible to re-enroll in the choir until the uniform has been returned.

### **HOME STUDY and MEMORY DAY**

For each singer to participate successfully and to the best of their ability, **music practice at home is necessary.** Home practice will be listed on Charms and parents of younger children should plan to help monitor the conductor-requested work.

If necessary, a **Memory Day** may be scheduled at the conductor's discretion. On Memory Day, each singer is asked to sing their part of the music in small ensembles for the conductor or an adult assistant. If music is not memorized, the conductor or assistant may ask to hear the memory work again. **All concert music must be memorized.** If a singer does not have the music memorized, they will be asked not to participate in that song during the concert, or may be asked not to participate in the concert at all.

## TYPES OF CONCERTS

Chorus Abilene has three different types of concerts: Subscription series concerts, community sings, and Fundraiser sings.

**Subscription series concerts** are Oct. 22 Dec. 10, and Apr. 29 for the youth. All concerts for 2016-17 will only feature youth choirs. The adult chorus will maintain a separate concert schedule for this season. An admission fee is charged for these concerts. Participation in Subscription series concerts **is required of all singers in the participating choirs.** If we are invited to sing with another organization, that concert is considered of equal importance to a subscription series concert.

**Community sing concerts** are events like singing for Artwalk, at the Mall of Abilene, for a retirement home, and other community related concerts. Each singer is expected, as part of their commitment to the choir, to attend each of these concerts. If a family conflict arises and a singer is absent, this absence will be counted as an absence. Occasionally we are asked to sing at other events – please check your calendar for a listing.

The **Fundraiser sing for 2016-17** is Spotlight. While food is involved, performances by the choirs are integral. **As each singer benefits from the fundraisers, we expect each singer to participate.** If a family conflict arises and a singer is absent, this will be counted as an absence.

Chorus Abilene sometimes receives requests to perform for local clubs and organizations during the daytime hours. There must be an adequate number of singers available for this particular request before it can be accepted. Chorus Abilene reserves the right to decline these invitations or to request payment from the clubs for these appearances.

Chorus Abilene will not take singers from school to participate in community concerts without the express permission of parents, and almost always limit daytime performances to an ensemble. This occurs rarely. If you are interested in special singing opportunities of this type for your singer, please contact the office.

## CONCERT INSTRUCTIONS

- Dress rehearsal is just that – so **come in uniform** just as you would for the concert.
- Singers need to arrive **5 minutes before Call Time.**
- Check-in with the Rehearsal Assistant.
- Singers should go to their assigned pre-concert area for warm-ups with the conductor.
- When warm-ups are over, go to your designated seating area.
- Respect and follow instructions of Backstage Parents, the Stage Manager, or the Concert Manager.
- You may bring something to read for the waiting time. Cell phones must be on



silent.

- If a parent volunteer adjusts your uniform or hair style, please be gracious.
- **The night before a concert, do not have sleepovers or other activities that keep singers up late into the night. Proper rest is required for good singing.**
- Eat a light, but nutritious, meal before an evening concert. Bringing a water bottle is a good idea.
- **Come to Call Time dressed in your uniform.** Do not plan to change into your uniform at the concert location unless you are early & coming from another event.
- **Singers normally will remain seated together for the entire duration of the concert.** They will be released at the end of the concert – not at intermission nor as soon as they are finished singing. Although concerts tend to be a little late for our youngest singers, they do not happen very often and it is very educational for them to hear the older singers.

## AUDITIONS

Auditions for new youth singers in are held in May of each year. Acceptance into Chorus Abilene groups is based on the musical skills exhibited in a yearly audition, not by financial status, race, creed, or gender.

After you have been accepted into the Chorus Abilene organization, you need only schedule an audition to change choirs, for example from Children to Youth or Youth to Chorale. However, attendance, payment records, and behavior are all reviewed by the conductor prior to re-acceptance into the choir, even without an audition. If such a review indicates that the singer does not have a serious commitment to the organization, the conductor may ask the singer to withdraw.

**For auditions, the singer should come prepared to sing “My Country Tis of Thee” for Youth Chorus and Chorale and “Happy Birthday” for the Children’s Chorus.**

In addition to singing this, the auditioner may be asked to:

- 1) **Clap or speak rhythms** using whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes
- 2) **Identify pitch names** on the staff
- 3) **Identify musical terms**
- 4) **Sight sing.**

Although auditions for all choirs include the same components, competency expectations are higher for Chorale. A sixth grader is not expected to know as much as a ninth grader, nor a first grader as much as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader. **With solos at all levels,** the conductor is listening for: tone quality; diction (Are the words understood and pronounced correctly?); staying “in tune” with oneself; courage; and desire to sing.

## TUITION EXCHANGE

For those volunteer tasks that require a larger time commitment to Chorus Abilene, an exchange for tuition is offered. **Please refer to the Volunteer Job descriptions to learn the responsibilities of the tuition exchange jobs.**

### 100% Tuition Exchange

Rehearsal Assistant for each youth choir (one for each choir, a total of 3)  
Office Worker

Uniform Coordinator for Youth & Chorale together.

If a parent accepts a TE job and cannot fulfill their obligation or neglects to complete the task, the singer will be invoiced to pay full tuition.

Event Photographer – for all Chorus Abilene events.

## **VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

Tuition Exchange jobs are noted in the following explanations. Tuition Exchange is applied to the regular cost of tuition; it does not apply to the Registration Fee.

### **Rehearsal Assistant**

Each choir has one person to take roll at every rehearsal, dress rehearsal, and performance. The Rehearsal Assistant needs to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the event and make sure everyone checks in as they arrive. A singer is considered tardy if they arrive after warm-ups have begun. **This position requires extreme faithfulness to the chorus schedule.**

The Rehearsal Assistant keeps **the roll** in a notebook along with:

- ◆ Fine Assessment sheets to record fines for singers without music or pencils;
- ◆ Choir rosters;
- ◆ Seating charts;
- ◆ Copies of the latest rehearsal note;
- ◆ Extra copies of anything that was distributed.

The Rehearsal Assistant also assists in rehearsal and

- ◆ Organizes new standing or seating charts as the performance area dictates and as the conductor requires;
- ◆ Takes notes on rehearsal for the office and the conductor;
- ◆ Records points for singers, as applicable;
- ◆ Makes announcements/reminders at the end of rehearsal;
- ◆ Keeps records of why singers missed any rehearsal or performance;
- ◆ Telephones singers missing from rehearsal, dress rehearsal, or community sings;
- ◆ Confers with conductor and E.D. concerning singer attendance records;
- ◆ Prepares a report on each singer's attendance (with/without applicable fines) when a singer reaches 2 absences. This report is sent to the office and to parents.
- ◆ Makes sure that all information is recorded promptly on the Charmsoffice.com site.

The Rehearsal Assistant should, most of all, be compassionate, understanding, and able to explain and support the rules. **This is a 100% TE job.**

### **Uniform Volunteer**

This person:

- ◆ Measures singers and assigns appropriate costumes to each singer;
- ◆ Makes repairs to costumes or arranges for this to be done but is not responsible for each singer's individual hem;
- ◆ At times, re-assigns uniforms throughout the year to complement the needs of growing singers;
- ◆ Checks backstage before each subscription concert to see if extra accessories are needed or if the fit of particular uniforms needs to be corrected;

- ◆ At the end-of-the-year celebration, collects all uniforms. If uniforms are not returned on time, they call those people and make arrangements to retrieve the uniforms.

**This is a 100% TE job.**

### **Office Worker**

This person is responsible for assisting the chorus administrative assistant in a variety of office work assignments. These assignments might answering phones, selling tickets, stuffing letters, etc. This person is asked to give 2 hours per week to the chorus at a time agreed upon by staff and volunteer.

**This is a 100% TE job.**

## **Non-TE Volunteer Opportunities**

**The following volunteer jobs are also available and must be completed to administer the chorus and its concerts in an efficient manner.**

### **Riser & Piano Coordinator**

Typically we use our risers and electric keyboard at other locations 1-2 times per year. We ask each choir to be responsible for 1 moving and returning occasion. If you have a small trailer and/or pickup and can help with this, please let your Rehearsal Assistant or the office know. This is one of the hardest volunteer positions to fill.

### **Backstage Parents**

Backstage Parents are essential to a successful concert. Each choir in the children's division has 1-2 backstage volunteers assigned to their particular group for each concert. These volunteers work with the conductor to make sure they understand what help is needed.

If you are a Backstage Parent, **it is your responsibility to attend the dress rehearsal, as you must know the backstage chair set-up, the location of bathrooms, directions received from conductor, etc. before the concert.** The dress rehearsal informs you of the entrances and exits of the choir, and when and where these happen in the program. It also gives you a chance to get to know the children and observe what their personalities and dynamics are. During dress rehearsal the Backstage Parent may receive a seating/standing chart from the conductor or the Rehearsal Assistant.

- **A backstage parent will assist singers in your choir and monitor them in their seats.** It is important to keep the backstage area quiet. Whispering, "tiptoeing", and walking around backstage may not seem loud up close, but the sound travels out to the audience. Singers may bring books or music but be aware that anything may be lost and we are not responsible. Singers should stay in their designated seats and areas.
- **All backstage parents should inspect singers as they arrive to ensure that everyone is dressed appropriately and according to the rules in the Handbook.** Please make sure that everyone's hair is pulled back from the face and that inappropriate jewelry has not been overlooked. As a Backstage Parent, is it helpful to have some supplies on hand: cough drops, tissues, extra tights, extra bow ties, extra barrettes, hair pins, safety pins, etc. The uniform parent should give you a bag of extra clothing items that may need to be replaced at the last moment.
- **Backstage Parents need to line up singers in the right order several minutes before they go on stage.** Escort them quietly to their entrance, in their lines ready to

go. While the choir is performing, Backstage Parents are asked to position themselves so as to be able to see the singers when they are on stage.

- **If a child sits down during a performance, that is your emergency signal from the child!** Please go on stage **immediately** and remove the child, evaluate the need for medical care, and act promptly. Do not worry about interrupting a performance!
- When your choir's time on stage is complete, please be ready at the appropriate place to escort the singers back to their designated seats. **After each concert, Backstage Parents should review the area, pick up any trash or programs, and collect any lost items.**
- **A Backstage Parent does not need to purchase a ticket to the concert.**

### **Chaperones**

From time to time we will need chaperones for retreats, tours, or other social events which require adult supervision. The Conductor, Rehearsal Assistant, or Tour Manager will communicate with chaperones as to their duties, where they need to be, rules and regulations. Chaperones are expected to be able to pay their own expenses for retreats, local tours, and other social events.

### **Auditions**

Volunteers are needed for auditions at the end of each year. If you volunteer to assist at auditions for 1-2 hours, you will greet new singers and their families, oversee the filling out of registration forms, help with any other functions needed to keep the auditions running smoothly, and, in general, be a source of information to prospective members. You need to arrive at your "host" position 15 minutes before auditions begin. Auditions for the children's choirs are held every May.

### **Local Transportation**

Throughout the year, we have a variety of events that may require transportation (visits to the retirement homes, retreats, run-out concerts, etc.) and several volunteers per choir may be needed. If you volunteer to be a driver, you are not reimbursed for gas or mileage. Please be sure to carry proof of your insurance with you.

### **Occasional assistant in rehearsals**

In the Children's Chorus, parents are sometimes needed to assist the singers in finding their place in the music, organizing their folder, learning to sing parts, playing musical games, etc. Musical skill is not required, but a great smile and hugs are always welcomed. Please let a conductor or Rehearsal Assistant know that you are interested in helping.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising is a continual activity shared by all singers, parents, and the Board of Directors. The money from most events is applied to operating expenses. This helps to keep the tuition and ticket prices lower.

**Spotlight:** This is a theatrical evening on Feb. 25, at ACU's Hunter Welcome Center, featuring the three choirs, and solos or ensembles of choir members, complete with props, costumes, and dancing. All children's choirs will participate. The theme for 2017 is "Once Upon a Time" and includes an evening of music and food as we travel through the

delightful world of fairy tales. Featured music will come from musicals like Charlotte's Web and Into the Woods. Individuals may audition for solos or duets for this event. Show music will be chosen by conductors, with 1-2 available spots left for songs chosen by singers that are not on the list. Solo auditions are Dec. 13. Spotlight is comprised of a performance, dinner, and photos with special "character" guest singers. Tickets are \$35/adults and \$20/age 12 & under. Limited seating for show only is available for \$15/each if space allows.

## TOURS

**The Board of Directors of Chorus Abilene determines when and if any of the choirs will tour.** Tours are taken because they offer opportunities not available in Abilene. Sometimes the opportunity is a chance to work with a special conductor, to sing in an outstanding acoustical setting not found in Abilene, or to learn about a culture and its music different from that experienced in Abilene.

Tours are generally taken every two-three years. Our most recent tour was to attend a music festival in Vienna, Salzburg, and Prague in June, 2014. A singer must have completed one year in the Youth Chorus to be eligible for an international tour.

### **Previous Tours include:**

**1998 - The Classical Youth Chorus** performed in the International Children's Choral Festivals in York and London, England;

**2000 – Chorale** received outstanding recognition as performers at the Niagara International Music Festival;

**2002 -** A combined group from Youth/Chorale toured England and Paris, performing in Salisbury Cathedral, St. Paul's Church, and College Moliere.

**2003 -** a combined group was the featured choir at opening ceremonies of the Texas Music Teachers Association State Convention.

**2004 -** Toured Italy for ten days, performing in Rome, Pistoia, and Lucca.

**2005 -** Members performed aboard Carnival Cruiseline's *Elation*.

**2007 -** Austria for 10 days from Munich to Vienna, performing in Salzburg's St. Peter's Abbey, at a music festival in Irnfritz, and in Vienna, as well as singing informally in many other locations.

**2010 –**Spain

**2012 –** Italy, performing at San Moise Church in Venice, for a youth choir just outside Florence, and for mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

**2014 –** Austria and Prague, with Gala performances in Vienna's Votive Church and Salzburg's Residenz Palace.

**2016 –** Paris & London, with performances at L'Eglise de St. Augustin & Notre Dame in Paris & St. Mary at Hill in London.

Please see the **Tour Handbook** for more specific information about participating in the **Tour 2018**.

## ALL-PARENT MEETINGS

**Two all-parent meeting are held each year,** during first rehearsal in August and January. These are important meetings and are called to explain important policies and dates and to give parents an opportunity to ask questions. If a parent cannot attend an all-

Parent meeting, please contact the Executive Director after the meeting to discover what valuable information you missed. Under unusual circumstances an extra Parent Meeting may be called.

**It is absolutely essential that every parent attend the initial orientation session in August.** Why is it essential? Because over the years we have discovered that those parents who attend understand the goals of the chorus, how the organization is managed, and their role and responsibility as choir parents. This in turn helps guarantee the success of your singer. Parents will meet the staff and directors, parent leadership of the choir, and be informed of the parent volunteer opportunities for the year. The conductor will also share the musical goals of each chorus for the year. Calendar events and fund-raisers will also be discussed.

At the Parent Orientation, you will be asked to bring your singer's **Medical Release Form** (necessary for the Chorus to have in case a medical emergency should arise during rehearsals, performances, retreats, tours, etc.); and complete a **Photo Release Form** (if not already done), allowing us to use photos of your child for publicity purposes.

## **DONATIONS**

Chorus Abilene, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We exist on donations from individuals, and, when awarded, grants from arts organizations, foundations, and corporations. **Encouraging your friends and business associates to support us is necessary and greatly appreciated.**

Tax-deductible donations should be sent to the office at PO Box 3358, Abilene, TX. 79604. Individual and Corporate donor names are listed in the programs. In addition to our heartfelt thanks, donors receive newsletters and special invitations to receptions and educational events.

Gifts given in memory or honor of a loved one will be acknowledged by the Board of Directors, and if instructed so by the donor, names will be printed in the next program.

If you are interested in providing a yearly scholarship for a deserving singer, please contact the Executive Director or a member of the Board of Directors. If you would like to consider assisting the chorus in the creation of an endowment, please contact the Board President.

**Each year, Chorus Abilene receives a large amount of money from members of the community who have no formal connection with us in order to support this organization where your children learn and mature through music.**

**It is our hope that, in future years as you find yourself able, you will remember that others have invested in your child and that you will return the gift so we may continue to help encourage future generations of music makers.**

## Calendar 2016-17

- Aug. 23                      First Youth rehearsal & Parent Meeting, All choirs
- Oct 22                        Oct. concert, youth choirs  
                                 Aldersgate UMC, 7:00 pm
- Dec 10                        Christmas concert, youth choirs  
                                 ACU, Cullen Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 13                       Retirement Home, Children's Chorus
- Dec. 13                       Spotlight solo auditions, St. Paul, by appointment
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-NO REHEARSALS
- Jan. 3                         Youth Rehearsals resume, Parent Meeting
- Feb. 11                        Abilene Idol Auditions (not choir performance event)
- Feb. 25                        Spotlight (all youth choirs) dress rehearsal 9-12 entire time  
                                 ACU Hunter Welcome Center, 6:30pm event begins
- March 4                       Abilene Idol Finale (not choir performance event)  
                                 Abilene Civic Center, 7:00pm: singers may receive free ticket
- SPRING BREAK NO REHEARSAL
- April 11                       Musical Olympics (6:30-7:15) (Children's Chorus only)
- April 29                       Final Youth Concert, morning dress rehearsal  
                                 Paramount Theatre, 7:00 pm concert
- May 2                         End of Year Ceremony  
                                 ACU Williams Performing Arts Center, 6:30-7:30pm
- May 12 & 13                 Youth Auditions for 2017-18

***Chorus Abilene***  
***Singer Registration Form***

Registering for which of the following (please circle):

Children's Chorus (grades 1-4)    Youth Chorus (grades 5-8)    Chorale (grades 9-12)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: Texas Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Singer's cell \_\_\_\_\_

Singers School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (**2016-17** year) \_\_\_\_\_

Parents E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Singer E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Singer resides with: \_\_\_\_\_

(If the relationship to the singer is something other than parent, please indicate.) \_\_\_\_\_

Polo shirts will be ordered for each new choir member and they will be 35% cotton /65% Polyester. Cost will be \$15. Please circle correct size:

Adult Small      Adult Medium      Adult Large    Adult X-Large      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Small      Youth Medium      Youth Large

How did you hear about Chorus Abilene?

Family      Friend      Teacher      Newspaper      Radio      TV  
Billboard    Attended a concert    Website      Church      Flyer      Other \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee of \$50 is due by June 20. This includes payment for end-of-year uniform care.

**Chorus Abilene    P.O. Box 3358    Abilene, TX 79604**  
**673-SING (7464)      info@chorusabilene.net**



## **CHORUS ABILENE Photo Release Form**

This form is to be completed by all individuals participating in Chorus Abilene activities. If a completed form is not on file, participation in pictures or videos will not be allowed.

I, being Parent/Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby consent that the videotapes, photographs, and/or audio recordings made of his/her voice may be used by Chorus Abilene, its assigns or successors, in whatever way they desire, including television and the Chorus Abilene website. Furthermore, I hereby consent that such photographs, films, and recordings and the plates and/or tapes from which they are made, shall be the property of the Chorus Abilene, Inc., and Chorus Abilene has the right to sell, duplicate, reproduce, and make other uses of such photographs, films, recordings, plates, and tapes as they may desire free and clear of any claim whatsoever on my part. I understand that my child will not be named individually except by separate permission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand, in the State of Texas,

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Name of child (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: Texas Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Chorus Abilene Parental Permission and Consent for Medical Treatment**

I hereby grant permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to travel with Chorus Abilene, Texas, and agree to indemnify and hold Chorus Abilene, a Non-Profit Corporation, its officers, and representatives, harmless from any claims or liability arising out of my child being in their charge.

**Consent for Medical Treatment**

I hereby grant permission for a Chorus Abilene staff member or chaperone to give consent for medical treatment for my child, \_\_\_\_\_.

I further grant permission to have such diagnostic and/or treatment procedures performed on my child as are deemed necessary by duly authorized attending physicians of hospital, private doctor and/or health department.

I further grant authority to release such medical information regarding \_\_\_\_\_ as may be requested other physicians, or other health agencies to which I have applied, or may in the future apply for service or assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employment and Work # \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employment and Work # \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact other than parent:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Are immunizations up to date? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the child on daily medications? \_\_\_\_\_

Primary insurance\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance number and telephone#\_\_\_\_\_

Secondary insurance\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance number and telephone#\_\_\_\_\_

**Health History: Circle and give approximate date where applicable**

Frequent ear infections\_\_\_\_\_

Chicken pox\_\_\_\_\_

Heart defect/disease\_\_\_\_\_

Measles\_\_\_\_\_

Convulsions\_\_\_\_\_

German Measles\_\_\_\_\_

Diabetes\_\_\_\_\_

Mumps\_\_\_\_\_

Bleeding/clotting disorders\_\_\_\_\_

Asthma\_\_\_\_\_

Hypertension\_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies**

Hay fever\_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies\_\_\_\_\_

Poison ivy\_\_\_\_\_

Pets/animals\_\_\_\_\_

Insect stings\_\_\_\_\_

Smoke\_\_\_\_\_

Penicillin\_\_\_\_\_

Other allergies\_\_\_\_\_

Other drugs\_\_\_\_\_

Current medications (send with instructions)\_\_\_\_\_

Is there any special eating need?\_\_\_\_\_

Other information?\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*Do Not Sign until in the presence of a Notary Public.\*\*\*\*\*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF TAYLOR

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Texas

## **Chorus Abilene SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

(Please complete a separate form for each singer)

Singer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: Texas Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Male Female

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School name and grade level for Fall 2015 \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Salary: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Salary: \_\_\_\_\_

### NAMES AND AGES OF CHILDREN IN YOUR FAMILY:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

### **On separate paper:**

**Parent(s):** Please write a paragraph explaining financial need or why you are requesting a scholarship for your child/children. Scholarship awards generally range between 50 - 75 % of **tuition costs only**, although a few 100% scholarships are available. All singers are expected to pay the registration fee by June 30, unless you make alternate arrangements with Gwynn Haseltine, Executive Director.

**Return the completed scholarship application, and paragraph, and your registration fee of \$50.00 by June 30.** Make checks payable to "Chorus Abilene." The amount of your remaining costs will be included in the scholarship notification letter. Notification of awards will be mailed by Gwynn Haseltine, Executive Director.

### **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Return completed application to:

**Chorus Abilene, PO Box 3358, Abilene, TX 79604  
325-673-7464 info@chorusabilene.net**



March 4, 2017  
Abilene Civic Center  
benefitting **Chorus Abilene**

Abilene Idol has become a wildly successful event for Chorus Abilene, providing programming, including scholarships, for young people who love to sing and who are dedicated to becoming our next generation of musicians.

Since the first competition in 2012, **Abilene Idol** has:

- Auditioned over 350 people at the Mall of Abilene;
- Presented 5 Finale performances;
- Entertained 2,500 guests at the Finale and countless numbers at the Auditions;
- Provided 30 full tuition scholarships and 8 half-tuition scholarships to deserving young singers.

## You can help!

We are looking for 15 ***Solid Gold Sponsorships*** at the \$500 level.

Your ***Solid Gold Sponsorship*** will:

- Support one of the Final Fifteen - the top fifteen singers from all who audition at the Mall of Abilene on February 11, 2016.
- Underwrite a tuition scholarship for a deserving young singer for Chorus Abilene's 2017-18 season.
- Reserve a quarter-page color ad in our Finale program (if received by Feb. 22, 2017).
- Receive 8 tickets to the Abilene Idol Finale and After-Glow party at the Finale on March 4, 2017, Abilene Civic Center.
- Be recognized on the Abilene Idol website and on digital billboards in Feb. & March.
- Guarantee your appearance on stage at the Finale as a Final Fifteen escort.

Name / Company:

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Contact Name:

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Address / City / Zip

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Daytime Phone

Email

To pay by credit card or for more information, please call 325.673.7464 or email [info@ChorusAbilene.net](mailto:info@ChorusAbilene.net)

Kindly make checks payable to **Chorus Abilene, PO Box 3358, Abilene, TX 79604**

Chorus Abilene ([www.ChorusAbilene.net](http://www.ChorusAbilene.net)) is a 501(c)3 corporation and qualifies as a charity for tax deduction purposes.