

APPLETON BOY CHOIR

Appleton Boychoir Handbook 2024-2025 Season

Appleton Boychoir, Inc.
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APPLETON BOYCHOIR STAFF

Artistic Director: Dr. Kevin Meidl

ChamberSingers: Dr. Kevin Meidl, Conductor

Ambassador Choir: Dr. Kevin Meidl, Conductor and Abby Swaagman, Conductor

Junior & Senior Choir: Anna Frato, Conductor

Recruiting Liaison: Abby Swaagman

Collaborative Pianist: Kimberly Spielbauer

Collaborative Pianist: Sarah Wheeler

Executive Director: Hilary Armstrong

Choir Manager: Audrey Moore

ABOUT OUR CHOIRS

CHOIRS

Appleton Boychoir is made up of three choirs: Junior & Senior Choir, Ambassador Choir, and ChamberSingers. As we enter our 46th Anniversary Season, the Appleton Boychoir is continuing with the re-established structural/rehearsal concepts: 1) The Junior and Senior Choirs are the foundation of our Training Program, 2) Musical Mentorship “Yogurt Theory” within our Ambassador choir includes those boys who have been in the Ambassador Choir for at least the previous season and/or who have reached a certain age/grade and/or have completed at least one year in the Junior or Senior Choir, and, 3) A Select ChamberSingers Choir is auditioned from our Ambassador Choir.

REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Please enter and exit the buildings where designated and only stay in assigned areas. Boys found mistreating these facilities or behaving inappropriately will be dealt with according to our Discipline Policy (included in the Handbook). Rehearsals typically begin the week prior to Labor Day weekend and conclude with the final rehearsal of the season before the final concert of the season. Exceptions are communicated as soon as possible. Please refer to the season calendar in Chorus Connection (www.chorusconnection.com)

Junior Choir: Mondays, 4:15-5:15 pm; Belfry Hall, 900 N. Mason St., Appleton

Senior Choir: Mondays, 4:45-5:45 pm; Belfry Hall, 900 N. Mason St., Appleton

Ambassador Choir: Mondays, 4:15-5:30 pm; Belfry Hall, 900 N. Mason St., Appleton

ChamberSingers: Mondays, 5:30-6:00 pm; Belfry Hall, 900 N. Mason St., Appleton

JUNIOR and SENIOR CHOIR BOYS may enter the Appleton Boychoir Training Program at any point during the season, although auditions will be scheduled in December and May. The Junior Choir is a probationary period that will develop the basic skills required to rehearse and concertize in a PERFORMANCE CHOIR. Junior and Senior Choristers will learn how to read music, hold a choral score, rehearse as a member of a choral ensemble, sing music in harmony, blend, and balance with other choristers, perform on stage, memorize and perform

musically selected folk songs and concert material and there is no time limit at this level. Boys will be promoted as individually ready, into the next level choir as determined by the conductors and assistants. This will generally take place after behavioral and musical benchmarks are met and following a minimum of one semester of training, although the standard is at least one year at each level.

Promotion into Next Level Choir – Benchmarks:

- * Able to focus and engage in lessons/rehearsals without causing distraction
- * Able to be kind to others and contribute to the betterment of the ensemble
- * Able to match pitches and sing in tune
- * Able to memorize words and music for songs as selected by the conductors
- * Able to hold, follow, and read a choral score to the level determined by the conductors
- * Able to perform on stage in an engaging way without distraction
- * Meets attendance requirements (2 absences/Sem. permitted without parent meeting)
- * Completes successfully all assigned Music Theory Assignments
- * Meets other criteria as determined individually for that boy by the conductors

AMBASSADOR CHOIR BOYS are our musical representatives to the world, our flagship choir. They continue to learn how to sing music in harmony, blend and balance with other choristers, perform on stage in more challenging situations, sight-read music to a higher level, and memorize and perform musically selected concert repertoire. They concertize regularly in the Fox Valley and travel nationally/internationally on a rotating basis. It is expected that Ambassador Choir boys behave in a manner that reflects positively on the choir and our community. It is also expected that they will commit to rehearsing and learning music to a very high level and engage audiences through the highest levels of performance etiquette (facial expression, posture, eye contact, following the conductor, expressiveness, body movement, etc.). It is also expected that boys attend ALL rehearsals and performances. Two rehearsals per semester may be missed (excused or unexcused), after which point there must be a parent meeting. Dress rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY. The conductor(s) of the Ambassador Choir may, at his or her discretion, make exceptions as is in the best interest of the choir.

Continued Membership in Ambassador Choir – Benchmarks:

- * Able to focus and engage in lessons/rehearsal without causing distraction
- * Able to be kind to others and contribute to the betterment of the ensemble
- * Able to match pitches and sing in tune
- * Able to memorize words and music for songs as selected by the conductors
- * Able to read a choral score and simple two-part music
- * Able to hold a harmony or melody part against another singer
- * Able to perform in an engaging way on stage without distraction
- * Contributes musically toward the betterment of the ensemble
- * Positively represents the Appleton Boychoir locally and abroad
- * Attends Summer Camp (REQUIRED)
- * Meets attendance requirements (2 absences/Sem. permitted without parent meeting)
- * Completes successfully all assigned Music Theory Assignments (1st and 2nd year students)
- * Attendance for recording sessions and tours is expected unless there are extenuating circumstances
- * Remains in the choir until his voice changes or until the end of the 8th grade year
- * Meets other criteria as determined individually for that boy by the conductor(s)

CHAMBERSINGERS

ChamberSingers are auditioned from the larger Ambassador Choir. Singers are selected based on core musicianship, vocal quality, tonal memory/reading ability, rehearsal skill, behavior and leadership. Any boy from Ambassador Choir will be welcome to demonstrate these skills and audition for the ChamberSingers. There is no maximum number; however, this will be a very high-level choir.

The ChamberSingers are not only expected to follow all choir benchmarks and promotion protocol for the Ambassador Choir, but this is an opportunity for boys who have exceptional skills and an outstanding commitment to Appleton Boychoir.

An important aspect of the ChamberSingers is that they must come to both Ambassador and ChamberSingers rehearsals. Boys who miss regularly for music/drama/sports conflicts at their schools will only have the option of the Ambassador choir.

The ChamberSingers represent Appleton Boychoir for special programs such as the Partnerships with other area arts organizations (NewVoices, Makaroff Youth Ballet, McDowell Male Singers, Fox Valleyaires, Lawrence Academy, Badger State Girl Choir, Oshkosh Chamber Singers, Green Bay Civic Symphony, and Fox Valley Symphony, as well as other events throughout the season. **These events/dates will be on the Appleton Boychoir Calendars and communicated through Chorus Connection.**

At semester, the ensemble may be re-auditioned and change membership to reflect the availability of singers and the type of extra programming the ChamberSingers undertakes.

ACHIEVEMENT LADDER AND POINTS

The Appleton Boychoir "Achievement Ladder" is designed to give every boy the opportunity to excel and to be recognized for his hard work. This step-wise program of advancement will allow and encourage each boy to fully develop his rehearsal skills, promptness, leadership, and musicianship. These advancement levels DO NOT necessarily determine advancement into ChamberSingers. (These decisions are ultimately made by the Conductors through the continual auditioning of each boy during the season.)

Boys begin the first step of the Achievement Ladder the year after Junior Choir and/or their first year in Senior or Ambassador Choir and points are awarded as indicated below. Once a boy begins the program, he must remain at least one year at each level before moving to the next. A boy may advance at any time after the period of one year per level. To advance, he must also achieve and maintain a 90%-point average to advance to "Apprentice" or a 95% of all total points to advance to "Master" or "Scholar." Boys may not skip levels. A boy hoping to advance to the level of "Scholar" must test and perform in addition to achieving the 95% average points. "Scholar" boys will have additional responsibilities in the choir and will be called upon to sing special events as needed. The boys' names will be printed in our programs identifying their level of achievement.

Senior Choir and Ambassador Choir Points are awarded for attendance, participation, behavior, etc. in rehearsals, concerts and other Boychoir events. Boys will be awarded points at each rehearsal and performance or per event. *The Repertoire Choir year(s) are considered probationary and thus are not part of the "Achievement Ladder" program and points are not tallied.*

At each rehearsal, a boy will have the opportunity to earn points in the following areas:

1. On time, and remaining at: rehearsals, performances, and other Boychoir events
 2. Has all materials for rehearsal: wearing name tag, bag, music folder, pencil, etc.
 3. Is actively participating and demonstrates excellent behavior.
 4. Demonstrates excellent engagement and leadership (awarded by the Conductors)
- The Conductors may, on occasion, award a bonus point for an exemplary act of leadership demonstrated by a boy during rehearsal.
 - Points may be deducted for tardiness, leaving early, missing materials, and not following the Contract/Code of Conduct (signed in the Registration Packet) and behavioral issues (see Discipline Policy below).
 - Special events such as camp, additional concerts and tours will also carry fixed point values and will be figured into the final total.
 - Extra credit points may be awarded for meetings/potlucks, extra Saturday rehearsals, as conductors see appropriate at each rehearsal, and a few other activities throughout the season.

The Achievement Ladder

- Step 1 – Novice: A singer in the beginning stages of learning performance and rehearsal skills.
- Step 2 – Apprentice: A developing chorister who has spent at least a year in training as a novice and has achieved a minimum of 90% of the total possible points during that period.
- Step 3 – Master: A skilled young chorister who has achieved all the basic goals of the rehearsal, performance, and all other Boychoir activities. He has also achieved a 95% or better of all possible points during a period of, not less than, two years' time. We expect most of our boys to achieve the level of "Master."
- Step 4 – Scholar: This is the final and most highly prized level of achievement. Not only does he reach a 95% level over a minimum of three years, but he will also take a written exam and perform a solo in voice and an instrument. The few exceptional boys able to reach this level of achievement will truly be "Scholars." Boys who have shown leadership are invited by the conductors to audition for the level of "Scholar."

Scholar Level Auditions: Master Level Boys may audition to achieve the level of scholar if they meet the following criteria:

- * Attended all summer camps and tours
 - * 95% in point totals in the Achievement Ladder system
 - * Demonstrated positive leadership within the choir
 - * Minimum of 2 years' study on an instrument – performance required in Scholar Audition
 - * Able to sing in tune musically on selected song – performance required in Scholar Audition
 - * Able to sight-read at a basic level – demonstration required in Scholar Audition
 - * Receive a general recommendation from all music/administrative staff
-

AWARDS AND GRADUATION

Participation Stars: AFTER each year of service in the Ambassador Choirs, a boy is given a star to wear on his shirt, sweater or blazer lapel. Awarded each year at Lessons and Carols following the probationary year.

Medallions: When a boy reaches 7th grade and can meet our expectations through our “Achievement Ladder,” he may begin wearing the Appleton Boychoir medallion. This medallion remains Appleton Boychoir property until the boy is graduated by the conductors at the end of his eighth-grade year or when his voice changes, whichever comes first.

Graduation: Graduation exercises take place at the Spring Concert. When he has been formally graduated, the medallion becomes his to keep. **If a boy resigns from the Appleton Boychoir early without formal graduation, the medallion must be returned.**

Scholar Pins: Presented in December following October or November auditions, and in May following April auditions.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is very important, at rehearsals and the main concerts for the season. A Parent Meeting may be called if a boy misses two (2) or more rehearsals in a concert cycle. Attendance at all dress rehearsals and main concerts is MANDATORY. Unless the boy is ill, or there is an emergency, an Absence Appeal Form (included in the Handbook) must be completed in advance (a minimum of one week before missing a dress rehearsal and/or concert/performance) and given to Boychoir staff for clarification and approval. Attendance is also sometimes required and/or highly encouraged for tours, camp, and other church and/or community performances.

We are trusting you, his parent(s)/guardian(s), to make the best decision for your son and family and for the Appleton Boychoir regarding his attendance at weekly rehearsals, for the effect on his performance capabilities within our choir(s). The Choir Parents and Boychoir staff will be noting attendance for our internal purposes as well as to mark individual boy’s points for our Achievement Ladder (described previously.) Please inform the Appleton Boychoir office by calling, emailing, or completing and submitting to the Appleton Boychoir office an Absence Appeal Form for any missed rehearsals, as well.

REHEARSAL MATERIALS

Each boy will be given a nametag to wear during rehearsals, and one to keep on their Appleton Boychoir bag. The nametag they wear will be returned to the Choir Parents at the end of each rehearsal (this assists with attendance). Ambassador Choir boys who lose their nametags will lose Achievement Ladder points. Any boys who lose or destroy their music, music binders, music theory books, or music bag **will be charged up to \$25.00 for each item.** A reasonable amount of wear and tear is expected.

Boys will be provided with and must bring to each rehearsal:

Junior Choir: music bag, BLACK music binder with music, WHITE Standard Repertoire Music binder, Appleton Boychoir Songbook, music theory book (or equivalent), and pencil/eraser.

Senior Choir: music bag, BLACK music binder with music, WHITE Standard Repertoire Music binder, Appleton Boychoir Songbook, music theory book (or equivalent), and pencil/eraser.

Ambassador Choirs: music bag, WHITE Standard Repertoire binder, BLACK music binder, music theory book (or equivalent), and pencil/eraser.

ChamberSingers: Boys will receive extra music materials and the same protocol must be observed as in Ambassador Choir.

The following items are the boys to keep:

- The Standard Repertoire, white binder, given to Choir boys when they enter the Appleton Boychoir
- The Appleton Boychoir Songbook, given to Junior and Senior Choir boys
- Once completed, their Music Theory books or Sight Reading Packets
- Tour T-shirts

The following items are to be returned to Appleton Boychoir at the end of each season – see calendars for dates:

- Appleton Boychoir Music bag
- Black binder & all music
- Nametags
- Appleton Boychoir apparel – blazer & tie, sweater vests, polo shirts and other performance clothing, tour clothing (except tour t-shirt)

REHEARSAL POSTPONEMENT/CANCELLATION POLICY

Since rehearsals are held within the Appleton Area School District, we will typically follow the AASD’s postponement and cancellation decisions. We will post a message on Chorus Connection (<https://app.chorusconnection.com/abc>), so please ensure your contact information is up-to-date.

Concerts will not be cancelled; however, should there be inclement weather affecting a concert, we recommend families use their best judgement in keeping their son safe.

CONTRACT AND CODE OF CONDUCT *(as signed off when registering in Chorus Connection <https://app.chorusconnection.com/abc>)*

For your reference, this is what you and your son sign off on when registering your child for Appleton Boychoir:

As members of Appleton Boychoir, Inc., I/we, the undersigned **child and parent(s)/guardian(s)**, have read the following, understand, and agree to fulfill the following commitments required of us:

1. I/we understand that the purpose of Appleton Boychoir, Inc. is to offer talented young boys a supplemental choral music education in order to develop musical understanding, and to achieve artistic expression.
2. I/we agree that the child is making a one-year commitment and will participate for the **Entire Season**. As parent(s)/guardian(s), I/we agree to support the participation of my/our child in the Appleton Boychoir program. I/we understand that we are making a financial commitment for the entire amount of the tuition and that continued participation in the chorus may be contingent upon timely payment of the tuition.
3. I/we agree that appropriate and respectful behavior is always required when representing Appleton Boychoir, on “Social Media,” and during rehearsals, and performances, and when at camp or on tours. Repeated inappropriate behavior may result in dismissal from the Appleton Boychoir.

4. I/we understand that excessive tardiness/absences may result in the choir member not being able to sing in an upcoming performance as the quality of the music is handicapped by tardiness and absences.
5. I/we understand that one of the main purposes of any choir is participate in live performances. **Attendance for the Appleton Boychoir's season of concerts and associated dress rehearsals are mandatory for all singers.** (If a required school function occurs during the same date/time, the school function takes priority. Please inform the office as soon as possible.)
6. I/we understand that each child's family is financially responsible for any items issued that are either not returned or returned in poor condition, such as uniforms and music.
7. I/we will actively market the organization whenever possible, such as distributing posters in the community.
8. I/we will actively help sell advanced tickets for performances to friends, family, or co-workers.
9. I/we understand that the Appleton Boychoir relies on each family to volunteer over the course of the season, and I/we will agree to help whenever possible (see Volunteer box on next page).
10. I/we understand that as a non-profit organization, Appleton Boychoir, Inc. does everything possible to keep members' costs reasonable. Appleton Boychoir provides at least three (3) fundraising opportunities during the **Season** for each member family. Fundraisers have typically been held in the fall semester and in the spring semester. 100% of fundraising proceeds go directly into the member's fundraising account and can be used for tuition, camp and/or tour fees. Please note that any funds not used while a member is in the Appleton Boychoir are rolled into the general operating account of the Appleton Boychoir, Inc. and are used for Scholarships.
11. I/we understand that a cell phone and/or other electronics are not a necessary component of participating in Appleton Boychoir's programs. If I/we choose for my/our child to carry a cell phone, I/we understand no pictures/recordings may be taken in hotel rooms/cabins, bathrooms, or changing/sleeping type environments, regardless of the intention of use. I/we understand my/our child's cell phone is to be off during rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances. Usage of cell phones and/or other electronics may be allowed on tours and camp on a limited basis, for example, during certain times of the day.

Appleton Boychoir provides educational, recreational and social activities for the chorus members through weekly rehearsals, performances, tours, camp and special activities. This Contract and Code of Conduct is meant to guide our young boys and their families as they matriculate through the Appleton Boychoir programs.

Each member of Appleton Boychoir has a common bond: a love of song and singing. This binds us together and transcends all our differences. We are a community of singers. We rely on one another. This code of conduct guides our community.

The following Code of Conduct is applicable to all who participate in Appleton Boychoir programs and activities. As a choir member, participant, volunteer, and parent, you represent Appleton Boychoir and must agree to the following:

1. To behave in a courteous and respectful manner towards others.
2. To be respectful of the individual and cultural differences of others.
3. To refrain from any behavior and/or language that is abusive, threatening, offensive or disruptive to others.
4. To respect the personal belongings of others, property at our rehearsal and performance locations, and Appleton Boychoir property.
5. To act honestly in relationships with others.
6. To take Appleton Boychoir, Inc. membership seriously and to participate fully in rehearsals and performances.

I/we have read the above Choir Member/Parent Contract and Code of Conduct policy and reviewed this with my/our child. I/we understand my/our and our child's responsibilities and commitments to Appleton Boychoir.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The Conductors and Choir Parents will be using the following system for rehearsal discipline. “Choir Parents” are asked to help supervise the boy’s behavior in rehearsals, performances, and travel. Choir Parent Expectations are included in the Handbook and are used as a tool to help keep the boy’s on track. The Discipline Policy was organized to help parents stay informed of the progress of their son in the Boychoir and to help improve behavior during rehearsals and performances. We want the boys to look and feel professional in their performances and other group activities. It is our goal to help guide the boys to adhere to the Appleton Boychoir Contract and Code of Conduct, to develop good discipline and behavior through the Boychoir organization.

- Step 1:** If a boy misbehaves during rehearsal, he will be spoken to by the Conductor after rehearsal and will be advised that if there is another problem, we will proceed to Step 2. Choir Parents and Conductors will take away attendance points for behavioral issues, as necessary. *(Points are not applicable to Junior Choir boys.)*
- Step 2:** If a boy misbehaves a second time during rehearsal, he will be asked to take a “time out” with a Choir Parent or possibly removed from that rehearsal and parents may be called by the Choir Parents, Conductor, Choir Manager, or Executive Director. An Incident Report will be filled out and will be sent home for a parent/guardian signature. Please see the Incident Report for more information (included in the Handbook).
- Step 3:** If a boy continues to misbehave during rehearsals, or a performance or while touring, a Parent Meeting will be called and the boy’s membership in the Appleton Boychoir will be evaluated.
-

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE – Do *not* wear these items to “**Dress Rehearsals**” – this is for performances only. A concert uniform is required for all performances unless otherwise specified by the Executive Director. The COMPLETE uniform must be neat and clean, and shirts neatly tucked in. Any boy not properly dressed will not be allowed to sing. Each boy’s hair should be clean, neatly combed and free from added color. Don’t forget a smile!

ALL Choirs:

- White, long-sleeve, button-down dress shirt – suitable for wearing with the ABC blazer and tie or sweater vest
- Black belt
- TALL black socks
- Black dress shoes
- **Khaki Dress pants*** (see ordering information below)

Junior Choir – additional item:

- Appleton Boychoir Sweater Vest (to be provided)
- Black, short-sleeve Appleton Boychoir performance polo. The Appleton Boychoir office will notify members when this item will be worn at a performance. Typically, the black polo is worn at Songfest in September.

Senior Choir – additional item:

- Appleton Boychoir Sweater Vest and Tie (to be provided)
- Black, short-sleeve Appleton Boychoir performance polo. The Appleton Boychoir office will notify members when this item will be worn at a performance. Typically, the black polo is worn at Songfest in September.

Ambassador Choir (including ChamberSingers) – additional items:

- Appleton Boychoir Blazer & Tie (to be provided)
- Black, short-sleeve Appleton Boychoir performance polo. The Appleton Boychoir office will notify members when this item will be worn at a performance. Typically, the black polo is worn at Songfest in September.

***Dress Pants:**

All boys need to have a uniform pair of Khaki Pants – a.k.a. – **Dress Pants**. We are requesting you order these pants from **Lands’ End** for consistency. **We recommend purchasing as soon as possible – watch for sales!**

www.landsend.com – Boys Iron Knee Wrinkle Resistant Chino Pants, Item #529033, Khaki color
https://www.landsend.com/products/boys-iron-knee-wrinkle-resistant-chino-pants/id_365244?attributes=1242,48354

Other youth plain front item numbers associated: 529032, 529027, 529026

You may also get the Men’s Traditional Fit, Plain Front Version if needed. Item #519173

Clothing Distribution and Returns

Clothing distribution and returns are typically at the Appleton Boychoir office located on the 4th floor of the Fox Cities Building for the Arts (enter behind the Trout Museum of Art – not the museum doors). Enter through the back of the building, through the glass door (you’ll see “Appleton Boychoir” on the door) and take the elevator up to the 4th floor. Watch emails for different distribution/return locations, potentially at the rehearsal space for that day. Further instructions and information will go out as the dates approach. Music bags are typically distributed at Camp in August or the boy’s first rehearsal.

Clothing distribution:

- **Choir boys will receive their sweaters, blazers and ties before their first performance. They will receive their black polo at voicings prior to camp or at first rehearsal in August, or at clothing distribution days.**

Clothing & music bag returns:

ALL CHOIR MEMBERS are required to return their clothing and music bags in May (TBA), except for touring members, who will return their clothing the first week in July. Watch emails for updates on dates/times.

FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

The Boychoir holds three or more fundraisers each season. These fundraisers allow families, who would like to participate, to help reduce their tuition, camp and/or tour fees.

Additional fundraising options, such as candy bar sales, are offered to help build boys individual accounts. Other fundraising ideas are always welcome and will be evaluated.

Season Kick-off Fundraiser: Songfest “Donation” Tickets – This fundraiser is optional.

For a fourth year, we are offering an easy way for boys to boost their individual fundraising accounts. Songfest is a free, open-to-the-public Community Sing Event, at Pierce Park. No ticket is required to attend this event. Boys sell “donation” tickets at \$10/each and 100% of proceeds go into their individual accounts. Tickets are available in the summer at clothing return to start selling up until day of event.

Fall Fundraiser: TBD

Spring Fundraiser: Butter Braids

GIVEBUTTER online fundraising

2024-2025 SEASON OF CONCERTS & TICKET INFORMATION

CONCERT INFORMATION

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols – All Appleton Boychoir Choirs with Copper Street Brass

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm

Lawrence Memorial Chapel, 510 E. College Ave., Appleton

Reserved Seating – In Advance -

Reserved Seating – Day-of-Show – Prices increase

MASTERWORKS – Winter Concert – Appleton Boychoir ChamberSingers with Oshkosh

Chamber Singers

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 7 pm

Belfry Hall. 900 W Mason St, Appleton

America in Song – 46th Annual Spring Concert – All Appleton Boychoir Choirs with Matthew Sabatella

Saturday, April 26, 2025, Time – 4:00 pm

Lawrence Memorial Chapel, 510 E. College Ave., Appleton

Reserved Seating – In Advance -

Reserved Seating – Day-of-Show – Prices increase

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are available through the Appleton Boychoir website, business office and all seats are reserved for concerts at Lawrence Memorial Chapel. We encourage you to purchase tickets in advance as all day-of concert tickets will be at a higher price; and if there are lines on concert day, we will not hold the start of the concert.

Tickets being purchased through Appleton Boychoir may be ordered any of the following ways:

- **ONLINE** at www.appletonboychoir.com – you may pick your favorite seats and print your ticket/seating information right away!
- **CALLING** the Appleton Boychoir office at 920-955-2224 with a credit or debit card.
IN PERSON thirty minutes prior to each performance, however **ticket prices are higher at the door.**

Reserved Seating Locations/Descriptions at Lawrence Memorial Chapel:

- *Premium (\$20):* Premium seats are available in the most center sections of the Main Floor and Balcony of Lawrence Memorial Chapel. These are in the heart of the chapel, the best view, the best sound and considered the best seats!
- *Preferred (\$15):* Preferred seats are the remaining center section and wing seats of the Main Floor and Balcony of the Lawrence Memorial Chapel. Great seats and more affordable for families.

Misc. Ticketing Information:

All sales are final. No cash refunds or ticket exchanges are allowed on ticket purchases. In the event you cannot use your tickets, the donation of your tickets back to the Appleton Boychoir is appreciated and will be given to a family in need. Auditorium doors generally open one-half hour before each performance. Latecomers will be seated at a suitable pause in the performance. Reserved seating selection is not guaranteed after performance begins. Children older than 2-years-old must have a ticket and are not permitted to sit on an adult's lap.

Accessible Seating: Special seating is available for patrons in wheelchairs. Please note any special needs when placing your order.

Additional Appleton Boychoir 2024-2025 Performances

All Choirs – SONGFEST - Community Sing fundraiser

Sunday, August 25, 2024, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Pierce Park Stage, 1035 W. Prospect Ave., Appleton

\$10 Donations suggested for your favorite Appleton Boychoir Boy! Tickets available through the boys or Appleton Boychoir

Ambassador Choir - Trim Hunger -Grateful Groove Gala Christmas Fundraiser

Saturday, November 30, 2024, 7pm.

Lawrence University Memorial Chapel

Ambassador Choir – Carmina Burana with Green Bay Civic Symphony, Green Bay Youth Choirs and Dudley Bider Chorale.

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 2:00pm.

Wiedner Center for the Performing Arts, 2420 Nicolet Drive, University of Wisconsin- Green Bay 54311

ChamberSingers Choir –

IMPACT SERIES: Immigration Stories-Rise to New Opportunities NEWVoices Choir Concert

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 7:30pm.

Lawrence University Memorial Chapel

TOURS

It is the philosophy of the Appleton Boychoir that extended choir tours shall be for the purpose of:

- 1) Developing a unifying group spirit
- 2) Serving as cultural ambassadors
- 3) Expanding concert opportunities
- 4) Building choir reputation
- 5) Providing travel opportunities

Tours will be approved and organized by the Appleton Boychoir's Board of Directors. Tour payment will be the responsibility of each singer. Fundraising opportunities will be available through the choir. Non-participation in a major tour shall not exclude any singer from any choir.

The Ambassador Choir will be on tour June 7-10, 2025. This is a National Tour to Minnesota.

The tour for 2026 will be an International Tour to Brazil. There are travel opportunities for both choir members AND companions (family, friends, etc.) on International Tours Only.

WONDERLAND CAMP

The Appleton Boychoir travels to Wonderland Camp and Conference Center in Salem, Wisconsin for four days in mid to late August each year. At camp, the boys begin working on the music they will perform for A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and participate in rehearsals each day, work on vocal production and sight reading. The boys also have fun swimming, playing tennis, basketball, Frisbee, and SURVIVAL. They participate in team building and bonding experiences, singing at campfires and more. Camp is a requirement for participation in the Ambassador Choir. There is a day camp experience at Wonderland Camp offered to Repertoire Choir as well.

The 4-Day Wonderland Camp dates for the Ambassador Choir will be August 11-14, 2024. The Junior/Senior Choir Day Camp Experience will be Monday, August 12, 2024.

AUDITIONS – FOR NEW MEMBERS

Auditions are open to all boys currently in grades 3-6, although older boys may audition as well. Private auditions may also be arranged. ***Feel free to invite family and friends with boys to sign up for an audition!***

Winter Auditions: Monday, December 16, 2024, 4:00-6:00 pm, Belfry Hall, Appleton

**Spring Auditions: Monday, May 12, 2025, 5:30-7:30 pm, Belfry Hall, Appleton
Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 4:00-6:30 pm, Valley Academy for the Arts, Neenah
Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 4:00-6:30 pm, Belfry Hall, Appleton**

FAMILY VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Family involvement is very important to our organization. It is critical in keeping our administrative costs to a minimum. We recognize the need to have all families contribute in different ways to the success of the Appleton Boychoir.

Family Volunteer Opportunities:

Rehearsals: August through the final performance of the season. Choir Parents (help at rehearsals and performances and travel – checking boys in/out, discipline, theory book corrections, etc. as outlined in the Handbook and the included Appleton Boychoir Choir Parent Expectations)

August/September/October:

- Camp Preparation (moving items from storage, organizing camp, etc.)
- Clothing Distribution (Move clothing from storage, checking out items)
- Camp Dad Opportunities at Wonderland Camp
- Fundraiser (Distribute, tally orders)
- Concert Poster Distribution

November/December:

- Concert Poster Distribution
- Junior & Senior Choir Recital (Setup, Takedown, Ushering)
- A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (Setup, Decorating, Takedown, Ticketing, Ushering)

January/February/March:

- Winter Meeting/Potluck (Setup, Takedown)
- Fundraiser Sale (tally orders)
- Concert Poster Distribution
- Fundraiser (sorting, tallying, etc...)
- Winter Concert (Setup, Decorating, Takedown, Ticketing, Ushering)

April/May/June:

- Concert Poster Distribution
- Spring Concert (Setup, Decorating, Takedown, Ticketing, Ushering)
- Clothing Return (Move clothing into storage, checking in items)
- Tour Assistance (Packing ABC clothing, nametags, medical kits, etc.)
- Clothing Return (from those who go on tour)

Office Projects: We always need help with marketing, technology, and recruiting. Please contact the Executive Director to setup volunteer hours for these special needs.

Fundraising: If you have ideas for Fundraising opportunities for the boys to raise funds to offset the costs of Camp and Tours, please contact the Executive Director.

SPONSOR-A-BOY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Appleton Boychoir Scholarship Fund is named to honor contributions to our programs by Appleton Boychoir Founders Frank Rippl and Austin Boncher, and Executive Director Hilary Armstrong.

The Appleton Boychoir has given musical training to thousands of boys for the last 40 years, taking them all over the world, and sending them on their way with a life-long love of singing. The choir provides a learning experience in music reading, critical listening abilities, voice training, rehearsal and performance discipline, as well as travel opportunities, nationally and internationally. The Appleton Boychoir typically has 30%-50% of participating boys requesting financial assistance to help offset the cost of their tuition each year. We truly believe that each boy deserves a chance to be a member of the Appleton Boychoir and that financial hardship should not be a barrier. For these boys, the Appleton Boychoir is a way for them to be involved in an extra-curricular activity that they love and gives them a sense of belonging that they might not be able to achieve in school. It also provides a distraction from the everyday worries associated with financial challenges.

As an alumnus, current family, or friend of the Appleton Boychoir program, you know the life-long impact the Appleton Boychoir has had on the musical growth and leadership development of each individual boy in our program. We hope that you will consider a gift to our “Sponsor-A-Boy” giving opportunity.

APPLETON BOYCHOIR OFFICE & COMMUNICATION

The Appleton Boychoir office is located on the 4th floor of the Fox Cities Building for the Arts (above the Trout Museum of Art). Enter in the back of the building off Houdini Plaza, and take the elevator directly to the 4th floor. Our offices are located on the north/College Avenue side of the building. *(Please note: the elevators only run with a key card. We do recommend contacting us to ensure we are in the offices.)*

Please log in regularly to Chorus Connection and check out our website for updated information and “like” us on Facebook to keep up with the latest information.

Communication

Our goal is to have fully open communications between Appleton Boychoir and our boy’s families. If you have questions, we are available, and you may find most information in these areas as well:

- Handbook, Master Calendar, Season Events & Rosters (Chorus Connection)
- Monthly Newsletters/ Information
- Family Meetings
- Rehearsals – feel free to bring questions to rehearsals – Choir Parents, the Executive Director and/or Choir Manager will be at most rehearsals
- Office Emails:
 - Hilary Armstrong, Executive Director - info@appletonboychoir.com
 - Audrey Moore, Choir Manager - audrey@appletonboychoir.com
- Website: www.appletonboychoir.com
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/AppletonBoychoir
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/appletonboychoir
- Shutterfly: www.appletonboychoir.shutterfly.com

Payments:

We accept MasterCard, Visa, checks, and of course, cash. Please utilize Chorus Connection to make tuition and camp payments. You may also mail or drop off any payments directly to the Appleton Boychoir office, or if you need to leave a payment with a Choir Parent at a rehearsal, please also inform us in the office.

Our mailing address:

Appleton Boychoir
Fox Cities Building for the Arts
111 W. College Ave., 4th Floor
Appleton, WI, 54911

Our office phone:

(920)955-2224

This Handbook is a continually evolving tool to help guide families and their sons through their experience with Appleton Boychoir. If you have corrections or suggestions regarding the Handbook, please let us know.



ABSENCE APPEAL FORM

Parents, please fill out the form, checking the appropriate line and supplying any accompanying information, for any dress rehearsal or performance absence. Please turn in the form at a rehearsal or email to the Executive Director at info@appletonboychoir.com a minimum of one week in advance. All appeals will be read by the Appleton Boychoir staff in order to be approved.

Boy's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Choir (circle one): Junior Senior Ambassador ChamberSingers

_____ I need to miss a **rehearsal** – date: _____

Reason/Explanation: _____

_____ I need to miss a **dress rehearsal** – date: _____

Reason/Explanation: _____

_____ I need to miss a **performance** – date: _____

Reason/Explanation: _____

Date Received by ABC Staff: _____



INCIDENT REPORT FORM

BOY'S NAME: _____ DATE: _____

CHOIR: _____

CHOIR CONDUCTOR: _____

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: _____

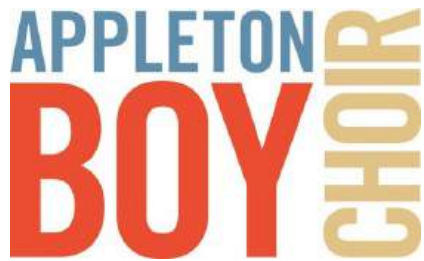
This report is being given to you so that you may speak to your son about this and guide him in making better decisions with his behavior. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact your son's Choir Conductor or the Executive Director.

Please return this signed form with your son at the next rehearsal so he may earn back one point from the two which were lost as a result of this incident. Thank you for your support.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Comments/Questions: _____

Return Date (to be filled in by Choir Parent or ABC staff): _____



CHOIR PARENT'S EXPECTATIONS

1. You may park in the Belfry Hall lot when serving as a choir parent.
2. Please arrive 10-15 minutes before rehearsal starts to put out the name tags, supervise the boy's arrival and take attendance. It is best practice (at least at the start of the season) for one parent to be stationed outside the door, helping boys as they are dropped off. After rehearsal begins, Choir Parents are to be in the rehearsal room helping students as needed. Please use caution and remind boys not to run into the parking lot to get to/from rehearsals.
3. Remind boys to use the restroom and get a drink before rehearsal and to use "please" and "thank you" too!
4. Boys are encouraged to have a snack as they arrive. Water bottles may be brought into the rehearsal rooms.
5. The small practice rooms and all musical instruments are off limits to the boys. This reinforces respect for private property and being ready for rehearsal.
6. Set up chairs and risers as appropriate; the boys arriving early should help with set up of chairs as needed.
7. Boys should check in with the Choir Parents to get their nametag and be sure they are checked in.
8. We would like the Choir Parents to have their eyes on the boys consistently and give gently reminders of appropriate behavior. The Conductors will primarily do their own disciplining, but at times, they will "time boys out" by having them sit by a Choir Parent for 5-10 minutes.
9. Boys will be instructed to ask the Choir Parents for permission to use the restroom, get drinks, etc. While it's fine, please remind them that they will lose a point (not Junior Choir boys).
10. Choir parents should refrain from cell phone use and anything that may disrupt rehearsal, including talking. Your help is needed for rehearsals to run smoothly and keep boys safe.
11. As the conductor dismisses the boys, boys should stack their chair, if need be, and give the Choir Parents their nametag.
12. Boys should exit the same door that they entered.
13. Please make sure ALL boys have been picked up before leaving. **This is important!**
14. Please return any risers/tables/chairs and check the room for any housekeeping issues before you leave.
15. At rehearsals and concerts, please keep the boys in order and help them with their ties, and collars, and shirt tucking, so they look good. Conductors would appreciate your help with this so that they may concentrate on conducting, and not deal with discipline/clothing issues before concerts. We generally ask that one or two Choir Parents sit with the choir at concerts, in case of a boy needing to go to the restroom, etc.

Thank you for all you do for the boys and Appleton Boychoir!