



EDMONTON | Youth and Children's Choirs

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# Choir Handbook

*Primary Choir*

*Junior Choir*

*Girls' Choir*

*Boys' Choir*

*Youth Choir*

**2018-2019**

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## I. INTRODUCTION TO THE CHOIR ORGANIZATION

### **Welcome to the Edmonton Youth and Children's Choirs!**

This handbook has been prepared for all choir members and parents. **Please keep it in a safe but accessible place and refer to it often!**

**Edmonton Youth & Children's Choirs** (EYCC) are a family of choirs under the Artistic Direction of Dr. John Wiebe. EYCC includes the Youth Choir, Girls' Choir, Boys' Choir, Junior Choir and the Primary Choir.

The Youth and Children's Choirs, although a family of choirs, operate as two independent not-for-profit societies, run by parents and interested community members: Edmonton Children's Choir Association (Girls', Boys', Junior and Primary Choirs) and Edmonton Youth Choir Association (Youth Choir). Approximately 150 singers are members of these choirs.

Our choirs were formed in 1993 and trace their roots back to school and community choirs founded by Anne McIntyre. In 1994 the Youth Choir joined the Children's Choir; in 2007 the Children's Choir split into a Boy's and Girls' Choir component; in 2011 we added the Junior Choir and in 2012, the Primary Choir was formed.

**Primary Choir** Your child's choral experience begins in this, the youngest and newest of our ensembles (ages 6-8). Designed especially for children in grades 1 – 3 with a 50 minute rehearsal, this choir is the perfect introduction to choral singing and music. Vocal instruction, ear training, movement and great music form the basis of this program.

**Junior Choir** is the second choir in our program. Here the children rehearse one and a half hours per week, receiving professional vocal training and coaching from their conductor and guest clinicians. The **Junior Choir** participates in workshops, concerts, and festivals throughout the season, performing fine repertoire especially suited for young singers.

**Girls' Choir** is comprised of female singers ages 12-14 or in grades 7 to 9. This choir has a proud performance tradition winning recognition in Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan, as well as nationally and internationally. The choir rehearses 2 hours per week, continuing to develop the vocal instrument while exploring challenging two, three and four-part treble music. **Girls' Choir** also introduces choristers to the touring experience. The Girls' Choir, together with the Boys' Choir, travel locally as well as nationally. In past years they have participated in exchanges with the Atlantic Vocal Ensemble from St. John's, Newfoundland, the Queens County Girls' Choir from Liverpool, Nova Scotia, the Guelph Youth Singers from Guelph, Ontario, and traveled to Winnipeg, Vancouver, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Hawaii.

**Boys' Choir**, we are proud to offer a unique program for our junior high age boys. This choir provides a nurturing home for male singers ages 11-14 (grades 6-9). Boys receive quality vocal training and music education, as well as a secure environment to develop socially. Challenging two, three and four-part music is introduced, and this group performs with the men of the **Edmonton Youth Choir** as well as the **Girls' Choir**. This choir performs locally and like the Girls' Choir, introduces the singers to the touring experience, having traveled to Newfoundland, Winnipeg, Nova Scotia, Vancouver, Guelph, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Hawaii and the Western Canadian Boys' Choir Festival in Calgary.

**Youth Choir** (EYC) is an Edmonton and area chamber choir dedicated to the performance of excellent music from a variety of cultures and genres. Established in 1995, EYC consists of singers aged 14 to 24 who are committed to creating music of the highest calibre. The excellence of EYC is proven by their success in local competitions (1<sup>st</sup> Place – Unifest, Saskatoon), national competitions (finalists and semi-finalists – CBC Choral Competition) and internationally (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, Llangollen, Wales, two gold-medals at the World Choir Games). EYC, along with providing an exceptional choral experience, has the added benefit of providing an opportunity for travel, fun and the development of lasting friendships. Recent international tours include South Africa, World Choir Games (Latvia), Lithuania, China, Peru, Russia, Estonia, and Finland.

# EDMONTON YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

## Mission Statement

*To prepare singers ages 6 -24 for choral performances of the highest standard, explore and expand their knowledge of the repertoire, introduce our audiences to the beauty and power of this music and to develop strong characters that enrich our community with insight, cultural awareness, respect and self-discipline.*

## Vision Statement

*Through a continued commitment to artistic excellence in the classical choral tradition, we will develop the musicianship and character of our choristers, supported by sustainable programs, structures and funding models that allow all children and youth in Edmonton the opportunity to experience choral excellence and benefit from a superior music education.*

## Core Values

The core values governing Edmonton Youth & Children's Choirs:

1. **Excellence:** We believe that young people can be inspired to achieve excellence and that as an organization dedicated to excellence EYCC provides a venue for choristers to realize their potential.
2. **Musicianship:** We aim to develop in our choristers the ability to read, interpret, and perform music with a high degree of accuracy and sensitivity. We believe in the inherent value of music education, offering a traditional choral education, emphasizing music literacy and vocal technique in a variety of music styles.
3. **Community:** We believe that choir provides a safe place for children and young people to gather, make life-long friends, develop self-discipline and express themselves through music. We believe that by developing positive associations with other community groups our organization can serve the community through music and thereby foster respect and personal growth in our choristers.

Inclusivity – as part of our commitment to creating intentional and positive community, it is the policy of the Edmonton Children's Choir Association and the Edmonton Youth Choir Association to welcome singers of any race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic status. EYCC is committed to inclusion as a value and practice in all aspects of membership in our organizations and we aim to embrace and celebrate the diversity of our community.

Environmental Stewardship – together with our hosts (Southminster-Steinhauer United Church) we want to set an example for our choristers and their families by avoiding the use of disposable plastics and Styrofoam, when possible. We request our members avoid bringing disposable containers, plastics and Styrofoam into the facility through the use of reusable containers including re-useable water bottles.

Scent-sitivity - Southminster-Steinhauer United Church is a "Fragrance Free" place. In order to provide a safe space for people with fragrance sensitivities, allergies, asthma and other medical conditions, we ask that you please refrain from wearing perfumes and scented products to rehearsal.

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

All regular rehearsals are held at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, 10740-19 Avenue, Edmonton

<b>Primary Choir</b> rehearses each Tuesday from	4:30 – 5:20 pm or 5:30 - 6:20 pm
<b>Junior Choir</b> rehearses each Tuesday from	5:30 – 7:00 pm or 6:00 – 7:30 pm
<b>Boys' Choir</b> rehearses each Tuesday from	6:30 - 8:30 pm
<b>Girls' Choir</b> rehearses each Tuesday from	6:30 - 8:30 pm
<b>Youth Choir</b> rehearses each Tuesday from	7:00 – 9:30 pm

## STAFF

**Dr. John Wiebe** is an award-winning conductor and pianist based in Edmonton, Alberta where he runs the Edmonton Youth & Children's Choirs and is the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Alberta-Augustana campus. He is the Past-President of Choral Canada, and has studied at Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Alberta, with Frieder Bernius from Stuttgart, Germany, and in Vienna, Austria. John is a regular clinician and adjudicator across Canada who likes to keep in shape for his music schedule by travelling with his family, running, and playing hockey.

**Jorgianne Talbot** is a Curriculum and Resource Support Consultant (Music) for Edmonton Public Schools. Jorgianne has a Master of Music in Music Education Degree (Kodály Emphasis) with Distinction from Capital University (Columbus, OH), three Diplomas with Honours in Music Pedagogy, Choral Conducting, and Voice Pedagogy from the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music (Kecskemét, Hungary), an After-Degree in Elementary Education and a Bachelor of Music Degree with Distinction (Voice Performance) from the University of Alberta. Jorgianne has taught K-9 (elementary and choral) music, early childhood music to children ages 0-5, and has conducted children's choirs. Although Jorgianne was born and raised in Edmonton, she considers Kecskemét, Hungary her "home away from home" and travels there every year. Jorgianne is very excited to be working with the primary choristers!

**Beth Pecson** is an accomplished choral director, music teacher, pianist and church musician working in Edmonton, Alberta. She began her music education studies at St. Scholastica's College of Music (Manila, Philippines) and completed her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta. For the past 20 years Beth has taught with the Edmonton Catholic Schools as a music specialist where her choirs have been featured at various local and provincial festivals as well as in district liturgical and fine arts celebrations. Her choirs are known for their warm sound, consummate musicianship, and the joy they convey through their singing. Beth's strong leadership skills and warm personality are evidenced by the way children love singing for her. Beth also serves as the music ministry coordinator of Annunciation Church in Edmonton, where she directs a youth and an adult choir. She lives in Edmonton with her husband and their two sets of twins.

**Susan Farrell**, (Girls' Choir) B.Mus. and B.A. (Mount Allison University), M.Mus. (University of Alberta) has been with EYCC since 2010. A proud native of Nova Scotia, Susan grew up in the Pictou District Honour Choir, where she acted as Head Chorister of the choir for four years. Susan has studied with Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff, Dr. Debra Cairns, Dr. Gayle Martin, and has participated in master classes with Dr. Simon Carrington and Dr. Julia Davids. Besides her work with ECC, Susan is Artistic Director for the Braille Tones Choir, the Semitones Children's Choir (an inclusive choir for children with disabilities) and is the music director at St. Paul's United Church and assistant conductor of the Òran Chamber Choir.

**Adam Robertson** (Boys' Choir) is finishing Doctoral studies in choral conducting at the University of Alberta. He holds a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from that same university, as well as a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from the University of Lethbridge. In the past Adam has directed Lethbridge's Cantare Girls Choir and Avanti Women's Ensemble, Sherwood Park's Festival singers, and has served as the

assistant director for Edmonton's Da Camera Singers. Adam has served as the conductor of the Boys' choir and co-conductor of the Edmonton Children's Choir since 2011. In addition to his duties with EYCC, he has served as the assistant conductor for the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus since 2006.

**Cherie Larson, B.Mus.**, has been with the choirs since 1998...either as accompanist or choir mom. Cherie started her degree at the U of A as a pianist/violinist and graduated with a B.Mus (Performance) in viola/organ...but continues to play on all four instruments. She has served as Music Director (Edmonton Society for Talent Education), accompanies recitals and concerts, and has a viola/violin teaching studio. Cherie accompanies two choirs at Trinity Church, the Semitones choir, the Parkinsong choir, the Edmonton Junior Choir and the Edmonton Girls' Choir.

**Remi Do** moved to Canada in 2000 from her home in South Korea. She has studied with Jacques Despres and Patricia Tao at the University of Alberta, performing her own recitals in 2002 and in 2006. Remi received her music degree in 2006 and is now accompanist for the Primary, Boys' and Children's Choirs, the Edmonton Metropolitan Chorus, Edmonton Young Voices, Archbishop MacDonald High School Choir, and teaches in her own studio of 20 students.

**Lisa Eriksson** is the Administrative Assistant for our choir programs. She is a long-time choir mother and supporter who enjoys getting to know and support the families in our choirs. This is her eleventh season as our Administrative Assistant. She is the cheerful person you'll speak to by phone and email regarding the many details that keep our choirs running.

## II. REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION

Registration takes place in the spring and fall. In the spring, current choir members are encouraged to pre-register for the next season. A registration deposit fee is charged to hold the chorister's spot in the choir. Choristers who have not sung with the Edmonton Youth & Children's Choir program are requested to meet with the conductor of their choir for a vocal placement test. Completed registration forms and payment can be submitted on the first rehearsal day or on the Welcome Day, Saturday, September 15.

### FUNDRAISING

#### Casino

To enable our choristers to receive the quality vocal training and music experience that is the hallmark of these choirs, a primary fundraising vehicle for both the Edmonton Youth Choir Association and the Edmonton Children's Choir Association is a casino which occurs once every two years for both Associations. The revenue from casinos provides the choirs a significant amount of the required funds for operations. The funds are used for uniforms, music, festival registration costs, tour costs, as well as to keep the tuition fees for choristers at a reasonable level. All families of choristers in the Girls', Boys' and Youth Choirs are expected to provide a worker for the Casino. Primary Choir and Junior Choir families are not required to volunteer at the casino events.

*Families may choose to pay extra fees in lieu of the use of casino funds.*

## Other Fundraising Activities

At registration each family is required to submit a fundraising deposit cheque. This cheque, postdated to April 15, 2019, will be returned or destroyed at the end of the season, provided that the family has raised the required amount in profit through choir fundraising activities. Fundraising opportunities include selling grocery and Salisbury Greenhouse gift cards as well as Purdy's Chocolates. Fall is the intensive time for the grocery store gift card orders. Purdy's orders will be orchestrated in time for Christmas and Easter delivery.

Funds raised in excess of the fundraising requirement may go towards reducing that chorister's tour and travel fees or choir fees for the following year.

Choristers and families are welcome to organize events that allow for individual fund-raising opportunities. These events must be approved by the Parent Executive of the Choir in which your chorister participates.

## BURSARY

For choristers whose families may be experiencing financial difficulties, bursaries are available through both the Edmonton Youth Choir Association and the Edmonton Children's Choir Association. Bursary applications can be made after registration and initial payment (not deposit) have been received in September. Applications and supporting documentation are due September 30. Contact the choirs for more information.

## DONATIONS

Both the Edmonton Children's Choir Association and the Edmonton Youth Choir Association are registered Non-profit Organizations under the Societies Act and welcome donations or gifts in kind. Tax receipts will be issued for donations made to the Choirs.

## CHOIR FEES FOR 2018-2019

Choir fees are set for each season within the annual budgets of the Edmonton Children's Choir Association and Edmonton Youth Choir Association.

Families with 2 or more choristers in any of the Primary Choir, Junior Choir, Girls' Choir, Boys' Choir or Youth Choir will be entitled to a 10% discount per chorister.

A uniform/music deposit fee is required for each chorister (except for Primary Choir). Cheques posted-dated to May 15<sup>st</sup> for the uniform/music deposits are to be submitted at choir registration. Cheques are returned when the formal uniform is turned in at the end of the choir season.

Should a chorister withdraw from a choir, refunds will be issued until September 30<sup>th</sup>, minus start-up and administration fees. **After September 30 refunds may be issued upon written request as per the Choir Refund Policy.**

Choir fees may be paid in 1 or 2 instalments. If neither of these payment plans will work for your family, please contact our Administrative Assistant to discuss alternate payment arrangements.



## Fee Schedule for 2018-2019 Season

	Primary Choir	Junior Choir	Girls', Boys' Choirs	Youth Choir
Choir Fees: includes Retreat, (Girls' Choir, Boys' Choir, Youth Choir), Uniform Rental & Activity Fees	\$315	\$450	\$630	\$840
*Tour Fees: TBD				
Choir Fees: non-use of casino funds	n/a	n/a	\$1050	\$1400

\*Tour fees are determined on an annual basis depending on the destination and nature of the tour. In the course of tour planning, payment deadlines will be provided. Should a chorister cancel his/her participation in the tour for any reason after a payment deadline, payments made to the date of the chorister's cancellation are NON-refundable.

## Refundable Fees

	Primary Choir	Junior Choir	Girls', Boys' Choir	Youth
Fundraising Deposit**	n/a	\$50	\$100	\$100
Uniform/Music Deposit***	n/a	\$75	\$100	\$100

\*\*Paid by post-dated cheque dated April 15, 2019.

\*\*\* Paid by post-dated cheque dated May 15, 2019

No fundraising or uniform/music deposit required for Primary Choir

All cheques are payable to **Edmonton Children's Choir (ECC)** (Primary, Junior, Girls' and Boys' Choirs) or **Edmonton Youth Choir (EYC)**.

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

Choir	Registration Deposit	Option 1	Option 2		Total
			September 15	January 1	
Primary Choir	\$50	\$265	\$165	\$100	\$315
Junior Choir	\$50	\$400	\$225	\$150	\$450
Girls' & Boys' Choirs	\$100	\$530	\$330	\$200	\$630
Girls' & Boys' Choirs non-casino	\$100	\$950	\$550	\$400	\$1050
Youth Choir	\$100	\$740	\$450	\$290	\$840
Youth Choir non-casino	\$100	\$1300	\$650	\$490	\$ 1400

### III. CHOIR PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at all rehearsals, workshops and concerts is **mandatory** if progress is to be made both by the individual singer and by the choir. Absence is given serious consideration by the conductor. Please notify the conductor of an absence **prior** to the missed rehearsal. (The more advance the notice, the better.) Participation in any concert or performance event is subject to satisfactory attendance at the rehearsals preceding the event, and is at the conductor's discretion.

When a singer has been absent, it is up to the chorister (and parent—for the Primary, Junior, Girls' and Boys' Choirs) to determine:

- what work was missed
- what music/notices were handed out

#### **REHEARSALS**

Choir members learn a substantial amount of music each year. Every minute of rehearsal must be used wisely. Some guidelines for rehearsals:

- be well rested
- arrive 5 - 10 minutes early

Extra rehearsals are usually necessary before major concerts. Make sure the dates and locations are well marked on a calendar as times and rehearsal sites will vary.

Singers should bring a plastic water container to rehearsal and drink often. It is important to remain hydrated. Juice, pop or food are not allowed in the rehearsal area.

#### **MATERIALS AND MUSIC**

Each singer is responsible for taking care of his/her music folder (except for Primary and Junior Choir members). Taking care of the folder includes remembering it for each rehearsal. Having to share music is an inconvenience to other singers.

All music must be returned in good order when requested by the conductor. Choral music is very expensive and should be returned with all of the singer's individual markings erased. All markings must be done in pencil only.

#### **CHOIR COMMUNICATION**

Email is our primary way of sending out choir information. Each family needs to have an email account that is checked at least twice weekly for any choir notices or schedule changes. Some information will also be disseminated directly to choristers. Please check with your choristers after each rehearsal for notices. Collect all of the choir communications in a binder or other safe place for quick reference.

The EYCC website ([www.edmontonyouthchoir.ca](http://www.edmontonyouthchoir.ca)) provides up to date information especially related to the schedule of choir rehearsals and performances including all necessary details regarding location, time and dress. Please check the website often. For password and login to the "members only" section of the website, contact the EYCC Administrative Assistant.

## UNIFORMS

The image projected by choir members is very important. Requirements for uniforms, as set out here, are of the utmost importance. All uniforms must be well cared for—that is worn only for choir performances, kept pressed and on a hanger and labelled with the chorister's name and kept in the garment bag provided. Prior to and following performances, all choristers are asked to remain in uniform until out of public place. (i.e. Do not remove ties, open collar until you change into other clothes.)

For all choirs except Primary Choir, a uniform deposit is required. This is returned upon submission of the choir uniform, in good condition, at the end of the choral year.

### Primary Choir Uniform

- Coloured T-shirts (families purchase from the choir, \$15-\$20)
- Black dress pants
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes (not runners)

Remember that:

- Hair must be neat and tied/pinned back away from the face

### Junior Choir Uniform

- Girls:
  - Supplied by the Choir:
    - Jumper
    - White blouse (families purchase from the choir, \$25)
  - Parent's Responsibility:
    - Black opaque tights
    - Black closed toe dress shoes
- Boys:
  - Supplied by the Choir
    - Vest
    - White dress shirt (families purchase from the choir, \$25)
  - Parent's Responsibility:
    - Black pants
    - Black socks
    - Black dress shoes
- Remember that:
  - The jumper or vest is to be lovingly cared for
  - Black shoes **must** be black **dress** shoes with a closed toe (flats are great, runners are **not**)
  - Nail polish should not be worn
  - No obvious jewellery
  - Hair must be neat and tied/pinned back away from the face

### Girls' Choir Uniform

- Supplied by Choir:
  - Black Dress and blue flower pin
  - Long sleeved T-shirt with Logo
- Chorister's Responsibility:
  - Black opaque hose
  - Black, closed-toe, dress shoes (no metallic, platforms or heels exceeding  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch)
- Remember that:
  - The dress and pin should be lovingly cared for
  - Black shoes **must** be black **dress** shoes with a closed toe (flats are great, runners are **not**)
  - Nail polish should not be worn
  - No obvious jewellery

- Hair must be neat and tied/pinned back away from the face
- The dress may be washed on gentle cycle and hung to dry between performances as needed.
- **Remember to remove the flower pin from the dress before washing.**

### Boys' Choir Uniform

- Supplied by Choir:
  - Black vest
  - Black dress pants
  - Wooden bow tie
  - Long sleeved T-shirt with Logo
- Choristers Responsibility:
  - Black dress shoes
  - Black dress socks
  - White undershirt (not optional)
- From Derks Formal Wear:
  - Long-sleeved white dress-shirts are supplied to the choir by Derks. Families purchase the shirts from the choir (\$20-\$25).
- Remember that:
  - Black shoes **must** be black **dress** shoes not runners
  - Hair should be neat and away from the forehead and side of face
  - The choir-issued vest and black pants should be lovingly cared for. DO NOT WASH THE VEST OR PANTS, They are wool and are ruined if washed. In the event that the vest or pants are washed, the cost of replacement will be taken from the uniform deposit. Pants and vest are dry-cleaned by the choir at the end of the season.
  - The wooden bow tie should be kept neatly in its box between performances.

### Youth Choir Uniform

- Supplied by Choir:
  - Gown uniform and silk scarf
  - OR
  - Black tuxedo (jacket and pants)
- Chorister's Responsibility:
  - Gown - Black shoes and stockings
  - Tuxedo - Black socks, black dress shoes and a tuxedo shirt
- From Derks Formal Wear:
  - Tuxedo shirts are supplied to the choir by Derks. Tuxedo wearers purchase the shirts from the choir (\$25-\$27).
- Remember that:
  - The dress, uniform/tuxedo is to be lovingly cared for
  - Hair must be neat and tied/pinned away from the face
  - Black shoes **must** be black **dress** shoes
  - DO NOT WASH THE TUX PANTS, They are wool and are ruined if washed. In the event that jacket or pants are washed, the cost of replacement will be taken from the uniform deposit. The tux jacket and pants are dry-cleaned by the choir at the end of the season.
- Also remember that:
  - Nail polish should not be worn
  - No obvious jewellery
  - Black **dress** shoes must have a closed toe (flats are great, runners are **not**)
  - Gowns can be washed on gentle cycle as needed. The choir will clean all garments at year-end.

## PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

Before a performance:

- know **where** and **when** you are to meet
- be well rested – avoid sleep-overs the night before performances
- eat enough to sustain yourself, but avoid over-eating
- make sure uniform is properly prepared
- leave in plenty of time to avoid panic

A dress rehearsal is the last rehearsal before a performance and usually takes place in the performance venue. Normally you do **not** wear concert clothing to a dress-rehearsal.

## CHOIR SCHEDULE

At the beginning of the season a schedule is made available to all families that outlines the planned activities for the season. In addition to weekly rehearsals, choirs participate in weekend rehearsals and performances that benefit the development and profile of the choir and organization. Choristers and families are asked to ensure they are available for all scheduled events. While every effort is made to present a complete schedule at the beginning of the year, additional performance and rehearsal opportunities inevitably arise. Families will be notified of these schedule changes as soon as possible, by email and via the on-line calendar. It is then the responsibility of each chorister and family to notify the conductor if a conflict exists.

## CAMP NAKAMUN RETREAT

In fall, at the beginning of the choir season, a weekend retreat is held at Camp Nakamun which includes the Girls', Boys' and Youth Choirs. The Primary and Junior Choirs do not participate in this retreat. This year the retreat will take place **September 21-23, 2018**. The retreat is an important start to the season. Relationships are built at the retreat and extensive rehearsal time affords the choirs a good start to the season. This event is covered by the ECC and EYC budgets and no additional fees are required to be paid by families.

## TOURING

The touring experience is an important aspect of the choir experience. Touring affords the choir opportunities to establish relationships with choirs from other communities, work with various and diverse choral experts, expand our repertoire, and sing for a larger, diverse audience.

Tours for the Girls' and Boys' Choirs take the choir to destinations across Alberta and Canada. It is hoped that all members of the choir will participate in the tours, as these are wonderful opportunities for the choristers to grow and experience the world. The destination of these tours and any additional fees for these tours are agreed upon by the ECC Association.

The Youth Choir tours across Canada and the world. Past international tours have taken them to Bavaria and Germany; Wales and England; Russia, Estonia and Finland; Peru; China and to the World Choir Games 2014 in Riga, Latvia; South Africa; and Newfoundland and Labrador, England and Scotland in 2018.

The Junior Choir participates in choir experiences in Edmonton and area.

## EXPECTATION OF THE FAMILIES OF CHORISTERS

Being a member of EYCC requires a high degree of commitment, dedication and discipline from both the chorister and the chorister's family. It is important that parents from all choirs read and discuss all written communication with choristers following a rehearsal. It is also crucial that forms and information sheets be completed and returned on the date requested. Particular attention should be made when completing the medical forms to ensure they are completed fully and accurately. Advising the choir of any changes in medication allows us to provide due care for each chorister.

## EDMONTON YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS— PARENT ASSOCIATIONS

### Edmonton Children's Choir Association Edmonton Youth Choir Association

The Edmonton Children's Choir Association and the Edmonton Youth Choir Association are separate incorporated societies. Girls' Choir, Boys' Choir, Junior Choir and the Primary Choir operate under the auspices of *The Edmonton Children's Choir Association* which is incorporated as a society overseen by a parent executive. Youth Choir operates under the guidance of *The Edmonton Youth Choir Association* which is also an incorporated, charitable society overseen by a parent executive. All parents are automatically a part of their respective parent association and have the responsibility to participate in its activities unless their chorister has reached 18 years of age.

The elected executives of the Edmonton Children's Choir and Edmonton Youth Choir Associations are comprised of parents with children in the respective choirs. Parent volunteerism is extremely important to the success of the choirs. **The EYCC expectation and requirement is that all parents (or their choristers for those 18 years of age and older) will volunteer and participate on the various committees of the Association which governs the choir in which their child sings.** These come under such categories as: chaperones, uniforms, social events, Camp Nakamun Retreat, fundraising, casino, tour organization, concert planning, or serving on the executive [elected each fall]. The filling of these positions is done at the **Annual General Meetings** held at the Registration and Rehearsal Event in September. It is mandatory that at least one parent from each family attend these meetings.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

You can contact us at:

**Artistic Director & Youth Choir** – Dr. John Wiebe

John@EdmontonYouthChoir.ca  
780 994 6539

**Administrative Assistant** – Lisa Eriksson

Lisa@EdmontonYouthChoir.ca  
780 819 5402

**Primary Choir** – Jorgianne Talbot

Jorgianne@EdmontonYouthChoir.ca

**Junior Choir** – Beth Pecson

Beth@EdmontonYouthChoir.ca

**Boys' Choir** – Adam Robertson

Adam@EdmontonYouthChoir.ca

**Girls' Choir** – Susan Farrell

Susan@EdmontonYouthChoir.ca