



The Bel Canto Youth Chorus of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem 2024-25 Season

Program Information

**Thank you for your interest in
The Bel Canto Youth Chorus of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem!**

The Bel Canto Youth Chorus of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem provides opportunities for excellence in choral education and performance where all are welcome. Musicianship, leadership, and community are cornerstones of our ensemble. Through the performance of vigorous and diverse choral repertoire, including the works of J.S. Bach, a lifelong passion for the choral arts is inspired and cultivated.

Our Ensembles

This season, The Bel Canto Youth Chorus will offer three ensembles.

- Da Capo Treble Choir - Grades 3rd - 6th (Unchanged Voices)
- Youth Chorale - Grades 5th - 8th (Mixed Voices)
- Concert Choir - Select Mixed (SATB) choir comprised of grades 9th - freshman year of college (open to home-school students and students taking a gap year after high school)

Da Capo Treble Choir is a non-auditioned group of young singers and acts as a training choir for our auditioned ensembles. Singers in Da Capo will complete an informal voice check to ensure appropriate placement. In this year-round ensemble, singers will learn the basics of healthy singing, music reading, and choral technique in an 8 week per semester session. Each semester will culminate with a short demonstration performance at the Bel Canto Youth Chorus Winter and Spring Concerts.

Youth Chorale is a select group of young singers with mixed (treble & changing) voices. This year-round ensemble is meant to offer age-appropriate repertoire and vocal technique training for adolescent singers. Singers in Youth Chorale will complete a brief vocal screening to ensure appropriate placement. Singers in Youth Chorale will have the opportunity to perform with other passionate singers at a high level of choral excellence and will perform in and around the Lehigh Valley community as well at our Bel Canto Youth Chorus Winter and Spring Concerts. Students will also have the opportunity to attend Bach Choir events, take part in social gatherings and retreats, and participate in volunteer activities.

Concert Choir is an advanced SATB ensemble, intended to complement existing school music programs. This fall semester ensemble provides talented and motivated young singers an opportunity to rehearse and perform with other students from around the Lehigh Valley at a high level of choral excellence. Singers are required to complete an audition and must be a part of their school music ensemble(s), if offered. Singers will perform in and around the Lehigh Valley

community and perform in the Bel Canto Youth Chorus Winter Concert. In addition, singers in this group will have year-round opportunities to sing along with The Bach Choir in special performances and will be offered special workshops and training with our Bach Choir and Bel Canto directors.

Concert Choir Spring Workshops are offered as a complement to the Concert Choir season for any students who wish to continue musical studies into the spring semester. Special interest topics include choral composition, music and poetry, and performance practice. More details and registration to follow!

Tuition

Da Capo Treble Choir tuition is **\$175 per Semester** (Da Capo will run fall and spring semester)

Youth Chorale tuition is **\$250 per Semester** (Youth Chorale will run fall and spring semester)

Concert Choir tuition is **\$300 for Fall Semester** (Concert Choir will run fall semester only)

Concert Choir Spring Workshop tuition is **\$125 per Workshop, \$250 for both Workshops** (Two workshop sessions will run spring semester: January 22 - February 19 and March 26 - April 23)

Tuition helps cover the cost of our Summer Retreat, Scholarship Recital, folders, music, rehearsal and concert venues, and other special performances and opportunities.

Scholarships & Financial Assistance

Families are welcome to apply for need based scholarship and financial assistance. For more information or to apply, contact Leah Kun at leah@bach.org.

Rehearsals

All rehearsals are held at the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
2344 Center Street
Bethlehem PA

Da Capo Treble Choir

Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Youth Chorale

Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Concert Choir

Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Season Schedule & Performance Opportunities

Our full 2024-25 Season Schedule is available [HERE](#).

Additional formal and informal performance opportunities will be offered throughout the season.

Bel Canto Retreat

Saturday, August 17, 2024, 10AM - 4PM

The Bel Canto Youth Chorus at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs

Friday, August 23, 7:05 Game Time

Bel Canto Winter Concert (All Ensembles)

Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 4PM

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem Winter Concerts

Youth Chorale and Concert Choir students will join

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem for carols at the conclusion of the concert.

Youth Chorale: December 7, 2024 (First Presbyterian Allentown)

Concert Choir: December 8, 2024 (First Presbyterian Bethlehem)

Bel Canto Scholarship Recital Saturday, January 25, 2025

Dress Rehearsal 4PM, Concert 7 PM

Snow Date: Saturday, February 1, 2025

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem Greg Funfgeld Family Concert

Bel Canto Concert Choir singers are invited to work with The Bach Choir and the Westminster Choir College to perform in the Family Concert performance. Monday evening rehearsals will be required

from January 6 - February 17.

Concert February 23, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Bel Canto Spring Concert (Da Capo and Youth Chorale)

Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 4PM

Performances and events may be added to the calendar throughout the season, such as:

- Social gatherings
- Caroling in December
- Community performances in spring
- Zimmerman's Coffee House at The Bach Festival in May

Bel Canto Youth Chorus Audition Information

Auditions will take place at **440 Heckewelder Place, Bethlehem, PA 18018.**

Metered parking is available on Market Street or Church Street.

Please note that the driveway by Heckewelder House is strictly private parking.

Upcoming Voice Check & Audition Dates:

DC = Da Capo Treble Choir

YC = Youth Chorale

CC = Concert Choir

- Wednesday, April 24th (DC & YC) & Thursday, April 25th (CC) from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 30th (CC) & Wednesday, May 1st (DC & YC) from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 22nd (DC & YC) and Thursday, May 23rd (CC) from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Saturday, June 1st from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (DC & YC) and 5:00 - 9:00 pm (CC)

Da Capo Treble Choir Voice Check Expectations:

Singers should expect an informal voice check. Parents are welcome and encouraged to be present for this meeting. Vocal exercises will be presented to assess appropriate voice part, and the director may ask questions about previous musical experience, if any. Parents and singers will also have an opportunity to ask questions of the director at this time.

Please continue to the end of this document for registration information & link.

Youth Chorale Audition Requirements:

Singers should expect a brief vocal screening. Vocal exercises will be presented to assess posture, tone, pitch accuracy, and appropriate voice part. Singers will be asked to attempt a sight singing example to assess musical literacy. Lastly, singers are encouraged to prepare an unaccompanied vocal solo, such as a short patriotic song, folk song, or song learned in a school ensemble. Parents are welcome to be present for this meeting. The director may ask questions about previous musical experience, if any. Parents and singers will also have an opportunity to ask questions of the director at this time.

Please continue to the end of this document for registration information & link.

Concert Choir Audition Requirements:

The audition process will contain the following:

- 1.) A warm-up exercise to check your ability to match pitch, tone quality and range
- 2.) A sight reading and ear training exercise
- 3.) Your prepared solo piece

Singers should perform one prepared piece (accompanied or unaccompanied) that demonstrates their vocal and performance ability i.e. posture, expression, tone, pitch accuracy and dynamic range. A simple folk or patriotic song or a piece of music learned in a choir is acceptable. Singers may audition a cappella, with a recorded track, or with an accompanist. An accompanist will be provided. Please bring sheet music for the accompanist to play.

The singer's music director or teacher *must* complete the Recommendation Form. This will be sent to the director when we receive your audition registration.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION & LINK

All singers, please sign up for your voice check or audition at the following website or scan the QR code below. Once you have filled out the Google survey, you will be contacted by Leah Kun with the time of your audition. <https://forms.gle/wZVtjv3mT7h9nFqt6>



For students auditioning for Concert Choir, your school music director or teacher will then be contacted in order to fill out the Teacher Recommendation Form.

Contact Information

Kelly Rocchi, Director

Alaina Swartz, Youth Chorale Conductor

Leah Kun, Choir Manager

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