

Spring 2025 Hudson Community Choir Syllabus

MISSION AND HISTORY

Hudson Community Choir (est. 2023) is a free and non-audition choir based in Hudson, NY. Hudson Community Choir's mission is to empower a community of singers of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to foster connection, belonging, and joy through music.

Hudson Community Choir was founded by Hudson community members Anneice Cousin, Jess Laddin, and Sharece Johnson in the Spring of 2023 to create an accessible space for community members to come together in song through positive leadership, intergenerational learning, and a commitment to supporting the Hudson community and beyond. In just three seasons, Hudson Community Choir has performed for family and friends at Hudson Hall, singing as well in many community events including Winter Walk, Caroling for the Cows, collaborating with Hudson Festival Orchestra, Waterfront Wednesdays, and the Hudson Pride Parade.

Hudson Community Choir and BEAUTIFUL RACKET

Beautiful Racket was born in the summer of 2020 out of the need for accessible creative programming for the youth of Hudson, NY. They believe accessibility means more than financial access. They are committed to eliminating barriers that have historically prevented Black and Brown people from accessing the power of self expression, by creating a safe and empowering environment rooted in: representation in leadership and instruction; tuition-free programming for students; and competitive wages that honor the true skills of the instructors.

Beautiful Racket continues to expand its programming. Currently they offer opportunities for: first time music experience, song writing, piano lessons, music production, and performance

Community Partners: Hudson Hall and The Spark of Hudson

Hudson Community Choir Staff:

Michael Hofmann, *Hudson Community Choir Director and Conductor*

Jessica Laddin, *Hudson Community Choir Coordinator* | beautifulrackethudson@gmail.com

Cell: 978-491-0451

When to contact Jess outside of rehearsal:

- Schedule related questions/ logistics
- [Carpooling questions](#)

Best form of communication: Email is preferred, but please call or text in case of an emergency

Paula Vitolo, *Assistant Director and Accompanist* paula.vitolo2@gmail.com

When to contact Paula outside of rehearsal:

- Music-specific related questions ONLY

Anneice Cousin, *Beautiful Racket Executive Director* | beautifulrackethudson@gmail.com

Sharece Johnson, *Beautiful Racket Interim Executive Director*

All choir updates and announcements will be sent to the choir via email, so please check your email regularly as well as your spam folder.

Community Choir Code of Conduct Agreement

1. Respect for All Members

- **Inclusivity:** Every member, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, or ability, is to be treated with the utmost respect. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. **There is ZERO place for disrespect towards choir staff and singers.**
- **Positive Communication:** Members are expected to communicate kindly and constructively, both during rehearsals and outside of them.

2. Commitment to the Choir

- **Attendance:** There is NO attendance policy...PERIOD!
- **Punctuality:** If you are late, join quietly and without disrupting the rehearsal.

3. Rehearsal Etiquette

- **Focus:** Pay attention to the choir director during rehearsals and refrain from talking when the director or other members are speaking.
- **Listening:** Actively listen to the director's instructions and other choir members. Respect each member's contributions and the director's artistic vision.

- **No Disruptions:** Please silence mobile phones and other electronic devices during rehearsals and performances. Refrain from using them unless necessary.

4. Performance Conduct

- **Professionalism:** Maintain a professional attitude and appearance during performances.
- **Respect the Venue:** Treat performance venues with care. Leave the space clean and tidy after use.

5. Conflict Resolution

- **Addressing Issues:** If conflicts arise, approach them with a mindset of resolution and respect. **If you are unable to resolve the issue directly, bring it to the attention of Jess Laddin and or Paula Vitolo.**

6. Health and Safety

- **Well-being:** Prioritize your health and well-being. **Do not attend rehearsals or performances if you are feeling unwell. It is never worth it!**

7. Compliance with Policies

- **Adherence to Rules:** Follow all established choir policies, including those related to attendance, dress code, and behavior. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the choir.

8. Contribution to a Positive Environment

- **Encouragement:** Support your fellow choir members and contribute to a positive, encouraging environment. Celebrate the successes of the choir and its members.
- **Community Spirit:** Engage in activities that foster a sense of community within the choir, such as social events, volunteer opportunities, or group outings.

(All rehearsals will take place at Hudson Hall unless otherwise specified)