

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

boy chorister
PROGRAM



2022–2023



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

It is hard not to be struck by the elegance and grace of our National Cathedral. The building is an exquisite expression of faith. Within lies more than a hundred years of inspiration, vocation, dedication and love.

Few things have the ability to inspire and move more than music. It is my hope that this music program will flourish and further inspire those who are touched by it. What we have here is unique; it is something we cherish and is at the center of the mission and ministry of this place.

CANON MICHAEL MCCARTHY
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



the cathedral choirs

*The mission of the choirs is to offer,
at the highest standard possible, praises to God
through leadership in music and liturgy.*

THE HISTORY

Washington National Cathedral's Boys Choir and Girls Choir are among the few cathedral choirs in the United States affiliated with schools. The Boys Choir, founded in 1909, is open to boys attending St. Albans School, aged 8–14. Nine staff singers join the Boys and Girls Choirs, singing alto, tenor, and bass, to complete the National Cathedral Choir.

The rigorous and intensive choral training offered by the choral music program, combined with the high academic standards of the participating schools provide an exceptional musical and educational experience.

Choristers rehearse as part of their daily academic schedule, and their participation is fully integrated and supported by the staff of both schools. The choirs are responsible for leading worship for weekday evening and Sunday services at the Cathedral.

An additional duty of the choirs is to participate in services of national importance such as presidential funerals and commemorative services. The choirs also tour nationally and internationally, setting a high standard for liturgical worship in this country.

becoming a chorister



THE NOVICE PROGRAM

The novice program is a preparatory program for aspiring choristers. Novice choristers learn and reinforce the basics of music theory, vocal production and sight-reading.

REQUIREMENTS

- Love of singing
- Applying to or attending St. Albans School
- Interested in being a Cathedral chorister
- Meet with Chorister Program Director

TIMELINE

- **Sunday, November 13**
Evensong at 4:00
Q&A at 5:15 with Director of Music and Chorister Program Director
- **Thursday, January 5**
Novice Classes Begin
- **Tuesday, April 11**
Spring term begins for novices accepted into Chorister Program
- **Thursday, May 25**
Installation of new choristers

NOVICE PROGRAM WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Classes and Rehearsals (January 5-March 16)	
Thursdays 3:45-5:30 PM	January 5, 12, 19, 26 February 2, 9, 16, 23 March 2, 9 16
Sundays 1:30-4:00 PM	January 8, 22, 29 February 19 March 5
Parents will receive regular feedback on their son's progress in the program.	

INCOMING CHORISTER SCHEDULE

Spring Term April 11-May 25	
Tues & Thurs 4:00-6:15 PM	Rehearsal and Evensong
Every other Sunday 1:30-5:15 PM	Rehearsal and Evensong
At the end of the Spring Term, admitted novices will be installed as Junior Choristers.	

For more information, contact Julie DeBoer at
(202) 537-5730 or jdeboer@cathedral.org.

chorister schedule



TIME COMMITMENT

Choristers commit a significant amount of time to music education, rehearsals and performances throughout the year, including some holidays. This commitment is the core design behind the unmatched music education and performance opportunities for young musicians.

SUMMER COMMITMENTS

• CHOIR CAMP

Incoming choristers are required to attend a week-long camp the last week of August in Richmond, Va. Camp includes working on new music for the coming year, giving community concerts, community service, field trips and getting to know fellow choristers.

• TOURING/RECORDING

The two weeks following commencement ceremonies are held for touring and recording opportunities. Recently the Cathedral choristers have traveled to the United Kingdom and Texas.

SCHOOL-YEAR SCHEDULE

REHEARSALS AND SERVICES (SEPTEMBER-MAY)

MON-FRI

7:15–7:55 AM

REHEARSALS AT CATHEDRAL

TUES & THURS

4:45–6:15 PM

REHEARSAL & EVENSONG

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

a) 10 AM–12:30 PM

a) REHEARSAL & EUCHARIST

b) 2:45–5 PM

b) REHEARSAL & EVENSONG

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

JUNIORS	SENIORS	
✓	✓	PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND
	✓	MESSIAH
	✓	CHRISTMAS EVE
✓	✓	MAUNDY THURSDAY
	✓	PALM SUNDAY
✓	✓	EASTER

benefits of chorister life

CHORISTER LEVELS

Students who complete the novice program will become choristers based on their incoming grade level.

Boys C and B forms — Junior Chorister

Boys form A, forms I and II — Senior Chorister

PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TRAINING

Built into the rehearsal schedule, senior choristers receive individual voice lessons, at no additional cost, with professional voice teachers. Junior Choristers receive regular musicianship classes that further enhance and prepare their aural, vocal, theory, and piano skills for their time as Senior Choristers.

PER WEEK

Junior Choristers

- 6 hours of choral training
- 3.5 hours of performance
- 30 minutes of individual instruction

Senior Choristers

- 6 hours of choral training
- 3.5 hours of performance
- 30 minutes of individual instruction

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dedication/perseverance
- Self-confidence
- Time-management skills
- Community involvement

UNIQUE ENRICHMENT

- Professional-level musical training
- National & international recognition
- Touring opportunities



SCHOOL CREDIT

Choristers receive school credit for being part of a Cathedral Choir and are assigned letter grades based on their performance and growth in the choir. Being a chorister adds great weight to applications for education beyond high school.

CHORAL STIPEND

To recognize the significant time commitment made by choristers, the Cathedral offers a tuition stipend per school year.

CHORAL STIPEND 2022-2023 Academic Year	
JR. CHORISTER <i>BOYS C AND B FORMS</i>	\$6,000
SR. CHORISTER <i>BOYS FORM A, FORMS I AND II</i>	\$8,000

BENEFITS FOR LIFE

Cathedral choristers build lasting memories and essential life skills like time management, leadership and cooperation. The choirs play an important role in the life of both the Cathedral and their school. To become a Cathedral chorister is an extraordinary opportunity found at few other schools in the nation.



LEARN MORE

For additional information, visit us online at cathedral.org/choirs/choristerprogram

CONTACT

If you have questions, please contact Julie DeBoer the chorister program director, at (202) 537-5730 or jdeboer@cathedral.org.

The years that I spent in the Cathedral Choir were a highlight in my life and left me with memories that endure to this day. I always felt special being a Cathedral chorister — I still feel special having been one.”

—FORMER CHORISTER



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

3101 WISCONSIN AVE., NW

WASHINGTON, DC 20016-5098

(202) 537-5730 • WWW.CATHEDRAL.ORG

[@WNCATHEDRAL](https://twitter.com/WNCATHEDRAL)