

The Parish Choir of St. Edward's Episcopal Church

2019 Spring Handbook for Choir Members

Most up-to-date file located here: saintedmusic.weebly.com/members-area

St. Edward's Episcopal Church

737 Moon Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
(770-963-6128)

CHURCH WEBSITE - www.stedwardsonline.org

CHOIRSITE - www.saintedmusic.weebly.com

Director of Music: Carla Strott	(404) 376-5973	carlastrott@gmail.com
Handbell Director: Matt Bonaker	(404) 399-3669	thathurricanedude@gmail.com
Vestry Liaison: Marvelle Martin	(678) 431-9996	whistl48@hotmail.com



Prayer for Church Musicians

*O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
Be ever present with your servants who seek through
music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth;
and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty,
and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Chorister's Prayer:

*Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple;
grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts;
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the music program is to lead the Congregation of St. Edward's Parish in liturgies that glorify God, move the heart and engage the mind—all with great variety, color, and reverence. To support this, the Parish Choir is called to work with diligence and with focused intensity to prepare and offer the finest music in a variety of styles and expressions within its abilities. It is the intent of the program to grow musically, spiritually, and in community. The program will continue to explore new ideas for the future, work with guest colleagues, co-create a vision that allows the program to grow in service to the church and the community, and pass our faith and musical legacy on to the next generation of Episcopal musicians and parish members of St. Edward's.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No previous musical background is required. Attendance, attitude, and cooperation are the key elements in determining success, satisfaction, and enjoyment in the choir. Singers process and learn written music in different ways, so it is not necessary to have an advanced degree in music theory to participate in choir - all skill levels are welcomed! The ability to match pitch, a willingness to listen and blend with the group, an agreement to attend rehearsals, and the audacity to TRY are the most basic and important traits in a chorister.

Communication happens weekly. Emails are generally sent out by Wednesday evening. Email content will also be posted in the Facebook group (SaintEdMusic) and in the MEMBERS' AREA of our choir site (www.saintedmusic.weebly.com). As of July 2018, the password needed to access the Members' Area is the church zipcode – 30046.

EXPECTATIONS

Attendance at all rehearsals, services, and other functions of the choirs is expected. Any exceptions should be discussed with the Director as far in advance as possible. If for any reason a member must be absent from rehearsals or service, please phone (or text) Carla at (404) 376-5973 or email carlastrott@gmail.com. The commitment to the choir is one that should be taken seriously by participants. Attention to faithful attendance, punctuality, and diligence ensures good morale within the choir and for each choir member. Each chorister is important. Each rehearsal is important (it's where we learn what's between the notes)! Please keep Carla updated on your attendance plans.

TYPICAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Weekly Rehearsals

Thursday Evenings from 7:30 – 9:00

- Thursdays - come early and get your rehearsal materials from the choir room. Whatever remains in the choir room at 7:20 will be loaded on a cart and dragged to the nave. The Admin bldg will be locked at 7:30.
- You'll return your own materials to your cubbies in the choir room after rehearsal.
- **Folders are needed in workroom Sunday afternoon through Thursday afternoon for stripping and stuffing.** You can take folders home Thursday night - Sunday morning.

Sunday Mornings

9:15 Instrumentalists meet to rehearse in Chapel

9:45 Choir joins rehearsal in progress

10:15 dismissal and prep for 10:30 service

CHOIR CUSTOMARY COMMANDMENTS (& ONE TO GROW ON)

1. Come ye to rehearsals and the services. Whenst thou comest to the day whereupon ye may not attend, make haste to notify thy choir director, lest there be much wailing and gnashing of her teeth.
2. Be ye on time to rehearsal. Warm-ups are crucial to good singing, and being on time is crucial to the good will of the group. (That said, some among us struggle with daily labors and snarled routes of travel; some travail with family care. Verily, we shall be welcoming to the latecomer.)
3. Whenst thou doth enter the rehearsal space, take notice of thy brethren and sistren who might be rehearsing a solo or an ensemble of music offering unto the Lord. Let thy mouth be buttoned and thy movements be stealthy. (Also, keep thou shutteth the door of the Chapel, lest the dulcet tones escape the rehearsal space and smite the ears of our neighbors, those teaching and learning of the Word.)
4. Wear ye not perfume or "loud" lotions and potions - these aggravate allergies in some.
5. Answer not thy cell phone once rehearsal has begun. (If you must be "on call," take it to the narthex!)
6. Chew not thy gum in rehearsal as a cow cheweth a cud. (It impedeth good singing and diction! Plus - *gross!*)
7. Keepest thou clean and tidy thy choir cubby and thy space in the choir loft, lest ye dash thy foot against a stray water bottle or breathe foul pestilence from a discarded tissue and die.
8. Consider ye the opinions of everyone - not just the most vocal.
9. Be ye worship leaders, even though we be hidden in the back of the temple. Loud page turning, the reading of novels, the sending of emails on thy smartphone, conversing with thy neighbor during times of focused listening – these are distractions to thy choir family as well as to those who sitteth upon the hard pews of the congregation.
10. Take not upon thyself the burden of inviting others to sing with the choir. Rather, let thy fearless leader proselytize the Gentile.
11. Love ye one another. Be ye kind to one another. (Words cannot be unsaid.)