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2010-2011 Mission and Expectations

Bel Canto Chorus Mission

The mission of Bel Canto Chorus is to enrich the lives of its audiences and its singing members through the outstanding live presentation of the finest choral music and to reach out to the community in order to share the benefits and joy of the singing arts.

Bel Canto Boy Choir Mission

The mission of the Bel Canto Boy Choir is to provide quality music instruction for treble singers in a safe choral setting and to strive for excellence in choral performances. The choir offers an opportunity to help develop good character and self-esteem in the boys, resulting in life-long benefits to the individual members and society.

(BC)² Member Expectations

- Have fun!
- Treat each other with respect
- Be prepared and on time for all rehearsals and concerts, and let Ellen know in advance if you need to be absent or late
- Take any messages or notes to your parents after rehearsal
- Invite your friends to join

(BC)² Parent Expectations

- Encourage a positive attitude from your children
- Ensure your children are at rehearsals and concerts on time
- Support Bel Canto Chorus and Boy Choir by attending concerts and social activities, volunteering when possible, and making financial or in-kind donations when possible
- Read all newsletters and communications from Bel Canto Chorus
- Pay tuition and purchase Bel Canto Boy Choir uniform in a timely manner
- Encourage new (BC)² participants
- Communicate with (BC)² Music Director and BCC Office with any questions or feedback



BEL CANTO BOY CHOIR

2010-2011 (BC)² Curriculum Overview

The Bel Canto Boy Choir is a music performance and music education program for auditioned treble boys, emphasizing the development and understanding of singing skills. All boys who have been accepted into Bel Canto Boy Choir have demonstrated an ability to match pitch, sing in tune and use a pleasant vocal quality in a group.

Bel Canto Boy Choir provides quality music instruction. Musical concepts of **melody, rhythm, harmony, timbre, dynamics, form, and style** are taught in rehearsals, as well as **theory, aural training, and sight singing with solfege**. Through games and exercises, the boys develop abilities to hear musical intervals and recognize patterns in music.

Bel Canto Boy Choir strives for excellence in all performances. Proper **vocal training, blending, vocal health, and ensemble skills** are taught. **Rehearsal technique**, where the boys learn how to be active participants in a choral rehearsal, is a major focus. The boys are taught how to mark their music, ask appropriate questions, and be successful through the musical learning process. The boys develop a maturity level allowing them to follow directions and participate without disruption. Choral singing is the primary focus of the choir, and it is the goal of the director to help each member recognize the focus needed to produce quality music in rehearsals and performances.

Bel Canto Boy Choir helps the boys **grow socially within their own peer group**. The target membership is boys with unchanged voices, typically starting with 4th-graders. There is much data supporting the assertion that boys at this age benefit from a high-quality choral singing experience in a nurturing environment without distracting social pressures. Boys tend to drop out of choirs in middle school years due to peer pressure from classmates and from feeling embarrassed about singing around girls. The Boy Choir experience allows talent to grow and assists male singers in making a smooth transition to the adult male voice.

Bel Canto Boy Choir introduces the boys to various cultural styles and periods of music. From the masters to folk music to world music, performances in all aspects of vocal music **broadens their understanding and acceptance of culture, style and community**.



BEL CANTO BOY CHOIR

2010-2011 Calendar

Weekly Rehearsals:

September 13, 2010 – May 9, 2011
Monday 6:00 – 7:30
Mequon United Methodist Church

No rehearsal on the following dates:

December 13, 2010
December 20, 2010
December 27, 2010
January 17, 2011
February 21, 2011
March 28, 2011
April 18, 2011
May 2, 2011

Parties on the following dates:

October 11, 2010
March 14, 2011
April 11, 2011
May 9, 2011

Concert Week Rehearsal Schedules:

Concert #1 – all at Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center (Van Buren & Wells St., Milw.)

October 4, 2010 (Monday) 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

October 8, 2010 (Friday) 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. – DRESS REHEARSAL

October 10, 2010 (Sunday) 2:00 warm ups, 3:00 - CONCERT

Concert #2 – all at Basilica of St. Josaphat (6th & Lincoln Ave, Milw.)

November 29, 2010 (Monday) 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

December 3, 2010 (Friday) 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. – DRESS REHEARSAL

December 4, 2010 (Saturday) 6:30 warm ups, 7:30 - CONCERT

December 5, 2010 (Sunday) 2:00 warm ups, 3:00 - CONCERT

Concert #3 – location TBD

Rehearsals TBD

April 10, 2011 (Sunday) CONCERT

School Tour – May 11 or 12

Re-auditions for next season – May 9, 2011 (returning) and May 14, 2011 (new members)

***Watch your newsletter carefully for announcements. Some dates and times may change.*



2010-2011 (BC)² Tuition

*Tuition for each member is \$425,
due on or before September 30, 2010.*

Tuition includes:

- Weekly instruction
- Participation in 3 concerts
- Day-long boot camp including lunch and snacks
- Three post-concert parties
- Final end of year party
- Bel Canto Boy Choir polo shirt
- (BC)² t-shirt
- Ticket discounts for friends and family for 10/10/10, 12/4/10 and 12/5/10 BCC concerts
- Invitations to all Bel Canto Chorus events
- Weekly e-newsletter

Tuition does not include:

- (BC)² uniform
- April concert tickets

Referral program:

Any member or family that recruits a new Bel Canto Boy Choir member to audition and join will receive \$50 off the annual tuition (valid up to two new members).

Sibling discounts:

Families with more than one child in the Bel Canto Boy Choir are eligible for tuition discounts. Contact the Bel Canto Office for information.

Payment plans:

If you would like to be invoiced in installments, please contact the Bel Canto Office.

Scholarships:

Full and partial scholarships may be available for families with extenuating circumstances. Contact the Bel Canto Office for more information.



2010-2011 Bel Canto Boy Choir Contact Information

Administrative and Box Offices

Bel Canto Chorus
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(414) 481-8801
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Boy Choir Director

Ellen Shuler
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Box Office Manager

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Music Director

Richard (Rick) Hynson
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www.belcanto.org