



GREATER RICHMOND CHILDREN'S CHOIR

2014-2015 Handbook

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GREATER RICHMOND CHILDREN'S CHOIR

2014-2015 Handbook

Congratulations on being accepted into the Greater Richmond Children's Choir! In order to maintain our standards of excellence and keep the organization running smoothly, it is essential that all choristers and their parents study and follow the rules and guidelines presented in this handbook. We hope that you will enjoy singing in this exceptional choir and develop a life-long love and appreciation for great music.

Our Mission

The Greater Richmond Children's Choir is dedicated to bringing together boys and girls from diverse backgrounds to experience the joy of singing and to gain a life-long love for good music through age-appropriate vocal training. We strive to nurture the unique gift each child brings, to encourage all to reach for excellence, and ultimately, to create responsible and compassionate citizens of the world.

Our Philosophy

Music is an expression of the human spirit; it gives voice to the divine within us. A positive choral experience creates a strong sense of community and mutual respect while promoting individual strength and self-discipline.

We strive for musical excellence. Every child has potential for musical growth, and every child has a place in the GRCC, regardless of talent or experience. We recognize that the path to excellence is through dedication, self-discipline, and teamwork. Skills developed in choral training are skills for life. Furthermore, students who study music are better prepared for academic rigor. Choristers receive instruction in music theory, sight-singing and ear training. Attention is given to voice placement and healthy use of the body while singing the repertoire and warm-up exercises. Music is memorized for performances.

Music has been called the international language and has the power to bring greater understanding across cultures. The GRCC recognizes the strength to be found in diversity and therefore actively recruits singers from a wide variety of religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Choristers experience a broad range of choral literature including classics, premieres of new music, jazz, spirituals, gospel, musical theater, opera, folk and world music. Students learn about the cultures and languages in which the repertoire was written. The choirs have sung in over forty languages including English, Latin, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Czech, Zulu, Hawaiian, Korean, Hebrew, Georgian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Algonquin, Twi, Ewe, Luganda, Bengali, and Elvish!

Our History

The Greater Richmond Children's Choir was established in 1997 as an ensemble program of the Community School of the Performing Arts of Virginia Commonwealth University and in 2006, the Greater Richmond Children's Choir became its own independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation. The 2014-2015 Season will be our 18th and we are delighted to begin our eighth year in our rehearsal space at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Originally one group, GRCC expanded to two choirs in 1998: a training group, the Treble Choir, and an advanced ensemble, the Concert Choir. The Pro Arte Choir, which is the most advanced group, made its debut in 2001. The 2003-2004 season marked the addition of the Cavalieri Choir for boys with changed voices, and the Cantare Choir (combined Pro Arte and Cavalieri Choirs) for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Choir members are between the ages of 8 and 18. Auditions are held several times a year. Because of our emphasis on developing the complete musician, choristers with GRCC training are recognized not only for their excellent vocal quality, but also for their strong reading ability.

Travel is an integral part of our program, and we do not travel unless everyone in the group makes the trip. We teach the children to think of themselves as global citizens and the response we've gotten during other trips tells us our members are fantastic ambassadors representing the greater Richmond region. In June 2014, twenty-seven members of GRCC's touring choirs, Pro Arte and Cavalieri, will travel to New York City and Montreal. The tour will include performances at Carnegie Hall in the Choirs of America AMP Nationals for Children's and Youth Choirs, and a Broadway workshop and show, as well as performances in Montreal, Quebec Canada and an exchange with the students of the Les Petites du Chanteurs de Mont-Royal, the renowned boys' choir school. Thirty-four members of the Cantare Choir toured England and Ghana in the

summer of 2012, tracing the historic slave trade triangle. In 2010 the thirty-six member Cantare Choir toured with performances in Memphis and Nashville TN as well as Helena AR. Fifty GRCC choristers were warmly received by their Chinese hosts in the summer of 2008 as the choir toured Beijing and Shanghai presenting programs of Chinese and American music for and with groups of Chinese students. The GRCC uses music and the choir experience to expose children of all backgrounds to new and different music, cultures and languages as well as exposing children to peers of different economic and cultural backgrounds. Singing and practicing together is a transformative experience for these children, the effects of which last a lifetime.

The Pro Arte Choir of the GRCC has been recognized as one of the best choirs in the nation with its invitation to perform at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Los Angeles in February 2005. The Pro Arte choir was honored again by being selected to perform at the 2006 Southeastern Regional Convention of the ACDA, in Charleston WV. The regional ACDA conventions are held in alternate years with the national conventions.

Three of our choirs participated in the Niagara International Music Festival in Ontario, Canada in July 2004. In 2002 GRCC's Pro Arte Choir traveled to Italy where they competed with twenty-six choirs, most of which were adult choirs, from eleven countries in the 13th Concorso Internazionale di Canto Corale in Verona. They brought home the top prize and, in addition, Mrs. Erb was named Best Conductor. GRCC has sung at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. and performed as the featured choir in the Field Studies International Festival 2000 at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The 2013-14 season included full house performances of Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde with Capitol Opera Richmond and River Rd. Church, Baptist, as well as favorites like the Grand Illumination, and the VCU vs. UR Men's Basketball Game. Pro Arte performed in the VCU Opera 60th Anniversary production, *Hansel & Gretel*, which earned 2nd place in the National Opera Association's 2011 opera production video competition. GRCC co-produced the children's opera *Brundibar* in 2005 with Virginia Opera, the Virginia Holocaust Museum and an all-GRCC cast and student orchestra. The choir has performed to full houses and critical acclaim with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra in Britten's *War Requiem*, Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Howard Shore's *The Lord of the Rings*, Doug Richards' *A Maré Éncheu* and in numerous Holiday Pops concerts. GRCC members have been seen on national television singing in the pilot episode of "Commander in Chief" starring Geena Davis on ABC, in a state-wide commercial for the Virginia Prepaid College Tuition Plan, in a special spot on China TV during the choir's tour which was broadcast internationally on the English-speaking Channel, live on "King Biscuit Time," the longest running daily American blues radio show, and live on WCVB Channel 6 "Virginia This Morning." The Greater Richmond Children's Choir has given premiere performances of compositions and arrangements by Allan Blank, Ben Broening, Fred Cohen, Pete Curry, Hope Armstrong Erb, James Erb, Kelly Kennedy, Paul Kwami and Doug Richards, and in 2008 GRCC premiered the *Mattaponi Song of Gratitude* arranged by two of the GRCC choirs collaboratively during the opening summer camp. The choir has been heard on television and radio. Members were seen portraying the "French children's choir" in the pilot episode of *Commander in Chief* starring Geena Davis on ABC in 2005 and in a commercial for the Virginia Prepaid Tuition Plan. Members of the GRCC have performed with the Richmond Ballet in *The Nutcracker* and are sought after for various solo performances and recording sessions. GRCC has been recognized for its excellence in singing the National Anthem for numerous events including the VCU/UR men's basketball game, the season opener for the Flying Squirrels, the Richmond Marathon, the Richmond Forum, and the Veteran's Day service at the Carillon.

"The opportunity to perform for a national ACDA convention is the most prestigious invitation that any choral ensemble can receive. Choirs are auditioned according to the strictest competitive standards with the intention of finding the best ensembles in the country to perform for the nearly 7,000 choral directors who will attend the convention. Being selected to sing at a national ACDA convention is the ultimate recognition of the quality of any choral program. It is what all quality choirs aspire to, even some of the world's finest professional ensembles. GRCC's performance in Los Angeles tells the world that GRCC is one of the best children's choirs to be heard. This recognition will likely lead to many future travel and performance opportunities." regarding GRCC acceptance to sing at the National ACDA Convention

Dr. John Guthmiller, Past Chair
VCU Department of Music, Director of Choral Activities

GRCC PERSONNEL

Founding Artistic Director Hope Armstrong Erb is an active conductor, pianist, composer, teacher and lecturer, and has performed in the United States, Europe, and China. Critics have proclaimed her "a wonder" in her ability to maintain a high standard in both performance and teaching. Hope is equally enthusiastic performing music from ancient to modern and continually expands the diversity of her concert repertoire through research, composition, and collaboration with composers and performing artists locally and globally. With the aid of native speakers she has coached her singers to perform in over 40 different languages.

Hope takes great joy in nurturing top singers to achieve a level of musicianship comparable with the best singers anywhere, and to that end has received the highest honor in American choral music performance by being selected to perform at National and Regional ACDA conventions. Equally rewarding has been her enormous success in teaching "non-singers" to match pitch, read music and sing in harmony, many of whom have eventually progressed to the top choirs. Hope presented an interest session at the 2008 Southern Division ACDA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky entitled: "NOBODY'S HOPELESS! Everyone can learn to sing!" and she works continually proving it is so! In 2007-9 she served as the Virginia ACDA Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children's Choirs, and delighted John Rutter in her preparation of the Voices United Children's Honor Choir for a performance of his Mass of the Children.

Hope has served on the faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond and has taught in public and private schools, K-12 including over 20 years working primarily with middle and high school boys. At home, she maintains a private studio where she offers lessons in piano and theory, as well as vocal and instrumental coaching and accompanying. She is an active member of the Richmond Music Teachers Association and has served as co-chair of the VMTA theory testing held annually at VCU. She has presented on a wide range of topics from the boy's changing voice to classic sonata form to teaching a Chinese choir jazz style, and has given numerous lecture recitals related to history and art exhibits in venues such as the VA Museum of Fine Arts.

As a pianist, Hope has been hailed for her "innate musicianship and graceful style" as well as her "robust, rhythmic, and excellent playing." In great demand as a chamber musician and coach with instrumentalists and singers, Hope has performed over the years with numerous professional musicians including members of the Richmond Symphony and the Shanghai Quartet. Her sightreading, musicianship, and technical and pedagogical skills combine to make her a pianist of choice for recitals, competitions, and recordings.

Associate Music Director Pete Curry is a pianist and composer in his third season with GRCC. He studied jazz performance at the Maynard Ferguson Institute in Glassboro NJ and is currently continuing his education as a classical piano performance major at Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition to being a fine pianist in many styles, Pete also accompanies the choirs on guitar and a wide variety of percussion. GRCC has benefited greatly from his compositional skills – his setting of Langston Hughes' poem "Heaven" composed for the GRCC entry level Treble Choir in 2011 and his arrangement of "When You're Smiling" for the Cantare Choir's tour to England and Ghana in 2012 have been favorites among choristers and audiences. Pete is a member of the Richmond Music Teachers Association and enjoys teaching a growing private studio of piano and guitar students. He has accompanied classes at the Richmond Ballet, and sings tenor for special services at Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Associate Music Director Crystal Jonkman joined the GRCC staff last season, working primarily with the Concert Choir. An active, award winning organist, and pianist, she is the Director of Liturgical Music and Organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Bon Air, a position she has held since 1994. Crystal maintains a private studio and serves as an accompanist for the Richmond Concert Chorale. Also a recitalist, Crystal has successfully competed nationally and internationally, winning The Chicago Club of Women Organists Competition in 1989, and competing as a semi-finalist in the Dublin International Organ Competition in 1996. She earned a Masters degree in Church Music/Organ and Choral Conducting from Northwestern University and a Bachelors of Arts degree from Calvin College. Crystal is active in the Royal School of Church Music in America, the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, the Anglican Association of Musicians and the American Guild of Organists.

Executive Director Anne Williford joined GRCC in 2001 and handles the operations of the choirs, as well as fundraising for the organization. She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the University of Michigan and has a background in banking and volunteer work. Both of her daughters sang with GRCC and each graduated from the program having sung with it for seven and nine years respectively. Her son sings with the group currently.

GRCC CHOIRS

Location for all GRCC Choirs: September 2014 Westover Hills United Methodist Church
October 2014-June 2015 Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Pro Arte Choir

The members of the Pro Arte and Cantare Choirs must have excellent reading skills and intonation, beautiful tone quality, and a high degree of self-discipline. Repertoire includes some of the most challenging pieces of the literature written for treble choirs. Pro Arte Choir members must give GRCC performances the highest priority. Attendance at GRCC camp is mandatory. **Cantare Choir** is the choir that results when Cavalieri and Pro Arte join together in SATB repertoire. Rehearsals are held during the period in which the choirs' individual rehearsal times overlap.

Begins: September 8, 2014
Rehearsal Time: Mondays, 6:30-8:30 pm

Cavalieri Choir

The members of the Cavalieri and Cantare Choirs must have good reading skills and intonation, beautiful tone quality, and a high degree of self-discipline. Repertoire for Cavalieri includes challenging pieces from SATB and TB literature. Cavalieri members must give GRCC performances the highest priority. Attendance at GRCC camp is mandatory. **Cantare Choir** is the choir that results when Cavalieri and Pro Arte join together in SATB repertoire. Rehearsals are held during the period in which the choirs' individual rehearsal times overlap.

Begins: September 8, 2014
Rehearsal Time: Cavalieri Mondays, 5:15-7:30 pm

Concert Choir

The members of the Concert Choir must have good reading skills, excellent intonation, beautiful tone quality, and a high degree of self-discipline. The Concert Choir repertoire is somewhat less difficult than the Pro Arte Choir, however the same performance quality is expected of this group. GRCC performances should be given high priority. Regular attendance at rehearsals and performances is a factor along with skills, attitude, and home practice habits in being considered for membership in more advanced choirs.

Begins: September 8, 2014
Rehearsal Time: Mondays, 4:30-6:15 pm

Treble Choir

In this entry-level choir, proper development of the young voice is emphasized with much individualized attention to vocal technique, theory, and music reading skills. Students are offered a thorough introduction to the art of singing. Regular attendance at rehearsals and performances is important, and is a factor along with skills, attitude, and home practice habits in being considered for membership in more advanced choirs.

Begins: September 9, 2014
Rehearsal Time: Tuesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm

GUIDELINES FOR CHORISTERS

Attendance

No ensemble or organization can operate successfully without the full and consistent cooperation of its members. The policies below must be followed:

- Members are expected to attend all rehearsals, arriving and departing according to the rehearsal schedule for his/her choir. Constant tardiness or early departures are not acceptable.
- **Concerts are mandatory.** In the rare instance when a student must miss a performance, for reasons other than because of illness, permission must have been granted for the absence well in advance of the performance, as soon as the conflict has arisen and has been determined to be unavoidable.
Mandatory Rehearsals – These are clearly indicated on the detailed schedule and generally are scheduled immediately preceding a concert. If a chorister does not attend a mandatory rehearsal he/she may not be allowed to perform at the concert. Emergency absences should be reported to the Choir Conductor AS WELL AS the Executive Director.
- Two excused rehearsal absences will be allowed per semester. Absences must be preceded by a request in writing or e-mail to the Conductor and Executive Director prior to the date to be missed. Emergency absences should be called into the Choir Director or Executive Director as soon as possible.
- Homework or studying for exams is not an excusable absence. Please plan responsibly for academics.
- On occasion, we receive invitations to perform after the calendar has been set. In such cases, we ask that you notify us of your availability as soon as possible so that a decision to confirm the performance can be made promptly. In this case, prior game and performance commitments to other groups are excused and do not count toward the two excused GRCC absences per semester.
- In the event of snow or ice, any cancellation of choir rehearsal will follow the cancellation announcements of the VCU evening classes.

Rehearsals

The Greater Richmond Children's Choir repertoire is both challenging and extensive, so it is essential that every minute of available rehearsal time be used productively. Accordingly, choristers should:

- BRING TWO SHARPENED PENCILS WITH ERASER HEADS AND ALL MUSIC TO ALL REHEARSALS. This is crucial to take notes so that you may optimize home practice.
- Arrive in plenty of time to proceed directly to the rehearsal room, check in and pick up new music and hand-outs.
- Rehearsals are times of serious work, study, and musical growth. It is a challenge to achieve high standards in such limited rehearsal time. Therefore it is vital to our program to accept only well-behaved students who are ready and willing to work, learn, and grow.
- Water bottles are acceptable, but food and other drinks are not allowed in the choir room, chapel or sanctuary. The church vending machine is off-limits.
- Students may not "wander around" the church.
- CHEWING GUM IS NEVER ALLOWED FROM ARRIVAL TO DEPARTURE IN ANY VENUE.
- Students may socialize before and after rehearsals, and at break times. Chatting at other times is not allowed.
- **Cell phone usage and texting** will not be tolerated during rehearsal. Students observed to be texting or otherwise using their cell phones or other devices will have them taken away.

Music Folders

Each student will be assigned a music folder. Choristers will be responsible for having their music folder at each rehearsal. THIS IS A MUST! In order to mark musical directions, they should also bring two sharpened pencils; absolutely no pens. The folders and the music are the property of GRCC, and the cost of lost or damaged music must be reimbursed to GRCC. A canvas music bag will be provided to every chorister. If the bag and the music are lost, the cost of both must be submitted to GRCC. Replacement can be as much as \$50.

Handouts and Email

We have found the best method for communicating the details of choir schedules, attire, and other information is by email and by sending letters home from rehearsal with the student. Ask your child after each rehearsal for any handouts he or she received that day. It is difficult to remember to deliver a letter after a long rehearsal. If your child is going to be absent, arrange with someone to give that day's communications and rehearsal instructions to you and your chorister.

We use email to communicate information that must be communicated between meetings. If you give us an email address, please be sure it is accurate and that you check your email frequently. If you do not have email, please ask another parent in the choir to call you with email details.

Discipline

One of the goals of GRCC is to help choristers develop and maintain self discipline. In the case of a child's chronic misbehavior, we will notify the parents. If the discipline problem persists, the chorister will be removed from the choir with no refund of tuition.

Parent Assistance (Pick Up & Drop Off from rehearsals) at Grace & Holy Trinity

The GRCC has benefited each season from an active group of parent volunteers. We are grateful for your involvement in making rehearsals productive. We ask that each family take on a few rehearsals throughout the season during which you will be asked to perform the following duties:

- Arrive fifteen minutes early to wait **by the door** for children who are being dropped off.
- Wait in the alley with the children after rehearsal until the last student is picked up.

Drop off procedure Drivers may enter the parking lot directly behind the church from Floyd Ave. where they will tap on the card in card reader just before the gate in order to raise the gate up. Please leave the card as you found it. Pull up to the door and the student may get out there. The parent helper will be at the door and let them in. In the event that the helper is not present, please press the buzzer to be let in the building. Drivers should proceed through the lot to the gate at the Cherry St. exit. Pull up to the gate and it will rise to let you through. Please see important information below about parking.

Pick up procedure After rehearsal, choristers are escorted to the alley on the south side of the church where parents may pick up their child in a carpool line. Please make sure everyone who drives your child knows these procedures.

A parent helper schedule will be sent home after the first rehearsal in September. Please make note of your assigned dates; if you are unable to fulfill that duty on the assigned date, please find a substitute. We appreciate your attention to this detail. This is a matter of safety, and it is very important that you make every effort to pick up your child promptly.

For locations other than Grace & Holy Trinity, such as Westover Hills United Methodist Church: Please follow the instructions above, but in most cases drop off and pick up will take place at the front door. We will let you know if it is otherwise.

Parking

The small lot behind Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is not to be used by choir parents (it is clearly marked "PERMIT ONLY") and the alleys behind the church are also clearly marked as "NO PARKING" areas. Grace and Holy Trinity graciously provides our rehearsal space and their only request of us is that we not park in their parking lots. The parent helper for the rehearsal however, may park in the church lot (the angled parking in the alley) if space is available. Upon arrival, please leave a note on your dashboard saying "GRCC parent helper".

- **Parking Options**

Some time-limited street parking is available around the Grace & Holy Trinity neighborhood. In addition, there are two parking decks open 24 hours daily, seven days a week. The decks are located at the corners of Main and Laurel and West Broad Street and Harrison Street. These decks charge a fee. At Westover Hills United Methodist there is on street parking.

Practice at Home

All choristers are required to practice at home for at least 20 minutes per day, six days each week. The actual time may vary according to the ability of the chorister, but it is essential that all choristers learn the music! Assignments regarding which repertoire is to be learned for the following week(s) are given out at each rehearsal verbally and/or in written form. Follow these home practice instructions!

- Stand in front of a mirror so that you can see as well as feel and hear that you are singing properly.
- Start with vocal warm ups to encourage free singing.
- Practice solfege from Kodaly 333 Exercises every day.
- Master the week's assignment first, and then review and/or learn the other music in the folder.
- Practice singing text in correct rhythm on one note, focusing on proper diction and vowel sounds.
- Notes must be learned and music must be memorized by the assigned date.

Home Practice Instructions for Singers!

Compiled for the Greater Richmond Children's Choir by Leilani Mork

- Check your key signature, time signature, and all musical markings (legato, presto, etc.) Make sure you know what they mean.
- Look through the music and find the potential problems and practice these areas first:
 - o Meter changes - circle them and know when and how it changes your counting
 - o Key changes - circle them and know when and how it changes where 'Do' is.
 - o Tricky rhythms (tied notes, etc.) - circle them and practice counting the rhythms slowly and correctly as numbers, then with solfege and then with the words.
 - o Tricky intervals - practice the solfege slowly so you get it into your ear correctly.
 - o Practice the breath marks so you have enough breath for the long phrases and can articulate ending consonants at the correct place.
 - o Look up any words you don't understand in the text so you know what you're singing about as well as how to pronounce them.
- Practice in small sections (1 phrase at a time):
 - o Tapping the beat while counting the rhythms
 - o Tapping the beat while speaking the solfege
 - o Tapping the beat while singing the solfege
 - o Tapping the beat while speaking the words in rhythm
 - o Tapping the beat while singing the words in rhythm
 - o Go through each phrase and check dynamics and articulations and add them into your work.
- Once you've mastered a phrase, put two phrases together; continue in this fashion until song is completed.
- Things to remember:
 - o Check with a piano, keyboard or pitch pipe frequently to make sure you are staying on pitch. Find the note or notes that are the intonation culprits and correct them.
 - o Mark in your beats of rests so that you are aware of how many beats there are before your next entrance.
 - o If you have the ability to record yourself, do! Your ears will become your best friend and it will give you an immediate feedback if you are right but more importantly, if you are wrong!
 - o If you are having difficulty with an area, be sure to circle it and ask when you're at rehearsal so we can address those issues to make sure you understand what you're doing wrong and how to fix it.
 - o Find phrases that are similar and practice them back to back where any pitch or rhythm changes so you can understand where they are the same and where they are different.
 - o Look up the composer so you know who he/she is, when they were born, where they're from, etc. Find out other major works they have written and then listen to their music to get a better idea of the style.
 - o Lastly, if 20-minutes a day is not getting you the results you need by the next rehearsal, try adding in increments of 5 minutes a day and see if that helps. If you have difficulty with finding all that time in one sitting, break it up throughout the day but always do at least 10 minutes at one sitting. Make sure you are not being distracted during that time of rehearsal and always remember to review what you learned the day before!!!

Concert Preparation

Parents play an important role in their child's preparation for performances. The weeks of practice at home, encouragement, and early planning can make performances an exciting and fulfilling culmination of concentrated rehearsal work.

At All Times For General Good Health

- Sleep well.
- Drink lots of water and eat nutritiously; avoid sweets, junk food, and caffeinated beverages.
- Keep a calendar and avoid stress created by over-scheduling yourself.
- Stay away from people with colds or other contagious illnesses.

The Night Before a Concert

- Lay out your concert attire; check that everything is ready. Review your music!

On Concert Day

- Eat a light, nutritious meal one to two hours before the concert.
- Avoid rushing, plan plenty of time for dressing, travel, etc.
- Review concert etiquette rules (below)
- **IMPORTANT:** Discuss where you will meet up after the concert.

Study your music again on the day of the concert and vocalize before you arrive at the venue.

Arrive ahead of your appointed rehearsal time, so that every group gets to rehearse!

Because so many families come from such a distance, we generally schedule rehearsals prior to the concert instead of having an extra mandatory rehearsal the day before which would be optimal musically. (We are trying to save you travel time and gas!) It is imperative that all singers arrive a few minutes prior to the appointed rehearsal time with the concert music fresh in their heads so that each group can have their full rehearsal time and everyone can have 20-30 minutes between the end of the last rehearsal and the beginning of the concert. This is the goal. Please do your part to make it happen! Thanks!

Performance Etiquette

On Stage

- Move into place with grace and dignity.
- Keep your eyes on the director at all times.
- Stand tall with your arms hanging freely at your sides. Distribute your weight equally on both feet and don't lock your knees.
- No scratching, fumbling with clothes and hair, or making other distracting movements. Not everyone can hear who sang the wrong note, but all can see the one fidgeting!
- Focus on the phrase you are singing, rather than on mistakes made by you or anyone else.
- Think about the words you are singing and communicate the message to your audience with your diction as well as with your facial expression and body language. You are all wonderful people. Let your light shine!
- Above all, remember that you are singing for your parents and other people who love you! Everyone loves to hear young people sing, especially when they sing as well as the GRCC.

In the Audience

- Sit quietly and attentively. Absolutely no talking. Turn off phones and beepers. Keep feet still and don't poke or play with your neighbor.
- Do not leave your seat during the performance. If there is an emergency, try to wait until between pieces to exit.

Choir Attire

We have uniform outfits for the GRCC, please read carefully:

- Girls: Uniform long black dress, to be ordered through the GRCC (Cost: \$60) Black hose. Knee highs are fine.
- Boys: Uniform black vest, dress black slacks, white long sleeved dress shirt, black bowtie, to be ordered through the GRCC. (Cost \$60)
- Both: Black close-toed shoes.
No pointy heels and no heels higher than one inch!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Keep your hair out of your eyes.
- Hair accessories, if any, must also be black.
- Earrings, if any, must be small and must not sparkle. **No other jewelry.**
- Watches must not make noise.

We also have informal concert wear that consists of a GRCC t-shirt to be ordered through the GRCC (cost approx. \$15.) **Tan khaki pants** -no jeans.

We are looking forward to making music with you!

The Greater Richmond Children's Choir is pleased to offer three acclaimed recordings:

GRCC 15th Anniversary Collection features songs from each of our first fifteen years. You will enjoy the beautiful voices and the eclectic mix of world and classical music that is GRCC's signature.

A Light to the World, a CD featuring GRCC performing Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* with harpist Lynette Wardle.

Also available, is the recording of Hope Armstrong Erb at the piano with violinist Yoko Kato in works by Mozart, De Falla, and Brahms dedicated to Ned and Mary Anne Rennolds.

CDs may be purchased by calling 804-201-1894 or by emailing grcchoir@gmail.com Proceeds of these CDs benefit the Greater Richmond Children's Choir.