



Happy Holidays Concert 2019

Stockton Youth Chorale Valley Youth A Cappella

Parent-Singer Handbook 2025-26 Season

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The Stockton Youth Chorale and Valley Youth A Cappella have been an important part of my three kids' lives over the years, providing an opportunity to improve their singing skills, to explore different genres of music, and, importantly, to have fun while making music with others. It's also an important 'lab' for life skills. For example, participating in Youth Chorale teaches as much about teamwork as any youth sport—you have to show up for practice and work with your fellow musicians to produce beautiful music. And getting up on stage in front of others can be scary but gets easier with time. These are lessons they can carry with them far beyond the Youth Chorale experience.

I'm so glad our family discovered the Stockton Youth Chorale and Valley Youth A Cappella,

and I sing the praises of these organizations whenever I'm able!

-Jennifer Langham, parent

WELCOME!

Welcome to our singing school! You and your child are part of a very special community of musicians where each and every member is valued for their unique gifts and talents and is encouraged to contribute to the success of the group as a whole. We believe in developing in your child the knowledge, skills and values to help them become lifelong producers and consumers of beautiful music. We hope you enjoy the experience!

*Coming together is a beginning
Keeping together is progress;
Working together is success.
-Henry Ford*

Joan Calonico, Conductor

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Stockton Chorale Office
Donna Deutscher, Office Clerk
stocktonchoraleoffice@gmail.com
(209) 951-6494

Jan Taylor, Liaison to Valley Youth A Cappella
jwestontaylor@yahoo.com (209) 609-3749

Joan Calonico, Conductor
joanecalonico@gmail.com (209) 915-1139

Larry Graser, VYA grandparent and Stockton Chorale Board Member
larry.graser@gmail.com (916) 715-2907

Website: <http://www.stocktonchorale.org/syc>

"I can't imagine how my life would be without SYC and VYA. Being part of such a

close family of singers for so long shaped me as a musician, and brought some of the most talented people I know into my life. I am so grateful for how much I learned being with the Stockton Chorale.”

Bella Nelson, singer

WHO WE ARE

About the Youth Chorale...

The Stockton Youth Chorale, part of the Stockton Chorale organization, is dedicated to children who love to sing! It is an opportunity for young singers to share their talent and love for singing, sharpen their skills, increase their performance opportunities, learn cool new stuff about music, and make new friends.

Dr. Arthur J. Holton formed the Stockton Chorale in 1951. From its beginning as a double quartet, the Chorale grew to over 100 members over the years and has performed all over the world. The Master Chorale, a chamber choir that features more advanced singers, was added in the early 1960's. The Youth Chorale was founded in the mid-1980's.

The Youth Chorale performs with the Stockton Chorale, the Master Chorale, the Stockton Symphony and sometimes the Stockton Opera Association. The students have also been invited to sing at the Haggin Museum, carol in Lincoln Center, and perform the National Anthem for Stockton Ports home games.

About the Director...

Joan Calónico graduated from the University of Pacific Conservatory of Music in 1981 with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. She was a General Music and Choral Specialist in Lincoln Unified School District for 20 years. During that time, she served as Mentor Teacher and Music teacher Specialist, coordinating the K-8 music program district-wide. She has directed middle school honor choirs throughout the region.

After earning a Master's degree in Educational Administration, Mrs. Calónico became principal of Lincoln Elementary School and later, Don Riggio School, where Visual & Performing Arts were an integral part of every student's education. She has directed the Stockton Youth Chorale since 2002, and making music with kids is her favorite thing to do.



ENSEMBLES

STOCKTON YOUTH CHORALE

This ensemble is open to singers in grades 3-8 with unchanged voices.

The requisite skills include matching pitch and a sense of key, which can be demonstrated in a quick and painless 5-minute audition with the director in person or via Zoom.

Rehearsals will be Mondays and Thursdays, 4-5:30 PM beginning August 11, 2025.

VALLEY YOUTH A CAPPELLA

This ensemble is for high school aged singers and includes changed, changing or unchanged voices.

The requisite skills include matching pitch, a sense of key, ability to sight read and hold a harmony part independently while singing 3–4-part music. The basic skills can be demonstrated in a quick and painless 5-minute audition with the director via Zoom. Phase II of the audition will be accomplished during the first rehearsal with the entire ensemble reading, learning and singing new music together.

Rehearsals will be Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00 PM beginning August 13, 2025.



Valley Youth A Cappella singing the National Anthem at a Stockton Kings' Game

REHEARSALS

Schedule

SYC Mondays & Thursdays, 4-5:30 PM

VYA Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00 PM

Venue

Central United Methodist Church • 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton

The choir room is at the South end of the parking lot.

Expectations

PARENTS: Please drop off and pick up so that rehearsals can begin and end on time.

Important instruction takes place at the beginning of the rehearsal.

SINGERS:

- Be prepared with music and a pencil out and ready to use
- Listen attentively
- Show respect for each other and the director
- Take good care of music and equipment

Music, black binders and a pencil are provided and must be returned after a concert or at the end of the semester. Singers are responsible for keeping their binders in performance condition and replacing the binder if it falls apart before the end of the semester.

SEMESTER DUES

Our programs are supported through tuition fees. We don't want to turn any singer away because of financial issues. For those families who need financial assistance, we provide partial or full scholarships. Scholarship forms are provided at the time of enrollment.

Grades 3-8 Tuition: \$185.00 per semester (includes t-shirt and pizza nights)

Grades 9-12 Tuition: \$135.00 per semester (includes t-shirt and pizza nights)

\$25 off for each additional sibling

Checks payable to: Stockton Chorale or pay via Pay Pal at www.stocktonchorale.org

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all rehearsals is extremely important. Learning to work together as an ensemble is one of the goals of our organization, so an absence not only hurts the singer, but the rest of the group as well.

Schedule A rehearsal and concert schedule is given to each child at the beginning of each semester with updates added as necessary. Schedules and updates will also be posted on the website. Be sure to put the schedule in a place where you can refer to it. Parents are responsible for making sure students honor their commitment to the Chorale.

Absences Of course if your child is ill, it is a favor to them to keep them home until they are well and ready to function properly in the rehearsal setting – it is also a favor to the other students and adults in the room! If your child must miss a rehearsal because they are ill, please text or email to let the director know. (see contact information on page 3).

Conflicts If your child has a conflict with a school activity or performance, this should be discussed with the director **in advance**. All singers will be required to sign a **commitment form**. *Singers are responsible for learning the material they have missed – please see the director on how this might be accomplished.*

Performance Requirement Singers that have missed too many rehearsals may not be allowed to sing in the concert. This ensures that both the individual singer and the ensemble have a successful performing experience.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

SELF-ASSESSMENT: Have you experienced any of the following symptoms today? If so, please do not come to the Stockton Chorale meeting, rehearsal or performance.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

COSTUME INFORMATION

SYC Boys

- White tuxedo shirt
- Black bow tie
- Black vest (we will order for you)
- Black dress pants
- Black dress shoes (please no athletic shoes)
- Black socks

SYC Girls

- Black dresses (we will order for you), hemmed to mid-calf length
- **Black ballet flats** or ballet slippers
- Bare legs or nude hose
- Hair ornaments are restricted to plain headbands or hair ribbons for ponytails. Please no flowers or giant bows – they distract from uniformity
- **No neck jewelry**

Valley Youth A Cappella

All black dress clothes – our goal is uniformity, not distraction, so here are your options:

- Black dress shirt, purple bow tie (we will provide), black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes (please no athletic shoes)
- Black palazzo pants + velvet top (we will order for you), hemmed to 1” off floor with **black ballet flats**
- Hair ornaments are restricted to plain headbands or hair ribbons for ponytails. Please no flowers or giant bows – they distract from uniformity
- Pearls – we will provide

T-Shirts

- Stockton Youth Chorale and VYA t-shirts are worn for more casual concerts. They are to be worn with *solid* dark blue or black leggings, pants or jeans (no distress or holes, please).

CONCERT INFORMATION

Concert venues We perform in many different locations, often in local churches. When we perform with the adult chorale, there are usually two performances, one in Stockton and one in Lodi. All concerts locations are listed on the Rehearsal and Performance Schedule. Addresses of frequently used venues can be found later in this handbook.

Tickets

- When we perform on the Stockton Chorale concert series, the regular ticket price is \$25. Season tickets are available for \$80 for all 4 concerts.

- Tickets for other performances (such as the Stockton Symphony) must be purchased separately.

Tech rehearsal Usually during the week before a concert, a tech rehearsal is held at the venue to run through the concert. Concert attire is **not** to be worn.

Backstage At some concerts the children must wait behind the scenes while the adult Chorale performs; therefore, we may ask two or three parents to help backstage. Children are encouraged to bring a book or quiet game.

Audience behavior Whenever possible, the Youth Chorale members get to sit in the audience so they can hear the other performers. This is an important part of their music education. They are expected to show respect to other performers and audience members by:

- listening attentively (no phones on during a performance)
- knowing not to get up during a song i.e. if they need to use the restroom, they should only move in and out during applause or other transition time
- staying for the entirety of any concert in which they perform

Parent support

We invite parents to be involved whenever possible; encouragement of your child's music education is important to his or her success. We *do* ask that parents be sensitive to all rehearsal and performance situations, taking care not to be disruptive to or physically in the way of the directors or performers. Sometimes performances in the community may not allow us to include parents in the audience due to space and/or performance costs and we appreciate your understanding. We will do our best to communicate the details of each situation in advance.

We ask that parents do not use flash photography during concerts since it distracts singers and audience members. We also ask that parents and family members refrain from cheering, calling out the name of your child, or waving to your child while on stage and during all performances.

CONCERT VENUE LOCATIONS

The Youth Chorale may perform at any of the following locations during the season:

Vineyard Chapel
14165 Beckman Rd, Lodi, CA 95240

St. John's Episcopal Church
1055 South Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi

Central United Methodist Church
3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton

Faye Spanos Concert Hall
University of the Pacific
3601 Pacific Avenue

Warren Atherton Auditorium
San Joaquin Delta Community College
5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton

VOLUNTEERS

We encourage parent and family participation. We mostly need help with the following:

- Backstage Supervisors* – supervise kids behind the scenes or in the audience while the adult chorale performs.
- Ushers* – help seat people at concerts and sometimes help with audience surveys

**Free admission to concert*

Our beloved assistant, Linda Levine has retired from her volunteer position after over 25 years! I am so sad to lose her, but happy to give her the rest she deserves! Here's how you can help fill in some of the services she provided:

- **Pizza Parent** – order, pick up and deliver pizza every other Thursday.
- **Safety Officers** – watch the door as kids are arriving and leaving during drop-off and/or pick-up.
- **Costume help** – take measurements, coordinate orders with Chorale office clerk, pick up and deliver.
- **Fundraising** Chairperson to help raise funds for trips.
- **Coordinate volunteers** to sit with SYC kids during concerts.

You can also help by

- recruiting new singers
- generating audience
- helping us identify potential advertisers
- helping us identify potential donors/grants
- donating to the Chorale

- supporting our fundraisers
- sharing still photographs
- planning social events
- **serving on the Chorale Board-** *We currently have no parents representing the Youth Chorale on the Stockton Chorale Board of Directors. If you are interested in more information, please contact Mark Calonico at mcalon53@comcast.net or (209) 915-1138.*