

**Lawrence Academy of Music**

**Girl Choir Program**

*Girl  
Choir*

[go.lawrence.edu/academy-girlchoir](https://go.lawrence.edu/academy-girlchoir)

## **Girl Choir Website**

[go.lawrence.edu/academy-girlchoir](http://go.lawrence.edu/academy-girlchoir)

Visit your choir's page, linked at the address above, for choir-specific announcements, assignments, a printable calendar, and general information.

## **Girl Choir Staff Contact Information**

Teachers and Managers: See the printable calendar  
linked to your choir's web page

Billing, Registration, Volunteering: Cheryl Boyle 920-993-6278

## **Like us on Facebook:**

Academy page: [www.facebook.com/lawrenceacademy](http://www.facebook.com/lawrenceacademy)

Girl Choir alum group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lawrenceacademygirlchoir/>

## **Follow us on Instagram:**

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## **LAWRENCE ACADEMY GIRL CHOIR: WHERE GIRLS FIND THEIR VOICE**

The Academy Girl Choir program is the only non-profit girl choir in the Fox Valley region. Through the study and performance of diverse repertoire for treble singers, the Lawrence Academy Girl Choirs model curiosity, compassion, creativity, and collaboration. Singers learn to respect the uniqueness of all people, to take risks that foster individual growth, and to find their voice as they grow into confident adults. In a typical year, more than 300 singers who identify as female are enrolled in the Girl Choir program. They represent more than 50 schools throughout Northeast Wisconsin. Singers are expected to participate in their school music program; Girl Choir should not substitute for curricular music class.

The Girl Choir program gives four public performances annually, held in the Lawrence Memorial Chapel in December and March. Older choirs enjoy additional performances in the wider community and with other youth ensembles as opportunities arise. Past experiences have included exchanges with children's choirs in Minneapolis, Rochester, Chicago, and Madison. Girl Choirs have been guest artists on local performances with newVoices (formerly White Heron Chorale), Fox Valley Symphony, Fox Valley Youth Symphony, Makaroff Youth Ballet, Appleton Boychoir, Lawrence University choirs and orchestra, Fox Valleyaires, and Monteverdi Chorale (Stevens Point). Girl Choirs have appeared on Wisconsin Public Television, were featured in the grand opening of the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, sang for the Governor's Cultural Congress, performed at "The Event" of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, and were invited to represent Fox Cities youth at the Governor's Inaugural Kids' Gala with a performance. Girl Choirs have been selected, by anonymous audition, to perform at state and regional conferences of music educators and earned second place in the national American Prize competition.

## Girl Choir History

January, 1991 - The Lawrence Academy Girl Choir was founded for girls in fourth through sixth grades.

September, 1991 - A training choir for fourth grade girls was added, creating a sequential Girl Choir program. The original choir expanded to include girls in fifth through seventh grades.

September, 1997 - Due to the large number of girls who wished to participate, the program expanded in both directions with the addition of Primo (then grades three and four) and Cantabile (then grades seven through nine).

September, 1999 – Rather than graduating from the program after ninth grade, the eldest Cantabile singers wanted to continue and thus became the founding members of Bel Canto, a choir for high school girls.

September, 2007 - After waiting several years to fulfill the dream of offering a non-auditioned choir, the program was able to secure additional rehearsal space. Ragazze, a non-auditioned training choir, was born.

March, 2011 - The Girl Choir Program celebrated its twentieth anniversary and featured alumnae in the combined choirs' finale.

September, 2013 - After attempting a variety of rehearsal structures to accommodate Intermezzo, the largest choir (70 - 80 singers), an additional choir was added. Intermezzo was replaced with two choirs: Capriccio and Arioso.

March, 2016 - The Girl Choir Program celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday with more than 100 alumnae from around the United States in attendance. The Girl Choir Empowerment Fund was established to help support student scholarships for singers of limited financial means.

## LAWRENCE ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Girl Choir is a program of the Lawrence Academy of Music, which is the community division of Lawrence University's Conservatory. Each year, the Academy serves more than 1,500 community members in programs ranging from early childhood through adulthood. Programs include private lessons on piano, voice, and all orchestral and band instruments; youth ensembles including Girl Choir, two bands for middle and high school students, and an orchestra for elementary and early middle school students; gamelan for children and adults; classes for those with special needs; early childhood classes for children (birth to 5 years) and a caregiver; classes in music theory and aural skills; chamber music for youth and adults; and summer programs for youth.

If you or a member of your family would like to participate in other Academy programs, please visit our website and fill out the Interest Form to receive further information about your selected program(s): **[go.lawrence.edu/academy](http://go.lawrence.edu/academy)**

### Mailing address:

711 E. Boldt Way  
Appleton, WI 54911-5690

### Street address:

100 W. Water Street  
Appleton, WI 54911

### Academy Office

Registration/Billing:	Cheryl Boyle	920-993-6278
General Information:	Ashton Vicente	920-832-6632

## **Girl Choir Tours**

With the rise of touring opportunities in many school clubs, music ensembles, and language classes, the Academy Girl Choir program has decided to move into a new model for travel. Girl Choir staff network regularly with children's choir organizations and are excited to build musical exchanges for our singers. Sometimes these will take place on our campus, other times they will take place away from home and require a weekend or overnight visit. Recent examples include Bel Canto's invitation to the *Sing Out Loud!* Festival in Minnesota, Cantabile's participation in the Milwaukee Children's Choir Festival, Arioso's visits to Madison and Green Bay Youth Choirs, and Capriccio's hosting of the Platteville Children's Choir.

We will no longer offer fundraising opportunities, but singers offered the chance to travel will be able to apply for need-based assistance. If your daughter currently has a balance in her touring account, that money remains coded to her and may be used for any future touring expenses, as below.

- Touring account money can be used for touring expenses only, including meals, but excluding spending money for souvenirs. Monies raised through fundraising cannot be used to pay for tuition, uniform, lost music, or other fees.
- Funds will stay in the individual singer's account as long as the singer continues in the Girl Choir program. Account balances can be transferred to a sister of the account holder (not a friend) if the account holder leaves or graduates from the Girl Choir program.
- Singers may not use their account monies to help defray costs for another Girl Choir member.
- Any funds remaining in a singer's account at the time of her departure from the Girl Choir program will be credited to a general account for the Girl Choir program, which helps offset costs for all singers on future tours.

## **The Choirs**

Ragazze (rah-GAH-tsay) - Non-auditioned choir for girls in grades 3-5. 1 hour rehearsal on Monday afternoons (4:15-5:15).

Primo (PREE-mo) - Auditioned choir for girls in grades 3-5. 1 hour rehearsal on Monday afternoons (4:30-5:30).

Allegretto (ah-leh-GREH-toe) - Auditioned choir for girls in grades 4-6. 75 minute rehearsal on Monday afternoons (4:30-5:45).

Capriccio (ca-PREE-chee-oh) - Auditioned choir for girls in grades 5-7. 75 minute rehearsal on Monday afternoons (5:00-6:15). Unchanged voices or early-stage voice change singers.

Arioso (ah-ree-OH-so) - Auditioned choir for girls in grades 6-8. 1.5 hour rehearsal on Monday evenings (6:30-8:00). Changing voice singers.

Cantabile (cahn-TAH-bee-lay) - Auditioned choir for girls in grades 8-10. 2 hour rehearsal on Sunday evenings (5:45-7:45).

Bel Canto (bell CAHN-toe) – Auditioned choir for girls in grades 10-12. 2 hour rehearsal on Sunday evenings (5:45-7:45).

## **Eligibility**

All singers who identify as female and pass the requisite audition are welcome to join Girl Choir (singers in grades 3-5 who identify as female are welcome to join Ragazze without audition).

All participants in the Girl Choir program are expected to be enrolled in their school music program. Girl Choir should not substitute for curricular ensembles.

Auditions are held each April for the following academic year.

## Music and Tote Bags

All music supplied to the singers belongs to the Lawrence Academy of Music. Please treat this music with respect so that it can be reused. Markings are to be made in pencil only and are expected to be **fully erased** before the music is returned. Singers in Ragazze through Allegretto will be provided with a folder to hold the music and additional materials, and singers in Capriccio through Bel Canto must provide their own binders. Music that is returned damaged or unusable will be assessed a minimum of \$3 per score.

Choir members who return music after the stated collection time will be assessed a \$15 late fee. If music is missing, a minimum charge of \$3 per score will be assessed. A choir member will not be allowed to audition for the following year if she has outstanding music or fees.

Each singer receives a Girl Choir tote bag when she matriculates in the program. The bag is hers to keep and is replaceable at cost through the Academy office. Girls should keep their music in their binders/folders which should be placed in their tote bags. Water bottles should be kept outside the tote bag, or in the bag's outside pocket, to avoid damaging the music.

## Uniforms

All uniforms furnished by the Girl Choir program are the sole property of the Lawrence Academy of Music. Choir families are expected to purchase separate components to complete the uniform (see specific choir pages for further details). Uniforms supplied by the Academy are not to be worn to non-Girl Choir functions. At the end of the year, uniforms are to be returned, laundered - you will receive more information on this process second semester. Any damage to the uniform is to be reported to the Academy office and may result in a charge for repairs or replacement. Girls with uniforms outstanding will not be able to audition or register for the next season. Students who qualify for the need-based Tutti scholarships should contact the Academy office for assistance with uniform purchase.

## Electronics Policy

Cell phones, iPods, tablets, electronic readers, and other electronic devices are strictly prohibited during ensemble rehearsals and back stage during concerts. If a family emergency takes place during a rehearsal or concert, please contact the ensemble manager. Contact information appears on the printable calendar linked on each choir's web page.

## Recording Concerts

Academy concerts and public presentations include musical compositions that are copyright protected. An individual may make a recording for home use only. Many people are not aware that any sharing of video or audio that includes copyright protected materials (i.e., YouTube) is illegal and may have negative consequences for both the Academy and the individual. Sharing of this video also compromises the privacy of our students. Therefore, we respectfully request that Academy families refrain from this practice.

## Photography and Publicity

Please be aware that the Lawrence Academy of Music uses professional photographers during performances, rehearsals, and events to capture images for promotional purposes. In addition, Girl Choir evening concerts are webcast via Livestream but not archived. Academy staff and students may be photographed during Lawrence Academy events with images published in print or on the Academy website and social media channels. Names are never published with images and there is no compensation for photographs. Completing registration for an Academy program indicates your understanding of, and agreement to, this photo policy.

## Concert Attendance Policy

During weekly rehearsals, singers learn to listen to the voices around them. Without a singer or two, the sound changes dramatically for each remaining chorister. Singers are, therefore, expected to **sing in both concerts** on each winter/spring performance date.

If something significant such as a family trip conflicts with the performance date, parents/guardians are asked to notify the teacher-conductor via the absence form at least one month in advance, and preferably more than six weeks in advance. This allows the teacher-conductor to help the remaining singers learn what the new choral sound will be well in advance of the performance, thus ensuring a good experience for all singers. Please note that, in deference to the needs of the ensemble, singing in only one concert per concert cycle is not allowed.

Please visit your choir's web page for concert dates and detailed information.

## Concert Tickets

Girl Choir concert tickets are available through the Lawrence University Box Office in person, via phone (920-832-6749), or through the online ticketing system ([go.lawrence.edu/buytickets](http://go.lawrence.edu/buytickets)). Seats are reserved; there are separate prices for adults and for seniors/students.

The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday, 12:30-5:30 pm, and is located in the lobby of the Music-Drama Center, 420 E. College Ave (west side of the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music).

Please note that the Box Office closes before Thanksgiving until concert day in December, so if you prefer to purchase tickets in person, do so soon after tickets go on sale or allow extra time for the line that queues on concert day. The date tickets go on sale prior to each concert cycle will appear on your choir's web page.

## Uniform Information by Choir

(please visit your choir's web page for specific details):

Ragazze – families purchase a uniform t-shirt (ordered at time of registration), black pants, and black socks.\*

Primo – the Academy provides a uniform jumper, families purchase a white, Peter Pan style collared shirt and white tights.\*

Allegretto – the Academy provides a uniform dress, families purchase white tights.\*

Capriccio – the Academy provides a uniform red top and uniform black skirt, families purchase black tights.\*

Arioso – the Academy provides a uniform red top, families purchase black hose and a uniform black skirt or uniform black pants (singer's choice) through the Academy.\*

Cantabile – families purchase black hose, a uniform white top, and uniform black skirt or uniform black pants (singer's choice) through the Academy. Note that the uniform skirt and pants are the same from Arioso into Cantabile; a singer may wear that uniform piece for as long as it fits.\*

Bel Canto – families purchase black hose and a uniform black dress or uniform black top and pants (singer's choice) through the Academy.\*

\*All Choirs:

- Singers should wear black closed-toed, flat- and closed-heeled dress shoes (not crocs, sandals, or boots) for performances.
- Hair accessories must be small and the color of the hair.
- Hair must be a natural color, or sprayed a natural color, for performance. Singers with longer hair should pull or pin hair back so that it does not obscure their face while on stage.
- Singers should not wear jewelry on performance days. This includes necklaces, bracelets, watches, or earrings that extend below the lobe. Singers who arrive wearing jewelry will be asked to remove it; the Girl Choir program cannot be responsible for lost or misplaced items.

## Code of Conduct

Acceptance into the Girl Choir Program is a privilege shared by all members. In order to create a safe learning environment that promotes the highest-level vocal performance, choir members are required to behave respectfully at all times. Members must arrive at rehearsal on time with all music and materials. They are to maintain controlled voice levels. They must respect their conductors, accompanists, managers, choir helpers and fellow choir members, as well as the property of the Academy and all rehearsal and performance facilities. Firearms, knives, and weapons are strictly prohibited at all times. It is essential that every member conduct herself in a responsible manner while participating in this program.

## The Role of Parents/Guardians

The involvement of parents and guardians is crucial to the functioning of the entire Academy Girl Choir Program. Tuition can be kept affordable with parent volunteers assisting with tasks such as uniform fitting, handing out concert programs, or selling flowers at performances. Girls may be dropped off no more than 15 minutes before their rehearsal and must be picked up within 10 minutes after the rehearsal ends. Parents and guardians are responsible for reading email correspondence; older singers will find practice assignments on the choir's web page, linked from [go.lawrence.edu/academy-girlchoir](http://go.lawrence.edu/academy-girlchoir).

## Rehearsal Cancellations

Rehearsals are cancelled rarely and generally in case of severely inclement weather or teacher illness. In the latter instance, we attempt to send a substitute Girl Choir teacher, but sometimes one is not available. When rehearsals are cancelled, an announcement will be sent via email and posted on the choir's website. Because we rent space for rehearsals, there are no make-ups for rehearsal cancellations.

## Rehearsal Attendance Policy

Each choir's educational goals can only be realized with the ongoing commitment of all choir members. Singers are expected to attend all rehearsals and are expected to commit to the Girl Choir Program for the entire year. We believe that the rehearsal process is as important as the final concert and is often where the most meaningful musical experiences take place.

If a singer must be absent, please fill out the online absence form linked from your choir's web page, or notify the choir manager prior to rehearsal. If a girl has a sore throat or cold and cannot sing, she should attend the rehearsal in order to listen and mark her music. Girls with strep throat, fever, or contagious illness are encouraged to remain at home.

Girls who have **two absences** in any given semester will:

1. schedule a time with the teacher-conductor to sing and demonstrate preparedness
2. perform the semester concerts only with the teacher-conductor's permission

Girls who have **more than two absences** in any given semester will:

1. be encouraged to continue attending Girl Choir rehearsals
2. not sing the semester concerts in deference to the needs of the ensemble

**Attendance at the dress rehearsal prior to each concert cycle is mandatory.** Members of any ensemble who miss a dress rehearsal may not perform in the corresponding concert. Please visit your choir's web page for dress rehearsal dates and information.

**PLEASE NOTE:** THE GIRL CHOIR PROGRAM DOES *NOT* FOLLOW THE APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR. Dozens of community schools are represented each year; it is impossible to align our schedule with each school calendar. **Concerts are scheduled based solely on the availability of the Lawrence Memorial Chapel.** Visit your choir's web page for a printable calendar for the year.