



Don't forget to ask friends, family, and neighbors to purchase pecans and other nuts to support the Chattanooga Boys Choir!

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Don't forget to turn in Pecan orders each week!

And They're Off!

Friends,

What a great start to the year we've had! From the first sound which came out of the boys at rehearsal this month to the way that each boy and their families have welcomed their pals and colleagues back to our unique "routine," I have been overjoyed with the sights, sounds, and efforts of our boys, young men, and families. A few of the indicators include:

- *Member Retention:* We have had levels of retention from one choir to the next which this organization has not experienced in several years. I believe this is due to more people recognizing the choir's important place in their lives, and each family making a conscious decision to keep the choir high on their very busy list of priorities.
- *Musical Skills:* We have really "hit the ground running" when it comes to the level of musical skills attained and retained. When we are able to spend our time in rehearsal more on polishing repertoire and perfecting the sense of ensemble, versus re-teaching things we have already taught and learned, then we are able to accomplish much more, and each rehearsal is an amplified experience of learning, creating, and becoming a unified team.
- *Repertoire:* The music we covered at Summer Camp did not leave our boys one bit during the month between camp and fall rehearsals. I'm not just speaking of notes, rhythms, and texts - subtle nuances, phrasing, and other choral "details" were impressively remembered, and we are able to move much more quickly and effectively as a result.

"Why?" you might ask - why is this year so much better than others? There are many reasons - principal among them are our dedicated instructors, our solidified music education program, a more dedicated and expanded core of parent volunteers, and one absolutely amazing camp experience. For the people that have made this great start possible, I am grateful. And on behalf of the scores of boys who benefit from your hard work and support, I thank you for all you do. There's always more to be done, but know that this journey has begun with a great first step.

Vic

The mission of the Chattanooga Boys Choir is to positively influence and develop the lives of boys by providing a music program of the highest quality which includes education, appreciation, and performance.

Concert Choir sings for Kiwanis

On Sunday, August 20th the Concert Choir sang for a Memorial Service at the KY-TN Kiwanis International Convention. The motto of Kiwanis International is "Serving the Children of the World,"



making the CBC's participation in their conference especially fitting. Thank you to all of the choristers and parents who put in the extra time for rehearsal and the (early!) performance before the official choir season began! Knowing the commitment that you have for the choir allows the CBC to accept invitations such as this on short notice.

Parent Booster Club Hosts Pool Party

On Saturday, August 19th the Parents Booster Club hosted its first social event, a pool party, at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. New and returning choristers and their families showed up for a few hours of



swimming and food. The event was a fun time for both choristers and their families to get to know each other better. Thank you to all of the parents who helped to make this event possible, and special thanks to the Robertsons for arranging the use of the pool! Look for more social events to be organized by the Parents Booster Club throughout the year.

Notes from the Office

TUITION - The first semester tuition payment was due in August. Unless you have worked out other arrangements with the Business Manager, any payments not received by September 15 will be considered late and a \$15 late fee will be added.

CLOTHING DEPOSIT - Handel and Concert Choir members must pay their \$60 clothing deposit before clothing can be issued to choristers.

ABSENSES - Please remember to call the CBC office if your chorister is going to miss a rehearsal.

September

- 4 Labor Day; No Rehearsals
- 5 Mandatory 2007 Tour Meeting for Handel, Concert, & Cantabile
- 12 Deadline for pre-paid individual picture orders
- 16 Warehouse Workday
- 18 Picture Day for Mozart and Handel
- 19 Picture Day for Schubert and Concert
- 21 Cantabile Performance First Baptist Church, 7:15pm
- 22-23 Recording Session for Concert Choir

October

- 7 SCT Warehouse Workday
- 9-10 Fall Break; No Rehearsals
- 14 Fall Picnic at Stephenson Park Pavilion, Fort Oglethorpe
- 16 Singing Christmas Tree tickets on sale in CBC office
- 17 Deadline to qualify for Boulderling Day Pecan Prize
- 20 **DEADLINE FOR SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAM AD COPY**
- 21 SCT Warehouse Workday
- 28 Boulderling Day for first 30 choristers to sell 48 bags of nuts

November

- 4 SCT Warehouse Workday
- 6 Pecans scheduled to arrive (may be a couple days earlier or later)
- 11 Mozart Choir Rehearsal and costume fitting
- SCT Warehouse Workday
- 13-14 Parent Meetings
- 27 All Choir rehearsal at BUMC
- 28 All Choir rehearsal at BUMC
- 29 All Choir rehearsal at Tivoli
- 30 All Choir DRESS REHEARSAL at Tivoli

CHATTANOOGA BOYS CHOIR

Vincent Oakes Artistic / Executive Director
 Dawn Oakes Administrative Director
 Katie Walters Business Manager
 Merry Lee Wilson Accompanist
 Judy Brittingham Instructor
 Cynda Holmes Instructor
 Daniel Varnell Intern
 Zachary Cavan Intern

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Uniform Sale

During rehearsals on September 11th and 12th uniform items will be available for purchase on a first come-first served basis. Items including black pants, white long-sleeved button-down shirts, khaki shorts and pants, and navy pants and shorts will be available. Many items are concert attire for Mozart and Schubert choristers, but other items can be used for school uniforms.

In the future if you have concert attire that you would like to donate to another chorister simply tell the office what you have (item, size, color). That information will be posted, with your contact information, on the bulletin board and on the website. Anyone needing items can check those places for available items and contact the person with the item.

Picture Days

- Mozart** Monday, September 18. Wear black pants, black belt, white long-sleeved button-down shirt, black shoes. Black bow-tie will be handed out at photo session.
- Handel:** Monday September 18. Wear black tux pants, black tux shoes, black socks, white tux shirt. Red vest will be handed out at photo session.
- Schubert:** Tuesday, September 19. Wear black pants, black shoes, white long-sleeved button-down shirt. Red bow-tie and cummerbund will be handed out at photo session.
- Concert:** Tuesday, September 19. Wear black tux pants, black tux shoes, black socks, white tux shirt. Cassock and surplice will be handed out at photo session.

Individual pictures MUST be preordered by September 12th—the photographer will not take an individual photo of your chorister unless it is preordered. Group pictures will be available for purchase until October 6th. Order forms are available on the website.

Singing Christmas Tree Captains

There are only 87 days left until the curtain goes up on the 44th Annual Singing Christmas Tree! The theme this year is An Appalachian Christmas, and the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Youth Orchestra, Ballet Tennessee, and local, though nationally known hammered dulcimer artist Dan Landrum are joining us as special guests. Everyone's help is needed to make the performance the grand production that it is.

There are several leadership positions that need to be filled. These captains help to coordinate the different areas of work and break down the production into smaller, easier to accomplish tasks. Below are the descriptions of the committees which need both captains and members.

Tree Lighting - This committee is responsible for putting the lights on the tree, as well as adding any additional decorations that pertain to the theme. This committee also hangs the greenery on the stage and in the boxes.

Ushers - This committee is responsible for seating people for both the school performances and the public performances. They also help the office coordinate the seating arrangements for the school performances.

Lobby Decorations - This committee is responsible for taking the theme of the performance and decorating the lobby of the theatre. This is the first impression audience members get of the performance and it is an especially important task.

Hospitality - Ask the many parents who spend countless hours on Wednesday and Thursday getting the tree set up and the theatre decorated and they will tell you that this is the most important committee!! This committee is responsible for making arrangements for meals for those who are working. They ensure food will be provided, set-up, and clean-up.

On Monday, September 11th, at 5:45pm there will be a meeting for all of those who are interested in being captains or co-captains for these committees. Everyone who is interested in taking a leadership role, even if you aren't sure exactly what you'd like to do, should plan to attend. Experience is not necessary!

While these are the main committees, the list of jobs for the tree is almost endless! Soon there will be an additional volunteer book in the office that will have all of the Singing Christmas Tree volunteer needs listed. The production of the Singing Christmas Tree requires a lot of work, both from the boys and from their families, but it is a 44 year old tradition to be a part of and an experience to remember!

Happy Birthday!

Bobby Schow	9/2	Sylar Holmes	9/7
Dominique Burney	9/2	Jamie Matherly	9/8
Gregory Dies	9/2	Hunter Almy	9/14
Tyler Guiliani	9/2	Chad Henderson	9/4
Nate Oliver	9/3	Nick Stabile	9/21
Andrew Randall	9/4	Travis Lytle	9/30

Atta Boy!

Mark Laseter (Concert) received a German Award, Career Management Success Award, and Principal's Award for academic excellence and leadership at the Center for Creative Arts 8th Grade Awards Program

Harrison Holmes (Handel) got 1st place in the running long jump at the Hamilton County Track Meet

This month we are catching up on some Atta Boys from over the summer. We need your submissions throughout the year—we want everyone to know how great our choristers are! Send your atta boy via email or drop a note in the office.

Financial Corner

This month's topic for the Financial Corner is about operating expenses. Operating expenses are the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of a company or organization. Tuition funds approximately 30% of these operating expenses.

Some of the CBC's operating expenses include space rental (rehearsal, office, and performance space), artistic and administrative salaries and payroll taxes, concert production (Tivoli rental and employee wages, program printing, set production), music, insurance, printing (photocopier lease, newsletters, annual report, stationary), postage (letters and postcards to chorister families), utilities (telephone, internet), office supplies (paper, pens) and advertising (posters, newspaper, radio)

While these costs are unavoidable, they ensure that the CBC fulfills its mission of providing a music program of the **highest quality**. Each year a budget that includes all of the operating expenses is presented to the Board of Directors for approval and the staff is charged with ensuring operating expenses are held within the approved budget.

Stay tuned for next month's topic: Revenue. If you have suggestions for topics for the Financial Corner please pass them along to the office.

Pecan Update

The Pecan and Nut Sale is off to a good start. So far orders have been turned in for 69 bags of nuts. Thank you to those who have turned in orders. Here are a few points to keep in mind:

- ▼ Turn in your orders **every week** using the quick nut order form. Remember, the **first 30** choristers to turn orders totaling 48 bags will be invited to Bouldering Day and the **next 30** choristers to turn in orders totaling 48 bags will receive a gift certificate for a free rental at Blockbuster.
- ▼ Our goal this year is to sell 10,000 bags. The net proceeds from all bags beyond 10,000 will be used to reduce the cost of tour.
- ▼ The overall top seller will receive free camp!
- ▼ The top seller in each choir will be invited to dinner at the Oakes house
- ▼ The office has plenty of extra color flyers if you need them (thanks to Michele Chandler for designing!!)
- ▼ Postcards with a pecan recipe and information about the Singing Christmas Tree will be available for you to use as thank-you notes for each person who purchases nuts from you. They are a great way to show your



Our goal is 10,000 bags

We've sold: 69 bags

Help Wanted!

In an effort to reduce our costs, the CBC would like to move out of our current storage facility into a more economical facility. The choir currently spends several hundred dollars a month to store sets and props for the Singing Christmas Tree. The first step to moving into another facility is to sort through the items at the current facility and save only what we can truly use again. We have a warehouse day scheduled for Saturday, September 16th from 9:00am-3:00pm to sort through everything and we need as many helpers as we can get! Please sign up for a time slot and mark your calendars to be there!