

CALGARY PHILHARMONIC YOUTH CHORISTERS

The Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra is committed to developing aspiring young musical leaders in Calgary and the surrounding region. Calgary Phil Youth Choristers serves young singers who are exploring music as a career and wish to serve their communities through music. This program is intended to complement and give back to the high school music program and community of each participating student. Participants will learn about leadership and collaboration as they refine skills in vocal production, singing in various languages, and in expressive communication, all while observing professional conducting technique and rehearsal strategies. There is no cost to participants in the CPYC program.

FAQs

What are the rewards of the CPYC program?

- Opportunity to learn and perform classical music with a professional orchestra.
- Opportunity to be a part of large chorus with a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.
- Develop your musical, vocal and language skills.
- Build your resume, make professional contacts, and learn about the music business.

What will I be doing?

First and foremost, you will attend and participate in all rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals are led by Chorus Director, Mark Bartel. Most performances are led by Maestro Rune Bergmann or guest conductors, and some by the chorus director.

You will learn most of the music during rehearsals, but you will need to do some outside practicing and listening. You'll have regular musical check-ins as a group with the Chorus Director and Assistant Director/Accompanist, Evan Mounce to make sure the music is going well. You will also get some

coaching from time-to-time from the Section Principals. These are the musical leaders of each of the four voice-part sections (soprano, alto, tenor, bass).

You are encouraged to invite family, friends, and teachers to attend concerts to hear you perform as well as to check out all of the other Phil concerts.

Where do I find more information about how the chorus works?

You will receive a chorus handbook which has literally everything you need to know! You will also receive a chorus schedule for the entire season.

What is the timeframe? How long do I get to participate?

One full season – end of August to beginning of June.

You are welcome to audition at the end of your year to participate in the program for another year. Or, if you are graduating from high school you can audition to become a regular member of the chorus.

Who are CPYC buddies?

Chorus members who are music educators by profession. Each CPYC chorister will have a buddy to touch base with before and after each rehearsal, answer questions, and provide any help they may need.

What is a “Symphony Chorus”?

This is a large choir that primarily performs what is called “choral-orchestral” repertoire: large compositions written to be performed by a full symphony orchestra and choir. These works are very popular with audiences. This body of repertoire is huge and diverse, spanning from the 1750s to the present, and often in languages other than English. Frequently there are also vocal soloists, and these are nationally and internationally known artists. The 120-voice Calgary Phil Chorus is one of only two such choruses in Canada that are part of an orchestra (usually “outside” community or professional choirs are hired in).