

THE ALL SAINTS GIRLS CHOIR



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8787 River Road - Richmond, Virginia 23229 - 804.288.7811

ABOUT THE CHOIR

The All Saints Girls Choir was founded in 1960 to provide young women and girls a similar experience to the Choir of Men & Boys. The Girls Choir sings about once a month and rehearsing weekly. A part of our Chorister Training Program, the Girls Choir works through a program based on "Voice for Life", a curriculum developed by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The Girls Choir currently numbers 13, and girls are grades 2 through 8 (though the choir is open to high school girls as well).



BENEFITS OF THE CHOIR

Girls who sing in the choir benefit in many ways, and the skills developed are life-long. Here are a few:

- **Teamwork**

Any choir is a team - as each singer brings their strengths to the group. Learning notes, breathing, creating sound, and even things like sitting & standing are done as a group. Older girls mentor the younger girls, helping to get them excited about the choir—and offering a friendly face when new to the choir!

- **Musicianship**

What would a choir be without music? At All Saints, we train the girls to use their voices, learn about music, different composers and musical genres. Our Chorister Training Program teaches the rudiments of music theory and sight-singing.

- **Unforgettable Experiences**

Singing at All Saints Church is pretty special in itself, but we look forward to touring regionally which happen about once a year. And, we look forward to international travel in the future! Our trips also include some fun events - such a singing the National Anthem to begin a University of Richmond basketball game!

- **Life Long Friendships**

Many girls in the choir begin in 2nd or 3rd grade, and we hope they'll sing through their high school years. The Choir can become their family - and many stay in touch with each other throughout their lives. As the choir was founded in 1960, it's not uncommon to find parishioners who remember their time with the girls choir fondly. Some even have children in the choir today!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is the choir fun? It sounds like a lot of work?

We think the choir is fun! Much like scouting or any team sport, there is work involved, but there is also a lot of fun! The girls take regular trips to play laser tag, bowl, see a movie, or another fun activity. Rehearsals are not usually boring, and you get out of it what you put in.

Q: Do girls and their families have to be members of All Saints to participate in the choir?

No. The choir is open to all, regardless of their religious affiliation.

Q: Does the Girls Choir sing alone, or is it supported by another choir?

Most Sundays, the girls will sing with the All Saints Parish Choir as a part of the soprano section. From time to time, they'll sing alone or join the boys choir. Once a year, on Maundy Thursday, the Girls Choir is the sole choir for the service (finishing this service with the wonderful tradition of "Magic Chicken".)



Q: Is there a formal audition for the choir?

Beginning in 2017, our hope is that girls will come to the choir one of our "Open Houses" or through our summer "Choir Camp". At these events, prospective girls can sing as a member of the choir. Usually, this is a good indicator of how they will do in the choir - whether they are attentive to detail, willing to try the occasional "silly" idea, can they match pitch. If a girl can't attend an open house, then we'll schedule a short "musical interview", where she can demonstrate her voice by singing a well-known song (such as the National Anthem) and talk with the director.

Q: How much does the choir cost?

The Choir does not charge for participation. Families are encouraged to make a donation to All Saints Music Education Fund, if they are able and so inclined, as the choir does cost the church significantly to operate.

Q: When are rehearsals?

Rehearsals for the Girls are 4:30-5:30 PM on Wednesday or Thursday. Girls need attend only one. On singing Sundays, we often have rehearsal following lunch.



Q: When do the Girls sing in church services?

The choir sings most often on 2nd Sundays at All Saints' 10:30 AM service. Other events, such as concerts and Evensongs are announced as far in advance as possible (usually at least two months).

Q: Are the Girls paid for singing?

A: Yes, the Girls are paid for their singing, as is the custom in many choirs of the Episcopal Church. It signals to children, adult, and church leaders the significance of the contribution that the choristers make to our common life. Stipends are determined by the girl's "rank" in the RSCM Voice for Life program.

Q: How many girls are in the choir?

A: A "full" choir would be at least 20 girls. However, we are currently in a season of rebuilding at All Saints, and the choir enrollment hovers at about half. Our plan for rebuilding is to recruit about 5 girls a year, every year. This plan began in 2017, and will take several years to see through.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact Scott G. Hayes, Director of Music at All Saints Church to schedule an appointment or ask any questions you may have about the choir. He may be reached at 804-288-7811, ext. 108, or at shayes@allsaintsrichmond.org.



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COMMUNITY IN RICHMOND VA

Equipping the saints