



## Handbook of General Information 2021-22

Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses

P.O. Box 68665

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

[www.GRSYC.org](http://www.GRSYC.org)

616-901-2778

### 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 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@grsyc.org

Leah Ivory (616) 856-8093 leah@grsyc.org

Cameo Haaksma Elzinga cameo@grsyc.org

### **Choral Administrator**

Emma Ivory (616) 901-2778 eivory@grsymphony.org

## **GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY**

Marcelo Lehninger, Music Director

David Lockington, Music Director Laureate

Bob Bernhardt, Principal Pops Conductor

Pearl Shangkuan, Chorus Director

Mary Tuuk Kuras, President and CEO

Aaron Doty, Vice President and General Manager

Michael Naess, Vice President of Development

Dear GRSYC choristers 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 in our 14th season - some for the first time, others for their second, third.... or beyond. 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.

BIG SHOUT OUT to those who participated in last year's season, as we navigated protocol after protocol to keep our singers singing safely. This year, we are grateful to be back in our regular rehearsal space at Calvin University, and are planning on a more typical concert season - so grateful!

We will kick off our season with an all-chorus gathering at Rogue River Park in October, getting to know each other through rehearsals and games. Our GRSYC family concerts will be held at Calvin University in the fall and spring. The Youth Chorus will be back at DeVos Hall for Holiday Pops, and our all-chorus holiday concert will be held downtown at the newly renovated First United Methodist Church. In January, we will return to the Van Andel area for our annual singing of the National Anthem at the Griffins game and in March, we will sing a concert of Irish/Celtic music to get you in the mood for St. Patrick's Day. We are eager to sing for you again!!

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 continue to implement 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.

The 2021-22 Covid-19 waiver can be found under the "Parents" tab on our website. Please read and sign and return to Emma. Thank you!

## **MELODIA, grades 1-3**

**Director, Cameo Haaksma Elzinga**

- Tuition: \$400
- Rehearsal: 5-6pm, Calvin University room 115

## **MOSAIC SINGERS, grades 4-6**

**Director, Leah Ivory**

- Tuition: \$525
- Rehearsals: 5:00-6:30pm, Calvin University Recital Hall

## **YOUTH CHORUS, Grades 7-12**

**Directors, Leah and Sean Ivory**

- Tuition: \$575
- Rehearsals: Mondays, 5:00-7:00pm, Calvin University Recital Hall

## **PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

For GRSYC family concerts, the performance attire will be GRSYC t-shirts with blue jeans and comfortable shoes.

For the holiday concerts, choristers will wear **all black concert attire**.

MELODIA and MOSAIC SINGERS: Find your own concert-appropriate combination of dress pants, dress shirt (long sleeve), skirt or dress. All clothing must be opaque black (not see through). Black opaque leggings must be worn with skirts or dresses. No designs or sequins on clothing. All black shoes - comfortable but concert appropriate. No sneakers or athletic shoes. No high heels.

Melodia are invited to wear a **red** accessory of your choosing - ie. Scarf, belt, necklace, tie

Mosaic Singers are invited to wear a **green** accessory of your choosing - ie. Scarf, belt, necklace, tie

YOUTH CHORUS: Black formal dresses purchased through GRSYC or black dress pants, black long-sleeved buttoned collared dress shirt, black belt/shoes purchased on your own.

## **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. Please see the "Parents" section of our website [www.grsync.org](http://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](http://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 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.

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 Emma, our choir manager.

Singers may bring a bottle of water. 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.

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.

## **ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS**

Our attendance policy will continue to 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 print and complete this signature page and turn it in at the first rehearsal. Thank you.**

Parent Signature Page:

I \_\_\_\_\_ (printed name) acknowledge that I have read the GRSYC 2021-22 Handbook, and accept the information and terms that were provided.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_