

Trinity Choir

FAQ

I don't know how to read music

Can you...

- Sing from the Hymnal and follow the text correctly
- Remember & sing a tune after hearing it a few times
- Listen and accurately replicate the pitch you heard

If so, you have all the pre-requisite skills necessary to join the choir. As the current director, my approach includes multiple opportunities to hear the music parts well in advance of the actual performance. Rest assured it is not necessary to "read" the notes to sing well, but careful listening and ability to sing back the notes heard. We leave no choir member behind; repetition is integral to practice. Along the way, singers learn musicianship skills and yes, become more proficient at following the written score. The process is seamless – integrated with rehearsal warm-ups and preparing the anthems. Anyone can be a successful member of the choir simply by attending the choir rehearsals to hear and learn the music.

I don't think I can commit to every Sunday

Life happens. Yes, we members reserve Thursday evening and Sunday morning on our calendars. But no one expects anyone to put choir ahead of a sick child or spouse, a family or workplace special event, or one's own health. When there is a conflict with a rehearsal or Sunday service, inform the director as far in advance as possible. A calendar on the bulletin board in the choir room is used to mark any absences or scheduled changes involving choir.

I don't have a strong voice

The best singing voice in a choir is one that can blend and help balance the choral sound. Singing on a regular basis with a group is a great way to develop or improve one's ability to sing. As current members can attest, participating in choir can actually strengthen and improve your singing.

I can't hit the high notes

As the director, I pay particular attention to each singer's range and choose music that falls within the capacity and skill levels of the group. Even so, the director may modify the written score to accommodate the singers' needs. Additionally vocal warm-ups, ear-training, and breath control exercises are included for most rehearsals. Many who previously couldn't reach certain high notes find their range expands after several months of regular practices.

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Choir Dates

Trinity Choir resumes after Labor Day and sings through Trinity Sunday. The choir sings for special weekday services for Christmas Eve and during Holy Week.

Rehearsals during this season are held every Thursday 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Music & Worship Practices

Liturgy & Worship

An important role of the choir is to lead the congregation in singing hymns, said prayers and responses. Members of the choir are at all times attentive and prayerful and help to facilitate the spiritual experience for all in attendance.

Hymnal 1982

The choir typically processes during the opening hymn and recesses during the last hymn sung at service.

Choral Anthem

Following The Peace and before the order of communion begins, a hymn or anthem is sung by the choir alone. This is called the Offertory Hymn or Anthem. Most of our rehearsal time is spent on preparation of the anthems ahead.

Service Music

The choir leads the congregation in the sung psalms and responses during the Liturgy. Depending on the season and the liturgical calendar, we sing the Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, and Psalms.

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God's Gift to the Human Spirit – Music

From the dawn of time, music has been intertwined with the soul of humankind. Until recently, this was a widely-accepted understanding simply because we could experience the impact of music ourselves. Science has learned a great deal about our connection to music through new studies of the human brain. One could say that like birds, humans are hard-wired to appreciate and participate in music making. It makes sense that hymn singing and music be an integral part of worship with its power to uplift the soul. I like to remind church musicians to remember that our Spirit and Intent is the most important part of our performance. Singing one's part perfectly from a technical aspect is all for naught if one's heart and soul does not convey the intended message of the music. Sing with your whole body, mind and soul, and The Holy Spirit moves through our music.

Scales and Intervals – the “Chutes and Ladders” of Singing

We have all heard the Rogers and Hammerstein song “Do-Re-Mi” from the Sound of Music. In this musical, Maria teaches the scale and syllables to the Von Trapp children as they learn to sing as a choir. Once the children could sing the scale, Maria had the children learn how to “jump” from one pitch to another skipping parts of the scale. They sang do-mi-mi____mi, sol, sol____, re, fa, fa____, la, ti, ti____ as a countermelody as she sang “when you know the notes to sing, you can sing most any thing”. Musicians call these “jumps” between two notes on the scale “intervals”. Intervals can be close together or far apart. Think of the song “Somewhere over the Rainbow” and that sweeping melody made famous by Judy Garland in The Wizard of Oz.

Musical Intervals are an essential part of our musical training as singers, and it is vital for us to know how to pitch these intervals, as well as how to recognize them by hearing! There are many **Ear Training** resources that help us to train our ability to identify intervals as we hear them. The simplest way to learn this is to associate intervals with songs that we are familiar with or know how to sing! Here are a few examples you might recognize:

Major 2nd	Happy Birthday Song – 2nd and 3rd notes	Minor 2nd	Jaws Theme Music
Major 3rd	Oh When The Saints – 1st 2 notes	Minor 3rd	Greensleeves – 1st 2 notes Brahm's Lullaby -2nd and 3rd notes
Perfect 4th	Auld Lang Syne -1st 2 notes Amazing Grace -1st 2 notes	Minor 6th	The Entertainer – 3rd and 4th notes
Perfect 5th	Twinkle Twinkle – 2nd and 3rd notes	Minor 7th	There's A Place For Us (West Side Story) Theme from the Original Star Trek
Major 6th	My Bonnie -1st 2 notes		
Major 7th	Somewhere Over The Rainbow – 1st - 3rd notes		For more info on singing intervals, ear-training tips, visit these websites: https://www.earmaster.com/products/free-tools/interval-song-chart-generator.html https://flypaper.soundfly.com/tips/interval-cheat-sheet-songs-to-help-you-remember-common-intervals/
Perfect 8th	Somewhere Over The Rainbow Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire		