



VOX
UNA
YOUTH
CHORALE

The mission of this ensemble is to provide area students enrolled in a single-gender Catholic school with an unmatched and unique choral experience. It will foster a lifelong love for choral music, and allow students to perform collegiate-level mixed repertoire with excellence, integrity, and the highest level of musicianship.

Vox Una Youth Chorale will be an Artist in Residence at the Cathedral Basilica for the 2023-2024 season.

Board of Directors:

W. Mark Akin, President

Kevin McKernan, Vice-President

Addie Akin, Secretary and Treasurer

Program Overview

Members of the Vox Una Youth Chorale can expect to take part in an elite and unique music experience. Composed of the most dedicated and serious singers from St. Louis' single-gender Catholic high schools, the ensemble will perform quality literature that spans the centuries. Students will sing in multiple languages, refine their musicianship, hone their aural skills, and have the opportunity to sing in world-class venues. Singers will also learn the importance of collaboration and coming together to create something beautiful. Integrity, discipline, tenacity, and personal responsibility will be fostered and nurtured. This program is meant to complement students' current music education, and as such, members of Vox Una must be a member of their school's choral ensemble, if one exists.

Due to the compressed rehearsal time and level of repertoire performed, members will be expected to read music. There will not be time in rehearsals to learn sight-reading techniques or to work through notes repeatedly. Practice tracks will be available and students are expected to practice on their own time. See expectations below.

Expectations

Absences:

Every member of the ensemble is important. In order to maintain the high standards expected of Vox Una, attendance is expected at every rehearsal, performance, and event. The sound of the ensemble is dependent on every person, and on every person knowing the music and what was covered in rehearsals. Those who have not practiced enough or missed too many rehearsals will have a conference with the Executive Director to discuss their standing in the ensemble, and might not be allowed to perform.

Rehearsals are every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00pm at the Cathedral Basilica in Boland Hall (4311 Lindell Blvd.) Each member is allowed two (2) excused absences per semester. Absences must be emailed 24 hours in advance to info@voxuna.org. An absence is considered excused if a student is sick, has a school event, college visit, or some other extraordinary reason that is approved by the Executive Director in advance.

Absences for social events, work, sporting events, and the like are considered unexcused and put the member's good standing at risk. Additionally, any absence not emailed 24 hours in advance is considered unexcused.

We reserve the right to dismiss any student due to unexcused absences, lack of interest, delinquent tuition, behavior concerns, or other failure to adhere to posted policies. In the event of dismissal, no tuition reimbursement will be given.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire rehearsal. Remember the saying: On time is late, early is on time. Frequent tardiness may be grounds for dismissal. Additionally, students must be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of rehearsal. Families will be charged \$1 for every minute past 15 minutes the child is not picked up.

Students must have their music and a pencil for every rehearsal. Students are expected to make marks in their music in PENCIL. All music must be returned at the end of the semester and is the property of Vox Una. Students will be charged for lost/damaged/not returned music.

Students are expected to have the highest level of discipline. Rehearsal time is for music making. Use breaks for socialization and talking. Students who constantly disrupt the rehearsal process will be at risk for dismissal. Students should never leave their seats during rehearsal. Breaks will be given for bathroom use and to fill up water bottles.

Cell phones are not allowed during the rehearsal process. Members of Vox Una are here because they want to make music at the highest level possible. Cell phones should never, ever be out during rehearsals. If this becomes an issue, it will be grounds for dismissal.

We are guests of the buildings we use. Students are expected to treat the spaces with respect and clean up after themselves. Food and drink should only be consumed in designated places, and gum is never allowed.

Students should stay home if sick. However, if cleared by a doctor or experiencing allergies or a similar ailment, students may still attend rehearsal if wearing a mask.

Electronic Updates/Weather Cancellations:

Please be sure we have the correct email and phone number on file for your family. In the event of a weather cancellation, please check your email and the VUYC website. A decision will be posted by 3pm. Every effort will be made to hold rehearsals, but of course safety is a top priority.

Frequent emails will be sent reminding families of upcoming events or announcing important content. Please be sure info@voxuna.org is added to your address book/contacts.

Concert Expectations

Concerts are the culmination of weeks of preparation and hard work. The season calendar will be posted prior to the start of the year, and students are expected to attend all dress rehearsals and concerts. Not doing so will put their membership in jeopardy.

Concerts will be ticketed. Tickets may be purchased in advance through the Vox Una website or at the door. Filming and recording during the concert is prohibited as it violates copyright laws. Vox Una will make recordings for educational purposes, but these will not be distributed or for sale. Additionally, by signing the agreement at the end of this handbook, parents agree to their child being photographed and give Vox Una Youth Chorale permission to post photos and use them in marketing materials. If there are privacy concerns, please speak with the Executive Director.

Concert Attire

MEN: All men in the ensemble should purchase a full tuxedo from Tuxedo Wholesalers. This will be yours to keep. If you already own a tuxedo, please be sure it matches the type listed here. You may purchase individual pieces (tie, vest, etc.) as needed.

- Super Tuxedo Package
- Notch Lapel
- Black Vest
- Windsor Tie, Color: Black
- Lay-Down Collar
- Flat-Front Pants

WOMEN: All women in the ensemble will purchase their dress from Stage Accents. Vox Una will place a group order and singers will pay via check. Singers are responsible for their own measurements and must submit those to the Executive Director no later than September 30. Women are also expected to wear black tights/socks and solid black closed-toe dress shoes. Avoid high heels.

- Style: Brielle

Payment Policies

Vox Una functions much like an educational institution and relies on tuition to conduct daily business, although tuition does not cover all expenses. Tuition payments for the year are due by September 1. Late payments may suspend a student from rehearsal or performance opportunities. Tuition is on a yearly basis and no refunds will be given after September 15. If a student chooses to withdraw from the ensemble prior to September 15, a 75% refund will be given.

All payments should be made through the Vox Una website. Tuition for the 2023-2024 season is \$450. If a payment plan is needed please contact Addie Akin at aakin@voxuna.org.

Because tuition does not cover the full operating expenses of Vox Una, donations are crucial to keeping the ensemble operational. We are a non-profit in the state of Missouri, and a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations can be made through Zelle (search for info@voxuna.org) or

on our website. Checks may be sent to 10101 Dandridge Dr. St. Louis, MO 63123 and made out to Vox Una Youth Chorale.

Volunteering

Parents, we need you! An operation like Vox Una needs many hands to make things run smoothly. We need choral library assistants, snack coordinators, chaperones, and more. This is also a great way to meet other parents! If you are interested in helping, please email Ms. Akin at aakin@voxuna.org

Schedule

The season begins on August 15, 2023. Rehearsals are weekly, however note the changes below:

Fall Schedule

- *Tuesday, 8/15/23 = First Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 8/22/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 8/29/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 9/5/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 9/12/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 9/19/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 9/26/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 10/3/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 10/10/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 10/17/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 10/24/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 10/31/23 = No Rehearsal
- *Tuesday, 11/7/23 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 11/14 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Thursday, 11/16 = Concert at 7pm at College Church; CALL TIME 5:30pm

- *Christmas at the Cathedral TBD

*11/21/23 to 1/31/24 = No Rehearsal

Spring Schedule

- *Tuesday, 2/6/24 = First Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 2/13/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 2/20/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 2/27/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 3/5/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm

- *Tuesday, 3/12/24 = No Rehearsal
- *Tuesday, 3/19/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 3/26/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Thursday, 3/28/24 = Chrism Mass at the Cathedral
- *Tuesday, 4/2/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 4/9/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 4/16/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 4/23/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 4/30/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 5/7/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 5/14/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 5/21/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Tuesday, 5/28/24 = Rehearsal 6:30-9:00pm
- *Sunday, 6/2/24 = Concert at 2pm at Mary Queen of Peace; CALL TIME 12:30pm

Participation in additional liturgies at the Cathedral will be announced, as well as a concert with Cathedral Concerts.

Handbook Agreement

By signing this form you agree to the following:

1. I understand I may be photographed or recorded during rehearsals and performances. I give Vox Una permission to post these for use in marketing and on social media.
2. I understand the tuition policy and affirm that no refund will be given after September 15.
3. I understand I am responsible for paying for my own tuxedo or dress. Tuxedo purchases are the responsibility of each family, and dresses will be purchased in bulk by Vox Una.
4. I understand that my membership in Vox Una may be revoked if I do not adhere to the policies written in this handbook.

(Print Student Name)

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Print Parent Name)

(Parent Signature)

(Date)