



Raising the voice of choral music

choir alberta

26 November 2024

Dear Conductor/Music Teacher,

It is my pleasure to invite you to recommend choristers from your school/choir to the 2025 Alberta Children's Choir program (ACC). ACC is Alberta's only choir program for young singers 11 to 15 which provides the opportunity for children from across the province to pursue excellence in choral music under the direction of a renowned choral conductor and music educator. This year, ACC will be presented in Edmonton, and you are invited to recommend up to 8 of your strongest singers to participate!

Enclosed are recommendation materials and information for ACC. The procedure to recommend singers has been designed to be quick; instructions are provided in the Recommendation Packet. Please review these materials carefully. Chorister Questionnaires and Recommendation Rubrics will be uploaded to an online form. Each singer's materials will be reviewed by an independent jury, and the roster will be established in mid-January.

ACC 2025 will take place in Edmonton between 13 and 16 March 2025 under the direction of Sandra Meister (Director of Die Meistersingers in British Columbia). A preparatory rehearsal will be held online on 1 March 2025.

Please note that the deadline to recommend singers is Friday, 10 January 2025.

Payment plans and bursaries are available for registration fees. In addition, special hotel rates will be arranged in Edmonton for out-of-town choristers.



Choir Alberta elevates the choral community in the province by offering programs, resources, training, and performance opportunities that celebrate diversity, inclusivity, and excellence in choral art.

Each year we provide unique opportunities and enriching experiences to more than 15,000 people, including choral leaders, educators, singers and audiences.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions you may have about the Alberta Children's Choir program. We hope to have the opportunity to meet your singers in ACC 2025!

Sincerely,

Helen Aquino
Program Coordinator

780.488.7464 5708 72 St NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6B 3J4



choir alberta

proudly presents the 2025



ALBERTA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Alberta's honour choir program
for singers between the ages of 11 and 15

EDMONTON — 13-16 March 2025

Sandra Meister, guest conductor

RECOMMENDATION PACKET



The **Alberta Children's Choir program** is the only provincial honour choir for singers between the ages of 11 and 15. This choir provides an opportunity for children from across the province to pursue musical excellence under the direction of a renowned choral conductor and music educator. Each year, the Alberta Children's Choir rehearses and performs a diverse and challenging concert program through which singers develop their musical and interpersonal skills. In 2025, ACC will be offered as a single, province-wide choir, taking place in Edmonton.

Admission to the Alberta Children's Choir is by music teacher/conductor recommendation. Music teachers/conductors are asked to send home the enclosed Letter and Chorister Questionnaire to be completed by the recommended singer and their parents. The Questionnaire is to be returned to you by the singer and submitted online with your Recommendation Rubric (one completed for each singer being recommended).

We invite you to recommend singers from your choir!

ACC is a wonderful program for gifted and hard-working young singers! The experience for choristers goes beyond the synthesis of their vocal, aural, theoretical, technical and interpretive skills. It provides them the opportunity to meet new friends and to work on a consistently high caliber of repertoire. Being in this safe environment of music-making builds their confidence for performing. It has always been a pleasure for me as a conductor to be able to recommend my choristers and have them come back rejuvenated with added tools and strategies for healthy singing. ACC also allows them the opportunity to be leaders in their choir as they model what they have learned and share their experience with other choristers.

— Beth Pecson
Music Teacher, Monsignor Fee Otterson School

I participate in the ACC, because I think it is a good way of sharing your musical talents with everyone else. It is so much fun, and a great way to make friends. What I like about the ACC is that everyone there gets the chance to learn different techniques about music. We are all wanting to be there, and everyone is always happy. I play the piano, and doing the ACC for 2 years, has helped me with different piano techniques and tricks, such as reading notes way faster and better. Everyone is always so nice at the ACC, and being there makes me want to smile! I keep going back to the ACC, because it is so much fun, and it is a great opportunity. I am so lucky to have the chance to participate in the Alberta Children's Choir.

— Elysha, Northern ACC Chorister
Northern Lights Harmonics, Plamondon

Recommendation Instructions

1. Teachers/conductors are invited to develop a list of up to 8 of their strongest singers for recommendation. Please note that, whenever possible, teachers are asked to recommend an equal number of sopranos and altos.
2. Teachers/conductors distribute the Letter and Chorister Questionnaire Forms (provided in this Recommendation Packet) to the singers selected for recommendation.
3. Singers and their parents/guardians complete the Chorister Questionnaire and return it to their teacher/conductor.
4. Using their knowledge of the singers and the information provided on the Chorister Questionnaires, teachers/conductors complete a brief Recommendation Rubric for each singer.
5. Teachers/conductors upload a scanned copy of the completed Chorister Questionnaires and Recommendation Rubrics to the online Recommendation Form available at <https://www.choiralberta.ca/recommend-choristers.html>
6. A panel of children's choir conductors and music educators will review the recommendation materials and establish the roster for the choir.
7. Teachers/conductors will be advised as to which of their recommended singers have been accepted into the Alberta Children's Choir program. Acceptance letters and registration forms, and encouraging letters of non-acceptance, will be sent directly to recommended choristers by the Choir Alberta office.
8. Upon the receipt of registration forms and fees, music folders will be sent directly to the homes of accepted choristers.

Timeline for Teachers/Conductors

By 27 Dec 2024

Establish list of recommended singers and send Chorister Questionnaires (provided) to those choristers.

By 3 Jan 2025

Recommended singers return their Chorister Questionnaires to teachers/conductors.

By 10 Jan 2025

Teachers/conductors complete the Recommendation Rubrics and attach them to the online Recommendation Form available at [available at https://www.choiralberta.ca/recommend-choristers.html](https://www.choiralberta.ca/recommend-choristers.html).

By 17 Jan 2025

The ACC roster will be released. Emails will be sent to parents/guardians of singers as well as to recommending teachers.

By 7 Feb 2025

All accepted singers must have submitted their registration forms. A variety of payment options/plans will be available. **Note that music folders and links to rehearsal mp3s will be sent directly to singer homes upon the receipt of registration materials.**

1 Mar 2025

A preparatory rehearsal will take place online between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

13-16 Mar 2025

ACC residency and concert in Edmonton.

Performance

ACC 2025

Sunday, 16 Mar 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Francis Winspear Centre for Music
4 Sir Winston Churchill Square,
Edmonton, AB

General Admission \$29 + service charges
Students & Seniors \$24 + service charges



Q & A

Q: What age must a singer be to participate in ACC?

A: Singers must be between the ages of 11 and 15 to participate. Singers younger than 11 will not be admitted to the choir.

Q: Where & when will the preparatory rehearsals take place?

A: The preparatory rehearsal for ACC 2025 will take place online via Zoom on Saturday February 22. Details will be sent out to all registered singers.

Q: Do ACC participants receive complimentary tickets to the concert at the Winspear Centre?

A: Yes! All ACC singers will receive one complimentary ticket to the ACC Showcase Concert for use by a family member or friend.

Other questions?

Please feel free to contact the Choir Alberta office by phone (780-488-7464) or by email (programs@choiralberta.ca).

SANDRA MEISTER
GUEST CONDUCTOR



Sandra Meister is widely regarded as a leader in music education in Canada. Her exceptional contributions to music education have earned her numerous accolades, including the Governor General's Medal for outstanding contributions to compatriots, community and Canada, The British Columbia Music Educators Association Professional Educator Award, the Leslie Bell Memorial Award, the Arts Council Lifetime Achievement Award, the Rotary Club Citizenship Award and the British Columbia Choral Federations' Willan Award.

For more than twenty years Sandra led Die Meistersingers to widespread acclaim and recognition. The Meistersingers served as musical ambassadors for their community. Highlights include performing at and earning top honours at the Vienna International Fes-

tival, ISME (Helsinki), NAFME (New Orleans), Kathaumix, CMEA (Kingston) and a performance for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II at the opening of the University of Northern British Columbia.

Sandra is noted for her work in the area of curriculum and instruction. This has led to her serving on the Faculty for the BCCFs Choral Conducting Course for many years, Curriculum Development for the BC Ministry of Education as well as serving on the executive of the BCMEA.

Her passion for music education and her ability to inspire young musicians have made her a sought-after clinician and adjudicator. She has conducted numerous workshops, honour choirs, and master classes in North America, Europe, and China sharing her expertise with aspiring musicians and choral directors. Her leadership as a school principal, choral conductor, and mentor have had a significant impact on thousands of lives.

Sandra holds a Bachelor of Education (Simon Fraser University), a Master of Science (University of Oregon) and studied Choral Conducting at Westminster Choir College.

Sandra believes that being part of a singing community can bring a lifetime of joy.



Alberta Children's Choir Recommendation Rubric

Please submit a Recommendation Rubric for each chorister you recommend.
 Forward completed Recommendation Rubrics will be uploaded to your recommendation form.
 Deadline for submission – 10 Jan 2025

Recommended Chorister Name: _____ Age: _____ Voice Part (circle one): S1 S2 A

Recommending Conductor: _____ Home Choir: _____

Please circle the number in each row that best corresponds to the chorister in each area, then total the scores at the bottom.

	SUPERIOR	EXCELLENT				GOOD				SCORE
	10	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	
Pitch and rhythm:	10 Matches pitches perfectly in all vocal registers. Pitches are correct 100% of the time. Rhythmic accuracy and precision are exact.	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	/10
Tone quality:	10 Full, clear, even tone and good vocal production throughout the voice. Sings with an energized tone at all times, despite dynamic and pitch variation. No extra breath in the tone.	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	/10
Independence on a part & ear training:	10 Superb ear. Is able to hold their own part solidly when singing in harmony, while listening to others. Is a pillar in their section of the choir.	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	/10
Ability to learn music:	10 Reads music well and can learn it quickly and accurately prior to rehearsals.	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	/10
Retaining the material:	10 Retains the material very well from one rehearsal to rehearsal.	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	/10
Conduct:	10 Maintains a consistently high level of concentration at all rehearsals and in performance. Responds quickly to feedback from the conductor.	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	/10
Team-work:	10 Always demonstrates respect for others. Exhibits strong leadership skills.	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	/10
Physical approach to Singing:	10 Posture and body position are excellent while standing and sitting. Breathing is deep and relaxed. Jaw, neck and shoulders are relaxed.	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	/10

Total Score: /80

Congratulations! Your child has been recommended by their conductor/music teacher for the 2024 Alberta Children's Choir program (ACC), taking place in Edmonton on 13-16 March 2025.

The Alberta Children's Choir is the only provincial honour choir for singers between the ages of 11 and 15. This program provides an opportunity for children from across the province to pursue musical excellence under the direction of a renowned choral conductor and music educator. This year, our guest conductor is Sandra Meister, director of Die Meistersingers in British Columbia. Under their leadership, the selected singers will rehearse and perform a diverse and challenging concert program, through which they will develop their musical and interpersonal skills.

What's next?

Attached to this letter is a Chorister Questionnaire, which must be completed and returned to your child's music teacher/conductor. Please assist your child in completing it and answer each question as fully as possible. Your child's music teacher/conductor will submit this questionnaire to Choir Alberta along with a recommendation form.

Choristers will then be selected by a panel of children's choir conductors and elementary music educators based on teacher/conductor recommendation and the responses provided on the Chorister Questionnaire. Once the final roster has been established, parents/guardians will receive an email informing them as to whether their child has been selected for this year's choir. Choristers who are not selected will be sent an encouraging letter congratulating them on their recommendation.

Parents of choristers accepted into the Alberta Children's Choir will be forwarded the link to an online registration form shortly after the membership roster has been announced.

ACC choristers are required to attend all rehearsals, including an online preparatory rehearsal on March 1 (10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) and the residency on March 13-16. This will mean having to miss at least one day of school. A discounted room rate at a hotel near the rehearsal and concert venues will be available for out-of-town families.

It is the expectation of ACC choristers that they will practice with their music and rehearsal MP3s (which will be provided) so that they will know all notes and rhythms prior to the first rehearsal. The online preparatory rehearsal will be especially important for our guest conductor to communicate important markings and give the choristers guidance on what to practice.

The fee to participate in the Alberta Children's Choir is **\$265**. This includes two lunches in addition to music rental, the rehearsal tracks, a choir t-shirt, and program fees. Please note that it does **not** include accommodations or transportation.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Choir Alberta office at 780-488-7464 or by email at programs@choiralberta.ca. Thank you!



Chorister Questionnaire

Parents, please assist your child in completing this form.
**It must be returned to your conductor/
music teacher by 3 January 2025.**

Information collected on this form will be used solely for the Alberta Children's Choir selection process.

Chorister Name

Age

Parent/Guardian Name(s)

Parent/Guardian Email Address

Telephone Number

Recommending Choir

Music Teacher/Conductor Name

Please answer each of the following questions as fully as possible.

What other choirs have you sung in?

For how many years have you sung in choir?

Do you play any musical instruments, or do you take voice lessons? Which instruments, and for how long?

What is your favorite part about singing in choir?

What is the name of one of your favorite choir songs?

Please contact the Choir Alberta office (780-488-7464 or programs@choiralberta.ca) with any questions you may have regarding the Alberta Children's Choir program.