



GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY
YOUTH CHORUSES

Handbook of General Information
2020-21

Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses

P.O. Box 68665

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

www.GRSYC.org

616-881-2560

Our Mission Statement:

Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses strive to instill in the children of West Michigan a lifelong love of music by providing a program in which they can discover and refine their musical talent as choral singers, demonstrate personal growth and leadership, and develop a lifelong passion for singing. Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses aspire to provide a mutually respectful system of preparation, a dedication to excellence in the performance of quality choral literature, and a commitment to seeking collaborative musical opportunities locally, nationally, and globally.

In short, it is our mission to make the world a more beautiful place through music and community.

Contact Information

Program Directors

Sean Ivory (616) 856-8092 Sean@grsync.org

Leah Ivory (616) 856-8093 Leah@grsync.org

Choir Manager

Holly Okonoski (616) 881-2560 Holly@grsync.org

GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY

Marcelo Lehninger, Music Director

David Lockington, Music Director Laureate

Bob Bernhardt, Principal Pops Conductor

John Varineau, Associate Conductor

Pearl Shangkuan, Chorus Director

Mary Tuuk, President and CEO

Aaron Doty, Vice President and General Manager

Diane Lobbestael, Vice President for Development

Dear GRSYC musicians and families,

Welcome back to another wonderful season with the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses! We are so happy you have decided to join us - some for the first time, others for their second, third.... or 13th season! We strive to provide singers and families with wonderful musical experiences in an atmosphere which recognizes the unique gifts of every individual. Our goal is for every child to feel welcome, safe, and included in the GRSYC family.

Covid-19 has rocked everyone's world, and it is not the same place as it was before. This year, we will be smaller. All group gatherings need to take place differently. Singing, specifically, will look and feel new as we stand far apart from each other and work with technology more than before. In some ways, we are grieving the close connection and real-time music making which happens in all ensembles. But the truth is - we continue to make connections. We continue to make music. We continue to build relationships. We continue to create beauty and share it with our communities. We continue to use our voices to proclaim messages of hope - we are glad that you are on this journey with us.

This year, we will meet outside whenever we can. In addition to our outdoor rehearsals, we will offer online curriculum to supplement our shortened in-person time together. Eventually, we predict that the Michigan snowfall and cold temperatures will push us fully online for a few months. We look forward to creating unique virtual performances and connecting with other youth choirs around our country for collaborative events, discussion, and general connection. The Grand Rapids Symphony has created an innovative season and we are excited about participating with them both virtually and in-person.

Thank you for being a part of this village. Thank you for your commitment to excellence in singing. Thank you for choosing community. Thank you for making the world a more beautiful place with us.

Sincerely,

Leah and Sean Ivory

COVID-19

In order to help mitigate the transmission of the Covid-19 virus, we will be implementing a variety of protocols to ensure the best possible safety for our choristers and families. These protocols may be fluid, depending on which phase Michigan is in. Protocols will be communicated clearly in the GRSYC memos and are non-negotiable. Failure to comply with any current safety measure may result in dismissal from the program. The safety of everyone is dependent on full participation by all members of the community.

THURSDAY CHORUS, multi-age 45 minute rehearsal (name TBD)

Directors, Leah and Sean Ivory

- Tuition: \$400
- Rehearsals: 4:00-4:45pm or 5-5:45pm at Rogue River Park, 6300 Belshire Ave NE
- Performance Dress: GRSYC t-shirts. No formal performance attire this year.

THURSDAY CHORUS, multi-age 60 minute rehearsal (name TBD)

Directors, Leah and Sean Ivory

- Tuition: \$525
- Rehearsals: 6:00-7:00pm at Rogue River Park, 6300 Belshire Ave NE
- Performance Dress: GRSYC t-shirt. No formal performance attire this year.

YOUTH CHORUS, Grades 7-12

Directors, Leah and Sean Ivory

- Tuition: \$575
- Rehearsals: Mondays, 5:00-6:30pm at Rogue River Park, 6300 Belshire Ave NE
- Performance Dress: GRSYC t-shirt. No formal performance attire this year.

TUITION PAYMENTS

We accept payment by credit or debit card only, to be billed monthly.

Please complete the credit card authorization form, which will be sent to you via email, and also posted on our website under "Parents". You only need to fill this out one time. The form can be turned in at rehearsal or mailed to the Symphony **by September 28:**

GR Symphony
Debra Lehmann
300 Ottawa NW Ste. 100
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Tuition Scholarships:

We offer partial and full scholarships to families who are experiencing financial hardship and may not be able to participate in the choir. Please see the "Parents" section of our website www.grsync.org for a link to an application.

Tuition Discount for Multiple Children:

For households that have more than one child in our choirs we offer the following discounts:

1st child: full tuition,

2nd child: 25% deduction off of the lesser expensive choir. Each additional child is an increasing 5% discount. IE - the 3rd child would receive 30% off and the 4th child would receive 35%. Please see the "Parents" section of our website www.grsync.org for a link to an application.

CLOSURES/CANCELLATIONS

If rehearsal is cancelled, GRSYC will notify you by email.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Each singer represents the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses. We are a professional organization and our students are expected to behave in a courteous manner at all times. GRSYC does not provide supervision for choristers prior to their rehearsal times. Young choristers should be accompanied by their parents/guardians until their rehearsal begins.

Covid-19 related issues: Non-compliance of any of the protocols that have been put into place to protect our singers and their families will not be tolerated. A parent or guardian will be notified if a chorister breaks protocol. If this happens a second time, the chorister may be asked to not continue in-person rehearsals.

Thank you for your attention to these details. With their compliance to these guidelines, your children help promote the good name and reputation of GRSYC.

All singers should plan to arrive five minutes before the scheduled start time of their rehearsal so that they can be in their places and ready to sing at the designated hour.

Singers do not leave after rehearsal has begun unless special permission has been granted. An email is necessary for late admittance to or early dismissal from a rehearsal. Please give payments, paperwork, etc. to Holly, our choir manager.

Singers may bring a bottle of water to sip drinks when needed. Please make sure it has a lid or cap on it to prevent spills and if possible labeled with their name. No food, candy or gum is allowed in the rehearsal space. For optimal focus and energy, please have your chorister eat a nutritious snack before rehearsal.

Cell phones must be turned off during rehearsals and will be confiscated if used to make calls, play games, send text messages, or take pictures. This rule also applies to any game-playing devices that are brought into rehearsals.

Directors will send regular communication via email as needed. These emails will contain important information and should be read thoroughly.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Our attendance policy will be looser this year due to Covid-19. The health and safety of our choristers has always been and will remain a priority. Please communicate with the directors about any absences that cannot be avoided. Illness related absences will be excused.

Please complete the signature page (next page) and turn it in at the first rehearsal. :) Thank you.

Parent Signature Page:

I _____ (printed name) acknowledge that I have read the GRSYC 2020-21 Handbook, and accept the information and terms that were provided.

Today's Date: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____