

Fox Valley Children's Chorus
Daniele Bruhn, Music Director
2011-2012 Season

Contact Information: P.O. Box 502
Batavia, Illinois 60510
630-879-3235
www.fvchildrenschorus.org

Mission: Providing vocal training and excellence in performance of high quality choral music for children of the Fox Valley.

Choirs: Apprentice Choir (grades 2-4) focuses on basic vocal skills including breathing, tone quality and diction, and basic music reading skills including knowledge of note reading and rhythmic notation.

Concert Choir (grade 5 through age 15 girls and boys with unchanged voices) focuses on developing vocal skills to meet the demands of advanced choral literature. Sight reading skills will be encouraged. Emphasis is placed on artistic interpretation and excellence in performance.

Rehearsals: Apprentice Choir 5:00-6:15 PM
Concert Choir 6:30-8:00 PM

All rehearsals will take place on Mondays at the Congregational Church of Batavia, 21 S. Batavia Avenue. School holidays DO NOT affect Fox Valley Children's Chorus (FVCC) rehearsals. A full season schedule of rehearsal and performances is on page 6 of the **Handbook**.

Tuition is \$225 per year per student. If more than one child from one family participates in FVCC, the cost is \$175 for the second (or more) child(ren). Tuition is due at the first rehearsal unless you work out a payment plan with the treasurer. Tuition includes all music, a choir

folder and a T-shirt to be worn for some rehearsals and performances.

Attendance at rehearsals and performances is required. The success of FVCC depends upon the commitment of ALL singers. More than two (2) absences per semester will result in the singer being dropped from the program. Parents must call the director to report an absence in advance.

Expectations for rehearsal are high. Students should be seated with music and a sharpened pencil five (5) minutes before the rehearsal begins. Food and gum are not allowed; water bottles are permitted. The rehearsal order will be on the board. Music for the rehearsal should be in order before the rehearsal begins. Singers must respect others and pay attention to the conductor at all times. Singers are expected to behave in a way that is not disruptive to the rehearsal, distracting to other students, the conductor or accompanist, or which prohibits a positive and successful rehearsal.

For performances, singers must arrive at the designated time and place. No food or gum is allowed. Concert clothes should be clean and pressed. You must not talk during performances. Show appreciation of groups other than your own by clapping only.

A positive experience for all singers is the desire of FVCC! Keeping a few things in mind will help us toward this goal: a cheerful attitude and cooperative spirit, avoiding sleep-overs the night before a concert, drink lots of water, avoid screaming, including at sporting events.

For the safety of FVCC students, when dropped off for rehearsal or performances, students should go directly to the designated area. At no time should students wander about the church or concert venue.

electronic watches are requested to turn them off before entering a concert hall.

Because choir performances are group efforts, nothing should be done to draw attention to any individual. Shouting out names of individuals or waving to attract their attention is not proper and distract from the performance.

It is customary to applaud the conductor as he or she enters the stage or approaches the choir.

Applause should be given at the end of each section of music unless otherwise noted in the program.

It is not proper to applaud an individual soloist in the middle of a song in a formal concert setting. Generally a soloist is recognized at the conclusion of the piece and may be applauded at that time.

Be aware that the amount of applause is an indication to the performers as to how well their efforts have been received. Whistling is never appropriate in a formal concert setting.

We hope these guidelines concerning concert etiquette will be of value to you and make you a more informed concert patron. These simple instructions will add not only to your enjoyment of a concert, but to the enjoyment of those around you as well.

Parent volunteers will be needed for each rehearsal and performance. One male and one female helper will be needed for each rehearsal; one male and one female for each choir will be need for performances.

Helpers will take attendance, pass out memos, and be present to help should a singer become ill.

Music and a folder will be provided for each member of FVCC. Students are responsible for bringing their music to rehearsal each week. Costs of lost or damaged music and/or folders must covered by parents.

Uniforms for performances are quite basic: A white, long sleeved blouse with a peter pan collar for girls, available at jcpenny.com. It comes in all sizes and is called "French Toast," The girls' skirt is available on line from concertblack.com. Click on "children's" and there is a black skirt for about \$30. Boys must wear black socks and shoes; girls must wear either natural colored nylons or black tights and black flat shoes. Boys wear black pants, washable chino pants, NOT JEANS, and a white, long sleeved, button down shirt. These are widely available online and at places like Kohl's and Penny's. Teeth and hair must be clean and hair must be worn away from the face, fastened if necessary with plain barrettes matching hair color. Jewelry is limited to stud earrings.

Fox Valley Children's Chorus is a not-for-profit corporation registered in the state of Illinois. The officers and board of directors are as follows:

Daniele Bruhn, Music Director
Catherine Smith-Johnston, President

Jennifer Wardynski, Vice President
 Joan Zaleski, Secretary
 Dale Rudy, Treasurer
 Philip Dripps

Copies of the constitution and by-laws and board minutes and financials are available upon request.

Calendar for 2011-2012 Season

September 12, 2011 Rehearsals begin

December 3 Dress rehearsal 9:30-11:00 AM, Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, 215 Eastside Dr., Geneva

December 4 Concert 2:00 PM, Fox Valley Presbyterian

December 17 Dress Rehearsal time TBA, Norris Center St. Charles

December 17 Performance 6:45-7:00 PM, Norris Center

December 18 Performance 1:45-2:00 PM, Norris Center

No rehearsals in December

January 2, 2011 Rehearsals resume

April 28 Dress Rehearsal 9:30-11:00 AM, place TBA

April 29 Concert ,Place TBA

*Please note: At the production time, we are working on a performance the weekend prior to our regular spring concert.

Concert Etiquette

Concert etiquette is simply the manners that should be applied by the concert attendee in any formal concert setting.

Doors generally open 30 minutes prior to a performance. Be on time for the beginning of the concert. People who are late can be a distraction for both the performers and the audience. Should you arrive late, do not enter the concert hall while a musical selection is being performed. Please wait to enter the hall during the applause breaks.

It is not proper to move about during a concert. Anything that could be distracting to the performers or other patrons should be avoided. Should you need to leave the concert hall, it should be done between musical selections. Never leave or enter the hall during a performance, except for an emergency or with a small child.

Talking or making noise of any kind should be avoided. Most patrons are there to hear the music, not the casual conversation of audience members. The unwrapping of candy or gum can be very distracting and should be avoided. Remember that the singers, musicians and conductors have worked very hard for this performance and should be given every consideration.

If a very young child attends the concert with you, please remove them from the concert hall immediately if they become disruptive to the enjoyment of the performance by other patrons.

Patrons with pagers, cell phones, and hourly signals on