

# Davis Children's Chorale (DCChor)

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

Parent/Singer Handbook  
2016-17

**Davis Children's Chorales**  
**Rehearsal/Performance Schedule**  
**2016-176**

(as of August 1, 2016)

- Aug 30: REHEARSALS BEGIN (Levels II & III)
- Sept 30-Oct 2: Fall Retreat! We leave after school on Friday and return on Sunday afternoon.
- Nov 22 & 24: No rehearsals: Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 1: Davis Tree Lighting  
Times TBA  
Attire: Casual DCChor Uniform
- Dec 6: Atria Covell Gardens Performance  
Call Time: 6:30  
Concert: 7:00pm  
Attire: Formal DCChor Uniform
- Dec 8: Technical Rehearsals – LEVELS 2 & 3  
4:15 – 5:45
- Dec 10: FARMER'S MARKET & HOLIDAY CONCERT REHEARSAL  
10:00am – 12:30pm  
Davis Community Church  
Attire: Casual DCChor Uniform
- Dec 11: HOLIDAY CONCERT  
Call Time: 3:00pm  
Concert: 4:00pm  
Attire: Formal DCChor Uniform
- Dec 19: Holiday Performance @ State Capitol in Sacramento  
Time TBA  
Attire: Formal DCChor Uniform  
**(This performance is tentative as school will still be in session.)**
- Dec 20,22, 27, 29: No Rehearsals: Winter Break

Jan 3, 2017: HAPPY NEW YEAR...Regular rehearsal resume.

March 14: Picture Day (tentative) – during regular rehearsal time

May 8: Rehearsal for Davis Choral joint concert.  
7:00pm

May 13 REHEARSAL & JOINT CONCERT WITH DAVIS CHORAL  
Rehearsal Time: 10:00am  
Concert Call Time: 7:00pm  
Brunelle Theater (Davis High School)  
Attire: DCChor Formal Uniform

May 18 Technical Rehearsal: Levels 2 & 3  
4:15 – 5:45  
Davis Community Church

May 20 Spring Concert Rehearsals  
10:00-12:00  
Davis Community Church

May 21 Spring Concert  
Call Time: 3:00  
Concert: 4:00  
Davis Community Church  
Attire: DCChor Formal Uniform

May 28 Technical Rehearsal: Memorial Day Service  
7:30pm – 8:00pm  
Davis Community Church Fellowship Hall (D Street)

May 29 Memorial Day Services Performance  
Call Time: 9:00am  
Concert Time: 10:00am – 10:30am  
Davis Cemetery  
Attire: DCChor Formal Uniform

June 3 End of year Celebration

Davis Children's Chorale  
Quick Facts

**Web Site:** DCChor.org (New and improved!)

**Director Contact Info:**

Tania Mannion

530-632-9882

[tania.mannion@gmail.com](mailto:tania.mannion@gmail.com)

**Mailing Address:** (for mailing tuition payments)

Davis Children's Chorale

1302 Oak Avenue

Davis, CA 95616

**Rehearsal Facility**

Music Room

Davis Community Church

412 "C" Street

(across from Central Park/new play structure)

NOTE: Davis Children's Chorale is not affiliated with Davis Community Church.

**Payments**

Payments for tuition may be sent through your bill pay for convenience.

They may also be mailed directly to the Kessler address listed above.



**If you submit payments of any kind directly to Mrs. Mannion at rehearsals, they must be in an envelope indicating the students' name and what the payment is for (tuition, folder, t-shirt, etc). Payment envelopes will be available at the parent meeting and at regular rehearsals. Please take a few with you so you have them on hand. A regular envelope that you label with your information will also suffice.**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Davis Children's Chorale is an auditioned choir open to children ages 8-14 from Davis and the surrounding areas. Singers rehearse twice weekly, attend a weekend-long retreat in the mountains each fall, and perform in various concerts, festivals, and competitions throughout the year. Travel ranges from participating in local and regional festivals, to inter-state performances, to international tours.

We also offer a preparatory level for children ages 5-8.

## **CHORALE HISTORY**

The Davis Children's Chorale was organized in 1995 to perform the children's chorus in Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion* for the Greater Sacramento Bach Festival. Since its inception, DCChor has performed in several choral festivals, at weddings and for area organizations, along with their annual Holiday and Mother's Day concerts, and Memorial Day commemorations.

The Chorale appeared with the Davis Community and River City Chorales in the west coast premiere performance of Andrew Carter's *Te Deum*, with the composer conducting. This concert resulted in the first CD recording of the Davis Children's Chorale. Their second CD, entitled *Two for the Price of One*, is available for purchase at any DCChor concert.

In 1998, selected members of the DCChor participated in their first international tour, attending the Canterbury Festival in England, with Jean Ashworth Bartle, guest conductor. In 2003, the Chorale hosted their own choral festival, visited by a children's choir from Pilzen, Czech Republic (Mariella). DCChor reciprocated the visit with a tour of the Czech Republic in April, 2004, also performing in Prague, Karlovy-Vary, and Neustadt, Germany.

In April 2003, DCChor traveled to New York City as part of the Heritage Children's Choir Festival. This tour received national attention in both the *Los Angeles Times'* Local and National editions. At the festival, the ensemble received a perfect plus score. While in NYC, the Chorale toured the UN, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Empire State Building. While visiting Ground Zero, they sang *The Irish Blessing* -- a very moving experience for them as well as for those listening. Their last evening was spent on a Festival dinner cruise that circled the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

On May 8, 2009, twenty-five members of the Children's Chorale traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Festival of Gold Competition, sponsored by Heritage Festivals.

## **OUR PROGRAM**

**Level 1:** This is our preparatory program for singers ages 5-8 or 8-11 year olds with very little singing experience. Children are introduced to the basics of good vocal production, reading music and sight singing. They will sing mostly unison pieces ranging from classical, folk and musical theater repertoire. Level 1 performs 1 – 2 times per year.

**Level 2:** This level is for singers approximately ages 8-11. Students do not need to have a musical background, but must be able to sing on pitch. Singers are instructed in proper vocal technique, reading music and sight singing. Level 2 sings unison, 2-pt and 3-pt music from a variety of genres. Level 2 performs with Level 3 in several concerts throughout the year and may travel out of town/state for performances and festivals.

**Level 3:** This level is for singers approximately ages 10-14 who have mastered the basics of good vocal production, reading music and sight singing and are ready for more advanced instruction. Level 3 performs with Level 2 in several concerts throughout the year and may travel out of town/state for performances and festivals.

## **OUR DIRECTORS**

**Tania Mannion**, Creative Director, brings to DCChor her experience as a high school choir director, private voice instructor, and professional soloist. She has a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Sacramento State University. She begins her second year as Director of Levels 2 & 3 for Davis Children's Chorale and will also be teaching Level 1. In addition to the Davis Children's Chorale, Tania is choir director at Pioneer High School in Woodland.

**Rachel Day Kessler** is the Founder and Director Emeritus of the Davis Children's Chorale who sometimes conducts make-up rehearsals or fills in for regular rehearsals when needed. She has been a member and soloist of the Robert Shaw Chorale and the Roger Wagner Chorale on many international and national tours. She earned a B.S. in Music Education from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and a M.M. from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Many young people have profited from Ms. Kessler's tutelage as chorus director at Emerson and Holmes Junior High Schools, and as director of the youth choir at the Davis Community Church. She is the founder and director emeritus of an adult community choir, the Davis Community Chorale.

## **REHEARSALS**

All weekly rehearsals are held at the music room of Davis Community Church, 412 C Street, unless otherwise notified.

Technical rehearsals (sometimes called dress rehearsals) occur sometime in the week before or the morning of a concert. Technical rehearsals usually take place at the concert venue site and are mandatory. Singers do not wear their uniforms for technical rehearsals unless otherwise notified.

The technical rehearsals allow singers to familiarize themselves with the performance venue, acoustically and logistically. All the details of putting on a professional performance are worked out at the technical rehearsal.

## **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

Level I: Mondays, 4:00-4:45 & 4:45-5:30

Level II: Tuesdays, 4:15 – 5:45 & Thursdays, 4:15-5:15

Level III: Tuesdays, 4:15-6:45

## **REHEARSAL GUIDELINES**

- Rehearsals will begin on time. Singers should arrive with enough time to get settled and be in their seat when rehearsal begins.
- Bring music folder/binder, water bottle, and pencil
- Use restroom prior to beginning of activity or at breaks
- At all times, pay attention and show respect for each other, conductors, parent volunteers, and staff
- Show respect for the facility and equipment. The facilities are owned by the church and we are responsible for keeping everything in good working order.
- No eating (except for designated snack time), chewing gum or drinking beverages other than water
- All devices such as cell phones, iPods, iPads, or any other electronic device should be turned off and out of sight. Electronics in use during rehearsal will be confiscated until the end of rehearsal.



**Please pick up your singer promptly from all rehearsals, concerts and events.**

## **REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All singers are expected to be at every rehearsal. No more than 3 excused absences per semester will be allowed. Absences are excused for illness, family emergency, or school-related conflicts. Singers with more than 3 absences may be dismissed from the group or asked not to return the following year.



**I will be using a formal musicianship curriculum to help increase singers' musical literacy and provide a more challenging musical environment. Students who miss rehearsals, and therefore miss this training, will be required to make up the training using the web based curriculum. More information about this curriculum and web site will be provided.**



**It is expected that if a singer is not able to attend a rehearsal, every effort will be made to notify the director in advance. In addition to general respect for the organization, this is also a safety issue. If your son/daughter does not show up to rehearsal, but you expect that they are there, I will have no way of knowing if their absence should be a concern.**

## **PERFORMANCES**

All performances are mandatory. Most performances will be on the calendar at the beginning of the year and, as such, singers are expected to put them on their calendar and make sure there are no conflicts. On occasion, additional performances may be scheduled with minimal notice. If a singer has a conflict that cannot be rescheduled, the director must be notified as soon as possible.

Technical rehearsals and performances are mandatory and absences from either may be grounds for dismissal from the group. If a student must miss a technical rehearsal or performance, the director must be notified as soon as possible and the reason for the absence must be stated. The only excusable absences are: death/serious illness in family, illness serious enough to make singing not possible, school conflict.





**Please note: Although it may seem harsh, a common cold is not considered an excusable absence from a concert. Except for chest colds that interfere with singing, most common colds that cause stuffy, runny noses do not interfere with singing and, therefore, the concert commitment should be honored.**

**See the Calendar at the beginning of the handbook for our list of currently scheduled performances.**

## **PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE**

Singers are expected to demonstrate professionalism and decorum during performances. Behavior that is distracting to the performances is unacceptable and may be grounds for dismissal from the group.

## **WARDROBE/UNIFORMS**

### LEVEL I

Level I does not purchase a uniform from the chorale. Singers are asked to provide the following for performances:

White, long-sleeved, button-down shirt (preferably with a collar).

Black skirt or long slacks

Black shoes

White socks (if wearing a skirt) or black socks (if wearing pants)

Cummerbunds, ties, etc will be distributed at the beginning of each concert & collected afterwards.

## LEVELS II & III

**We have new uniforms!** Please read the uniform requirements very carefully. Singers who do not comply with the uniform requirements will not be allowed to perform.

### **Girls Formal Uniform**

Attire: Youth Oratorio Dress, Blue. (Southeastern Apparel, Item D483)

Shoes: All black, closed-toe, flat or very low heel, dress shoes. No colors.

Hair: Hair must be pulled back into a single ponytail, braid or bun. Neat bangs that fall above the eyes are permitted, but no stray hairs or hair hanging in the face/eyes. Singers with hair too short to pull back into ponytail, must wear a plain black headband (no sequins/colors, etc).

Jewelry: Only very small earrings and rings permitted. No necklaces or bracelets.

### **Boys' Formal Uniform**

Attire: White, Wing Collar Tuxedo shirt (Southeastern Apparel, Item G703-Youth-Unisex)

Youth Precentor Vest, Blue (Southeastern Apparel, Item J408)

Youth Satin Cinch Tie Regular Width, Blue (Southeastern Apparel, Item T467)

Black dress pants

Shoes: All black dress shoes with black socks

Hair: Hair must be neatly combed and out of the eyes/face. If hair is long enough, it must be pulled back into a ponytail.

**NO PERFUME OR COLOGNE IS TO BE WORN DURING REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES!**

### **Girls' and Boys' Informal Uniform**

DCChor T-shirt (\$12) or sweatshirt (\$25)

Denim/jean pants, skirt, skort, shorts.

Hair neatly combed out of face.

### **UNIFORM ORDER POLICY – IMPORTANT NEW ORDERING PROCESS**

A group order for uniforms will be placed at the beginning of the year. In order for your child's uniform to be part of the group order, you must submit the cost of the uniform and have figured out the correct size for your singer. We will conduct measurements at a few rehearsals, but if your child misses getting measured, it will be up to you to get the correct measurements to ensure the right size for your child.



**If we do not have your payment and size information by the order deadline, your child's uniform will not be ordered and you will have to order from the web site on your own.**

Two reasons to avoid this: 1) It will cost more for you as the minimum shipping fee is \$15 regardless of the size of the garment. 2) If you wait too long, your uniform may not be ready in time for our first concert and your child will not be able to sing.



**Note: We will no longer be ordering uniforms and collecting payment after the fact. You MUST submit payment for the uniform before we will order one for your child. Watch your email for information on how/when to submit your order information and fee.**

#### **UNIFORM COSTS:**

Girls' Oratorio Dress: \$63

Boys' Precentor Vest & Cinch Tie: \$54

Boys' Wing Collar Tuxedo Shirt: \$15

Boys' complete ensemble: \$69

#### **FALL RETREAT**

The annual Fall Retreat will be September 30-October 2 at the Community of the Great Commission in Forest Hill (up in the foothills). This is not only an incredibly fun time of bonding and creating a strong community spirit, but it is an essential part of our rehearsal process. We spend approximately 8-10 hours rehearsing all the music for the year. As such, the retreat is mandatory for all members. Financial commitment is limited to \$50 for new members and for those who sold all 10 Rotary tickets last year. For those who were not able to sell all 10 tickets, you may be asked to pay a slightly larger portion. Every dollar of the rotary raffle tickets goes directly toward each singer's tuition for the retreat.

More detailed information about the retreat will be sent out in monthly newsletters. We will be looking for adult chaperones to stay in cabins with the singers as well as drivers to help transport singers to camp.

## PHOTO, VIDEO, AND AUDIO RELEASE

I understand and agree that during any DCChor activities, my singer may be photographed, video recorded, or audio recorded. I understand and agree that DCChor shall hold the sole copyright to any images or recordings of the undersigned singer, and I hereby waive any and all claims to such images or recordings, including but not limited to ownership or copyright claims.

I further agree that my singer's image and voice, including photos, videos, audio recordings and any other reproduction of the undersigned singer's likeness may be used by DCChor for any purpose, including but not limited to marketing, fundraising, external news or entertainment media, publicity, archiving, or any other purpose, without payment or any other compensation, now or in the future. I understand the DCChor will not use the singer's name without my express approval. I hereby release DCChor and its officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers, representative and assigns from any expectation of confidentiality, except in the matters of medical or financial matters, for the undersigned singer.

## TUITION COMMITMENT

Level I: Tuition is \$40 per month payable at the beginning of each month. Your first month's payment is due when you register.

### Levels II & III

Your commitment to the chorale is for one full year or at least one semester. The tuition for the year is \$450. Payments may be made per semester (\$250) or per month (\$60). Students who drop mid-year may forfeit all or part of the yearly or semester tuition.

Should you choose to pay monthly, **we request that you consider setting up automatic payment** through your bank's bill pay system. This would help us greatly by eliminating the need to spend time sending out emails to collect late tuition payments.



**Please keep in mind that if your child is absent for an extended period of time, this does not excuse you from your monthly tuition payment. The financial commitment is for the entire semester/year.**

## **FUNDRAISING**

The tuition for Davis Children's Chorale remains minimal when compared to other similar children's choirs. In addition, the cost of our Fall Retreat has always been subsidized by fundraising. It is expected that singers will participate in our major fundraisers as we cannot otherwise keep the organization afloat. Our major fundraisers are:

Fall Fruit Sales: Each singer will receive order forms to pre-sell half and full boxes of delicious winter citrus including grapefruit, juice oranges, and mandarins. This is a very popular fund raiser and previous customers often return year after year. We ask that each singer sell at least 5 boxes. If you do not wish to do any selling, you may also simply donate a similar amount to the chorale.

Spring Rotary Raffle Tickets Sales: Each singer is expected to sell 10 raffle tickets. The funds raised by each singer go directly toward subsidizing that singer's cost for the Fall Retreat. Singers who do not sell all 10 tickets, will be required to pay an additional fee for the retreat. Singers may make a cash donation in lieu of raffle ticket sales.

In addition to the above major fundraisers, we may occasionally run smaller fundraisers to help fund our Scholarship Fund. Participation is not mandatory but is greatly appreciated.

## **DONATIONS**

Davis Children's Chorale is a tuition-based non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization. Tuition only covers a portion of our costs, so donations are always welcome and are tax exempt.

We greatly appreciate donations towards our Scholarship Fund so that we may offer the opportunity of membership to those who may not be able to afford it. A full scholarship supporting one DCChor member for the year is \$450, but any amount is greatly appreciated.

## **PARENT ORIENTATION MEETINGS**

In the fall of each performing season a parent orientation meeting will be held. A parent meeting will also be held for any new members joining the group in January.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

We are a non-profit organization, which means we cannot succeed without volunteer help from members. We have formed a working board of parents to help fill roles that have been sorely needed. A few enthusiastic members have signed on to help but we need more in order for the organization to succeed. More information about vacant positions and other ways you can volunteer will be presented at the parent meeting in August and via email.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

DCChor makes every effort to keep you informed about chorus activities throughout the year. Most communication will come via email.



**Please make sure you read DCChor emails!**

Please keep DCChor informed of any changes in your contact information.