



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 <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](mailto: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.