



choir alberta

proudly presents the 2019



ALBERTA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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

EDMONTON — 24-27 Jan 2019

Francis Winspear Centre for Music
Elaine Quilichini, guest conductor

CALGARY — 31 Jan-3 Feb 2019

Bella Concert Hall, Mount Royal University
Ruth Dwyer, guest conductor

RECOMMENDATION PACKET



Microsoft



City of Edmonton



Long & McQuade
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



The **Alberta Children's Choir program** comprises two children's honour choirs for singers between the ages of 11 and 15. These choirs provide an opportunity for children from across the province to pursue musical excellence under the direction of an internationally recognized choral conductor and music educator. Each year, the Alberta Children's Choirs rehearse and perform a diverse and challenging concert program through which choristers develop their musical and interpersonal skills.

Admission to the Alberta Children's Choir is by music teacher/conductor recommendation. An online Recommendation Rubric has been provided for this purpose. In addition, music teachers/conductors are asked to send home the enclosed Chorister Questionnaire to be completed by the recommended chorister and their parents. The Questionnaire is to be returned to you and submitted online with your Recommendation Rubric.

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 8 of their strongest choristers for recommendation. Please note that, whenever possible, teachers are asked to recommend well-balanced octets (i.e. an equal number of sopranos and altos).
2. Teachers/conductors will distribute the Information Sheet and Chorister Questionnaire Forms (provided in this Recommendation Packet) to the 8 choristers selected for recommendation.
3. Choristers and their parents/guardians will complete the Chorister Questionnaire and return it to their teacher/conductor.
4. Using their knowledge of the choristers and the information provided on the Chorister Questionnaires, teachers/conductors complete a Recommendation Rubric for each chorister.
5. Teachers/conductors will 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 choristers 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.

Suggested Timeline for Recommending Choristers

By 23 Oct 2018

Establish list of recommended choristers and send Chorister Questionnaires (provided) home with those choristers.

By 6 Nov 2018

Recommended choristers return their Chorister Questionnaires to teachers/conductors.

By 13 Nov 2018

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 7 Dec 2018

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

By 21 Dec 2018

All accepted choristers 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 chorister homes upon the receipt of registration materials.**

12 Jan 2019

Preparatory rehearsals will take place in Edmonton and Calgary. Details will be released after the ACC roster has been established.

24-27 Jan 2019

Northern ACC residency and concert.

31 Jan-3 Feb 2019

Southern ACC residency and concert.

Q & A

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

A: Choristers must be between the ages of 11 and 15 to participate. Choristers 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 North will take place in Edmonton; the preparatory rehearsal for ACC South will take place in Calgary. Both rehearsals will be held on Saturday, 12 Jan 2018.

Performances

ACC North (Edmonton)

Sunday, 27 January 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Francis Winspear Center for Music
(4 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW)

General Admission \$25 + service charges
Promo Code Tickets \$19 + service charges

ACC South (Calgary)

Sunday, 3 Feb 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Bella Concert Hall, Mount Royal University
(4825 Mt Royal Gate SW)

General Admission \$25 + service charges
Promo Code Tickets \$19 + service charges



Q: Why does the recommendation process include a recommendation rubric?

A: We had received feedback from recommending teachers/conductors that they found the previous recommendation process, which included the ranking of choristers, to be challenging. The Recommendation Rubric serves as an alternative, and provides a tool through which teachers/conductors can assess the key choral skills of each of their recommended choristers without having to rank them.

Other questions?

Please feel free to contact the Choir Alberta office by phone (780-488-7464 or toll free 1-855-723-6397) or by email (info@choiralberta.ca).

ELAINE QUILICHINI
GUEST CONDUCTOR, NORTHERN ACC



Elaine Quilichini is recognized internationally for her exceptional musicianship, distinguished work and extraordinary gift for inspiring others. As a Master of Music (Kodály), she has served as a clinician, lecturer, adjudicator and guest conductor across Canada, the United States, and internationally.

In 1995, Ms. Quilichini founded the Calgary Girls Choir, and with her vision and passion has built it into one of the most celebrated choirs in the world. In addition, she is the Artistic Director of highly successful summer choral programs at Wichita State and Nebraska Wesleyan Universities. A notable indication of Ms. Quilichini's stature in the choral community is her successful choral series published by Alliance Music.

A Master of Music in Kodály Methodology has provided a strong philosophical and pedagogical base for Ms. Quilichini's work in music education and choral development. She built successful choirs at Mount Royal Conservatory, and conducted the University of Calgary Women's Choir for 10 years. Her students have achieved great success as music educators, conductors, and professional singers.

She is the recipient of the Alberta Kodály Association and the Alberta Choral Federation's "Con Spirito" achievement awards. This past October, she was honoured by her peers at the Alberta Music Conference when she received the Richard S. Eaton award for outstanding contributions to the choral art. She is also a Global Television Woman of Vision recipient. These awards celebrate and recognize her accomplishments and the passion, talent and commitment she embodies.

RUTH DWYER
GUEST CONDUCTOR, SOUTHERN ACC



Ruth E. Dwyer is internationally recognized as a treble and children's choir specialist and Kodály educator. She has been the guest conductor for

the OAKE National Children's Choir, numerous ACDA All-State Choirs and Honor Choirs. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Hoosier Hills Choral Festival in Southern Indiana and Philthrusong.org (Philanthropy Through Song) choral festivals supporting anti-drunk driving education. Mrs. Dwyer is a frequent guest conductor with the MidAmerica Productions and the New England Symphonic Wind Ensemble. She has recently traveled to São Paulo, Brazil to teach and conduct the GRAN FINALE XIII Festival Nacional de Corais Infantis e Jovens.

Mrs. Dwyer has been a conductor and Director of Education with the Indianapolis Children's Choir for 29 years. She is celebrating her 22nd year as the Artistic Director of the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir, a co-operative effort of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the Indianapolis Children's Choir. Her ensembles have performed for the Indiana Music Educators Association, the AOSA National Conference, in New York City's Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, across the USA and throughout Spain and Central Europe. She has prepared ensembles for performances with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Butler Nutcracker, the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Indianapolis Opera and numerous other organizations.

Mrs. Dwyer served the State of Indiana for 19 years as a public school music educator. Her teaching experiences include all levels of music instruction from 3 year olds to post graduate students. She has received the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Golden Baton Award, the IMEA Elementary Music Teacher of the Year, the Hoosier Musician Award and the Indianapolis Public Schools Rising Star award. She is an accomplished choral composer, arranger and the editor of the Ruth Dwyer Choral Series with Colla Voce Publishers.

Mrs. Dwyer has authored three curriculum books for ICC and is a frequent guest author for the Hal Leonard choral textbooks series. Mrs. Dwyer also teaches at Butler University and works as a studio conductor for The Choristers Guild.



Information for Parents

Congratulations! Your child has been recommended by their conductor/music teacher to take part in the 2019 Alberta Children's Choir program (ACC). Please note that choristers are recommended by their music teacher/conductor to ONE of Northern ACC (in Edmonton) or Southern ACC (in Calgary).

**Northern ACC (Edmonton)
24 to 27 January 2019**

**Southern ACC (Calgary)
31 January to 3 February 2019**

The Alberta Children's Choir program comprises two children's honour choirs for singers between the ages of 11 and 15. These choirs provide an opportunity for children from across the province to pursue musical excellence under the direction of an internationally recognized choral conductor and music educator. Each year, the Alberta Children's Choirs rehearse and perform a diverse and challenging concert program through which choristers develop their musical and interpersonal skills.

ACC choristers are 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 Questionnaires (attached). Once membership in each of the choirs 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.

Choristers selected for the 2019 Alberta Children's Choir program will be expected to attend a preparatory rehearsal on Saturday, 12 Jan 2019 in Edmonton (Northern ACC) or Calgary (Southern ACC).

The Northern ACC residency takes place 24-27 Jan 2019 in Edmonton; Southern ACC takes place 31 Jan-3 Feb 2019 in Calgary (choristers will be recommended to and participate in ONE of Northern or Southern ACC). A special room rate at a hotel near the rehearsal and concert venues will be available for out-of-town families.

ACC choristers are required to attend all rehearsals. This will mean having to miss at least one day of school.

It is the expectation of ACC choristers that they will practice with their music and rehearsal mp3's (both of which will be provided) so that they will know all notes and rhythms prior to the preparatory rehearsal on 12 Jan 2019.

This year's guest conductors are:

ACC North Elaine Quilichini, Founder and Artistic Director of the Calgary Girls Choir
ACC South Ruth Dwyer, Associate Director of the Indianapolis Children's Choir

The fee to participate in the Alberta Children's Choir is \$195. 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 780-488-7464/1-855-723-6397 or by email at info@choiralberta.ca. Thank you!



The **Alberta Children's Choir** is a program of Choir Alberta
www.choiralberta.ca | info@choiralberta.ca | 780-488-7464/1-855-723-6397



Chorister Questionnaire

Parents, please assist your child in completing this form.
**It must be returned to your conductor/
music teacher by 6 Nov 2018.**

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 (780-488-7464/1-855-723-6397 or info@choiralberta.ca) with any questions you may have regarding the Alberta Children's Choir program.



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 – 13 Nov 2018

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 of the following areas.

	SUPERIOR	EXCELLENT				GOOD				SCORE	
	10	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6		
Pitch and rhythm:	Matches pitches perfectly in all vocal registers. Pitches are correct 100% of the time. Rhythmic accuracy and precision are exact.	Matches pitches perfectly in most vocal registers. There are very few errors with pitch, typically during extremely difficult sections. Rhythmic accuracy & precision are excellent.	Matches pitches most of the time, but only in certain registers of the voice. May struggle with pitches in difficult sections. Rhythmic accuracy and precision are good most of the time.							/10	
Tone quality:	Full, clear, even tone and good vocal production throughout the voice. Singing with an energized tone at all times, despite dynamic and pitch variation. No extra breath in the tone.	Full, clear, even tone in most of the voice. Not pushed. Good use of head voice. Tone is energized the majority of the time with occasional lapses because of diction, range extremes or tempo.	Good tone most of the time. Occasionally pushes the chest voice in the lower register. Good basic approach is demonstrated. Tone is sometimes breathy. Tone and projection may distort because of diction or range extremes.								/10
Independence on a part & ear training:	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.	Excellent ear. Is able to hold their own part most of the time when singing in harmony.	Good ear. Is able to hold their own part when they are next to someone who sings their part. Not a leader though.								/10
Ability to learn music:	Reads music well and can learn it quickly and accurately prior to rehearsals.	Has a good ear, can hear the music once and learns it quickly and accurately. Can read music fairly well.	Has a pretty good ear, can learn the music after several times through it.								/10
Retaining the material:	Retains the material very well from one rehearsal to rehearsal.	Retains most of the material from rehearsal to rehearsal.	Retains most of the material from rehearsal to rehearsal, but requires a lot of practice to do so.								/10
Conduct:	Maintains a consistently high level of concentration at all rehearsals and in performance. Responds quickly to feedback from the conductor.	Maintains a consistently high level of concentration at most rehearsals and all performances.	Maintains concentration in rehearsals and concerts most of the time, but isn't always consistent.								/10
Team-work:	Always demonstrates respect for others. Exhibits strong leadership skills.	Consistently demonstrates respect for others. Approaches tasks and challenges in a positive way. Is helpful to others.	Demonstrates respect for others most of the time. Usually approaches tasks and challenges positively.								/10
Physical approach to Singing:	Posture and body position are excellent while standing and sitting. Breathing is deep and relaxed. Jaw, neck and shoulders are relaxed.	Posture and body position are excellent most of the time while standing and sitting. Breathing is deep and relaxed most of the time. Jaw, neck and shoulders are usually relaxed. Occasional lapses in posture, breathing or tension may occur during difficult passages or range extremes.	Posture and body position are basically good. There is an understanding of proper breathing but not the desired consistency. Posture may suffer if performing or rehearsing for a long period of time. Jaw, neck, and shoulders carry visible tension at times.								/10

Total Score: /80