



SPRINGFIELD CHILDREN'S CHORUS

**2016-2017**

# **Handbook**

## Welcome

Welcome to the Springfield Children's Chorus (SCC). This ensemble offers a unique performing opportunity for the young musicians of Clark County and beyond. Along with three youth orchestras, the SCC is part of the educational offerings of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra (SSO). You have been selected to take part in a very exciting musical experience! The 2016-2017 season will be a memorable one, providing you with musical challenges and opportunity for growth.

The chorus rehearses weekly, with a focus on music literacy skills, knowledge of quality choral repertoire, and application of musicality and expressive techniques.

This handbook contains most of the information you will need as members. *Members and parents* should become familiar with its contents - especially that which pertains to the responsibilities accompanying commitment to this ensemble.

### The Springfield Children's Chorus at a Glance

#### **Office**

**Location:** Clark State Performing Arts Center (CSPAC)  
300 S. Fountain Ave. Springfield, OH 45506  
Phone: 937-325-8100 Fax: 937-325-2299  
Website: [www.springfieldsym.org/scc](http://www.springfieldsym.org/scc)

#### **Rehearsal**

**Location:** Clark State Performing Arts Center – Hall of Honor  
201 S. Fountain Ave. Springfield, OH 45506

or

Clark State Performing Arts Center - Green Room  
300 S. Fountain Ave. Springfield, OH 45506

#### **SCC**

**Director:** Jennifer Wightman  
[jwightman@springfieldsym.org](mailto:jwightman@springfieldsym.org)

#### **SSO**

**Contacts:** Alek Peugh  
*SSO Director of Operations & Education*  
[alek@springfieldsym.org](mailto:alek@springfieldsym.org)

Dan Doherty  
*SSO Education Coordinator*  
[ddoherty@springfieldsym.org](mailto:ddoherty@springfieldsym.org)

**Rehearsals:** Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00pm in the Hall of Honor at the Clark State Performing Arts Center. The rehearsal location may occasionally change to the Clark State Performing Arts Center's Green Room. Students will always be notified in advance of any changes to the rehearsal venue, and these changes can be found in the SYO & SCC Google Calender, available on the Youth Musicians Log-In area of the SSO website (explained later).

## Attendance Policy and Membership Requirements

The conductor's goal is to make each rehearsal a meaningful experience for all involved. While performances often provide the most memorable highlights of the year, our rehearsals reveal most about who we are as an ensemble – our musical maturity and dedication, our respect for one another and our ability to work together intensively.

Extraordinary responsibility is placed on each musician for preparation of individual parts. Musicians are expected to diligently prepare for rehearsal and to arrive ready to contribute at their highest level.

It is very important that members and parents be familiar with and understand the following policies. Failure to observe them could result in denial of permission to participate in a concert or dismissal from the chorus.

1. **Tuition:** A non-refundable yearly tuition fee of \$275 will be charged to all members of the SCC. This tuition must be paid by **Monday, August 29, 2016**. Members may not participate until their tuition has been paid in full, or financial arrangements have been made. A discount is available for multiple family members. The first child pays the full fee of \$275, and each subsequent child will receive a 50% discount on the tuition. Checks should be made payable to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. A limited amount of need-based financial aid is available. Applications for financial aid may be obtained by contacting Alek Peugh at 937-325-8100.
2. **Attendance:** Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. Our attendance policies are strict to ensure the highest quality performance, which is only possible if all members are present. Please evaluate your coming year's schedule, including musical and non-musical activities, in school and out of school, to be sure that you are able to meet the commitment to the ensemble that we expect. **A student may miss two rehearsals in the fall semester and two rehearsals in the spring semester.** Excessive absences or tardiness will result in possible denial of permission to perform for an upcoming concert or dismissal from the group, at the discretion of the conductor. Notification in advance of any absence or tardiness is expected, and should be made by calling the SSO office at 937-325-8100.
3. **Punctuality:** For rehearsals, plan to be seated with your music no less than five minutes before the start of the rehearsal. A call time will be specified for each performance.
4. **Materials:** Each musician is responsible for bringing his/her music to rehearsal. This includes any octavos or sight-reading sheets provided by the conductor. Every musician is expected to come to rehearsal with a #2 pencil and eraser. There will be many musical suggestions and modifications to the music through the course of every rehearsal and it is imperative that each is marked down in pencil, **NOT PERMANENT INK**. Because students will be given original parts, if music is lost, students will be charged \$3.00 per replacement copy.
5. **Behavior:** SCC members are required to treat all rehearsal and performance venues and all equipment in the buildings with utmost care and respect. All members are required to behave appropriately while representing their ensemble. Disrespectful behavior of any kind during a concert or rehearsal may result in dismissal from the chorus. The SCC program is privileged to be able to use the Performing Arts Center and all chorus members are expected to maintain a professional manner at all times. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to rehearsal because of vocal expectations throughout the rehearsal. However, during the rehearsal break, food and drink are not permitted in any other area of the CSPAC, except for the "Green Room".
6. **Rehearsal Etiquette:** All electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, etc. must be turned off prior to rehearsal and put away in purses or bags during rehearsal, with the exception of the break time. Students who are texting or otherwise engaged with their phones or other electronic devices during rehearsal time are subject to dismissal from the rehearsal.

7. **Zero Tolerance Policy:** The Springfield Symphony Orchestra organization does not tolerate negative comments or behavior regarding race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious preference at any time. Such negative comments or behavior *will result in immediate dismissal from the chorus*. The use of any illegal substances including tobacco, drugs, and alcohol is also not permitted and subject to immediate dismissal from the Springfield Children's Chorus.
8. **Private Study:** SCC members are encouraged to take private lessons on voice and/or piano. The SSO office will be happy to provide recommendations for private lesson teachers in the area.
9. **Withdrawal or Dismissal from the SCC:** You are expected to make a full season's commitment to the Springfield Children's Chorus program. If you must withdraw from the program, you must do so in writing, indicating the reasons and circumstances for your withdrawal. **No refund of tuition will be extended.**

**Grounds for Dismissal:**

- Failure to honor conditions of membership as stated in the handbook.
  - Failure to maintain a high level of performance appropriate to your orchestra demonstrated through private study, school involvement (if applicable), proper rehearsal behavior, and practice as determined by the conductor.
  - Any criminal behavior within the SYO or the community at large.
  - Repeated absences, tardiness, lack of practice, or disruptive or inappropriate rehearsal behavior.
  - Disciplinary action will be taken via the following steps:
    1. First offense: verbal warning
    2. Second offense: parental contact via phone, email, and/or letter
    3. Third offense: meeting with parent(s)/guardian(s), conductor, student, and SSO staff
    4. Fourth offense: dismissal from the group
  - Please note that dismissal is ultimately the conductor's decision and is not one that will be made lightly. Severe misconduct may result in skipping one or more of these steps, but the parent(s)/guardian(s) will always be informed of issues before dismissal is considered.
10. **Inclement Weather Policy:** Generally, if Springfield City Schools are cancelled, there will be no SCC rehearsals. A group e-mail will also be sent to members if a rehearsal is cancelled. *Be sure to include accurate student and parent e-mail addresses on the registration form.* You may tune in to WHIO TV channel 7, visit the Springfield Schools website at <http://www.spr.k12.oh.us/>, or call the SSO office at 937-325-8100 after 12:00 p.m. on the day of the rehearsal for cancellation information. **As of 2016-17, you may also check the Google Calendar and SCC website for this information.**
  11. **The SCC Website:** In an effort to reduce the amount of paper generated by the SSO office, as of this season we are moving heavily to the use of electronic versions of forms. All forms, handbooks, schedules, and audition repertoire can be found on the SCC's website, located at <http://www.springfieldsym.org/youth-log-in/>. To log in to this part of the website, enter syouser in both the username and password field and click submit. **Most importantly, the Google Calendar on this site is the official, final word on rehearsal and performance schedules, report times, etc. Please add this calendar to your phone or bookmark the page.** We will no longer be sending home multiple copies of the semester schedule.

12. **Student Leadership Opportunities:** SCC members may apply for leadership opportunities and may earn community service hours for the following:

- Helping with set-up or tear-down of rehearsal chairs and stands
- Providing help at SCC auditions (check-in or leading students to audition rooms)
- Serving as student librarian of the SCC

SCC Director Mrs. Wightman can be asked about these opportunities to serve. The SSO organization reserves the right to determine what student activities constitute community service that is deserving of the signature of SSO staff.

### Concert Dress

The SCC will have a standard uniform for boys and girls that is to be purchased at the beginning of the season. For the 2016-2017 season, students will be measured during the Parent Night and Open House on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 and uniforms will be ordered by the SSO office. Uniforms are to be paid for along with tuition by the first rehearsal, August 29, 2016, unless other arrangements have been made with the SSO office.

#### **Girls**

- \* Purple dress
- \* Gold loop belt
- \* Natural or black hose
- \* Black dress shoes (no boots)
- \* Hair secured away from face with black hair accessories
- \* No flashy jewelry or accessories

#### **Boys**

- \* Black dress trousers
- \* White long sleeve dress shirt
- \* Black vest
- \* Black dress shoes (no boots)
- \* Black bow tie

No excessive hairspray, body spray, perfumes or colognes

### Fundraising

Student tuition covers approximately 30% of our total youth budget, and fundraising is essential to help provide a quality program while still offering an affordable tuition fee. In order to ensure the financial stability of the SCC, it is necessary for students and families to participate in our annual Sing-a-thon fundraiser, an event similar in concept to a “walk-a-thon”. Our event, held in combination with the Youth Orchestra’s Play-a-thon, is a fun educational and social experience that also raises necessary operating funds. This season’s Sing-a-thon is scheduled for Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Detailed information will be sent to all students mid-way through the first semester. **An early portion of the evening is scheduled as rehearsal time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, and attendance is mandatory for that block of time. Missing that rehearsal will count as one absence toward the two absences allowed per semester.**

### Springfield Symphony Orchestra Concert Tickets

We highly encourage SCC members and their families to attend a minimum of one Springfield Symphony concert per year. The value of attending a live performance of a professional musical group includes an enhanced appreciation and understanding of music. Live performances, in addition to being educational, also provide inspiration to young musicians.

All SCC members may receive complimentary tickets to any Springfield Symphony Orchestra concert, and their immediate family members may purchase tickets for 50% off the single ticket price. To obtain tickets, call the Clark State Performing Arts Center Ticket Office at 328-3874 *prior to* the day of the concert and tell them you are a Springfield Children’s Chorus member or family member. They will make sure you get the complimentary ticket and the discount. SCC families are also encouraged to purchase season subscriptions, available as complimentary for the chorus students and at 50% off the single ticket price for family members.

## CLARK STATE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER DIRECTIONS:

Come to Springfield on Route 70 and exit at Rt. 72 (Limestone St., exit 54). Go north on Limestone St. approximately 1.6 miles, and you will come to Selma Rd. Turn left, then immediately veer toward the right, and you will again be on Limestone St. (It's a Springfield thing...) Although the Performing Arts Center (PAC) address is 300 S. Fountain, you will actually need to come to the Turner Studio Theater entrance of the building, which is on Limestone St., right across the street from the YMCA. You will enter the Turner Studio Theater Lobby. There will be signage to direct you to the proper places. If you are coming from points north or northwest and do not want to take Rt. 70, you can enter 301 S. Limestone St. as your destination in the mapping program of your choice. PARKING is across the street from the PAC. There is a Clark State parking lot adjacent to the YMCA parking lot. Contact the SSO Office at 937-325-8100 for any further assistance.

