



Picture days are September 17 and 18. See inside for details on what to wear.

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Mark your calendar for the Fall Picnic & Chili-Cook-Off!

When considering all of the specific traits we experience as the seasons change, the transition from summer to fall has always been my favorite. The distinctive characteristics associated with this time are wonderful - the leaves begin to change their colors, the days start to get noticeably cooler, and the summer television re-runs are replaced with broadcasts of football in every fashion, from all over the country. As the inner tubes are deflated and the long sweaters begin to make their way out of the attic, we are fortunate each fall to experience all kinds of new sights, smells, and sounds - or at least those that have been missing for several months.

There's something "choral" about all of this change. By "choral," I mean that things gradually happen en masse, without too much emphasis on one part or individual. Choirs are that way - they are not meant to be a forum for solo showcases or virtuosic displays. Instead, choirs allow people to be a vital part of something greater and truly bigger than the sum of its parts. To have a group of people enter on a musical phrase with identical vowel shape, pitch accuracy, and diction is one of the highest achievements of teamwork that I can think of. To me this is what the fall is like - the leaves don't change one by one, instead, we simply look up one day at a bright orange spectacle where branches of green had been the week before. The accuracy and precision of a well-trained offensive line is awe-inspiring as five guys jump off the line at the quarterback's call - think of that the next time a choir of fifty enters simultaneously on a six-part motet in Latin.

While we certainly want - and foster the development of - strong individuals within this team framework, the building up of the individual is a part of this greater good that is demonstrated and celebrated in the choir like few other places on earth. To me, this is a very good thing.

Our society is filled with examples where individual achievement and personal gain are emphasized to the point where many of our young people have forgotten how to be around each other for no reason other than for the betterment of the group - think of this the next time traffic gets gridlocked, a board or council meeting comes to an impasse, or congress comes to a stand still on public policy.

As we enjoy this transition to the fall, my hope for you is that we are able to look up from the endless car pools, daily schedules, and "busyness" of the new season to appreciate all that you do to be a part of our organization. Supporting the choir through your volunteerism, gifts, or participation is invaluable - thanks for being a part of the team.

Vic

Voice Lessons for Concert, Handel

As you may have noticed in the handbook this year, Concert and Handel choristers are now required to attend one individual voice lesson with Mr. Oakes each semester (August—December, January—May). Each lesson lasts thirty minutes and no extra material outside of the current choral repertoire needs to be prepared. During this time, Mr. Oakes can assess each individual's vocal quality, timbre, and pitch levels. Also, he can give more personalized information on vocal health, voice change progress, and other items which will benefit each singer's health, progress, and musicianship.

Voice lessons are scheduled Thursday afternoons from 4:00-5:30, October 8th and 9th by appointment (during Hamilton County Fall Break) and a few Saturdays from 10am-2pm throughout the semester. With over 45 boys in these combined choirs and fewer than 20 weeks in the Fall semester, it is imperative that all scheduled times are utilized! Sign up on the schedule in the office.



Mozart: Monday, September 17

Wear: white long sleeved button down shirt, black pants, black belt, black socks, black shoes

Schubert: Tuesday, September 18

Wear: white long sleeved button down shirt, black pants, black belt, black socks, black shoes

Handel*: Monday, September 17

Wear: tux pants, tux shirt, black socks, tux shoes

Concert*: Tuesday, September 18

Wear: tux pants, tux shirt, black socks, tux shoes

* Concert and Handel must have paid wardrobe deposit

SCT Program Ads

Believe it or not, there are only about seven weeks left until the ads for the Singing Christmas Tree program are due! We still have open spots on all of the covers, which are the only color ads in the book. You can find additional forms and spec sheets, which are helpful when speaking to a business about the size and price of ads, in the members section of the website. If you have any questions or if a business would like help designing an ad, please contact Dawn ASAP. And don't forget to purchase an ad to congratulate your own chorister!

Calendar

September

- 3 Labor Day—no rehearsals
- 17 Picture Day—Mozart and Handel Choirs
- 18 Picture Day—Schubert and Concert Choirs
- 25 SCT Captains Meeting (5:00pm)

October

- 3 Hymn Festival rehearsal (Handel, Concert, Cantabile) - 6:00-8:00pm
- 6 Hymn Festival rehearsal (Handel, Concert, Cantabile) - 10:00am-1:00pm
- 7 Community Hymn Festival (Handel, Concert, Cantabile Choirs) 2:00pm
- 8-12 Hamilton County Fall Break—no rehearsals
- 19 SCT Program Ad Sales Deadline
- 20 Fall Family Picnic 11:00am-2:00pm
- 29 Parent Meeting 5:00pm
- 30 Parent Meeting 5:15pm

November

- 1 Singing Christmas Tree tickets on sale at Memorial Auditorium
- 3 Mozart Choreography Rehearsal 10am-12pm
- 5 Nut Pick-up
- 17 Hale—Stromberg wedding (Concert)
- 26-27 SCT rehearsals at BUMC(all choirs) 4:00-7:30pm
- 28-29 SCT rehearsals at Tivoli (all choirs) 4:00-7:30pm
- 30 Singing Christmas Tree School Performances

December

- 1 Singing Christmas Tree Public Performances
- 9 Palace Theatre performance, Crossville (Concert) 9am-8:30pm

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

PHONE: (423) 622-3033 FAX: (423) 622-1182
www.chattanoogaboyschoir.org

Notes from the Office

- The wardrobe deposit of \$60 (\$50 refundable) for **Handel and Concert Choir** is due September 4th. Wardrobe items will not be issued until the deposit is turned in.
- **Atta boys!** In each newsletter there is a column in which we celebrate the accomplishments of choristers outside of the choir (in school, sports, other activities). We depend on parents to let us know about the great things their choristers are doing. Please be sure to send us your atta boys each month so that we can celebrate with you.

Oh Captain, My Captain

The official countdown to the Singing Christmas Tree has begun. The boys were hard at work at camp in July learning their music, Gene Wilbourn, the producer, has been hard at work planning out the stage production, and Doug Albritton, parent, board member, and carpenter extraordinaire has been hard at work on the set.

It's now time to gather the crew who works behind the scenes to put up and decorate the tree, ensure the safety and health of the boys during rehearsals and performances, direct audience members to their seats, and provide food for the volunteers. We are currently looking for parents who would like to serve as captains for the following groups:

- Tree lighting & decorations
- Hospitality
- Ushers
- Nursing
- Security
- Tree Captain (help boys get on and off the tree)

There are descriptions of each of these captains available in the office, including estimated time commitment. We hope to have each of these positions filled by September 25th, when we will hold a SCT Captains Meeting at 5:00pm—please let the office know before then if you are interested. New families are encouraged to sign-up as well—we'll let you know exactly what you need to do!



Mr. Albritton has been hard at work on the spine of the large book that will be on stage.



Noah adds a little perspective to the giant book.

SunTrust My Cause Promotion

SunTrust's My Cause promotion offers clients who open a new checking account to have SunTrust give \$100 to their favorite charitable organization in their name. To take advantage of this promotion, simply open a new account before **October 12, 2007** and use the debit card once and submit the online redemption form by **November 12, 2007** to be eligible. Additional details are available on the CBC website.



The CBC has decided to use the funds from SunTrust in the following way: Choristers going on tour can use the \$100 contribution towards their tour cost. It is the responsibility of the chorister to let the office know the name of the person opening the account so that the funds can be allocated to the correct tour account. All other SunTrust contributions will go towards the purchase of the CBC's *own* risers, for which partial funding has already been secured. (The CBC currently borrows risers from the Chattanooga Girls Choir.) What an easy way to support the Chattanooga Boys Choir!

Pecan Update

Congratulations to Jason & Joel Varghese! They are the first choristers to have sold 48 bags of nuts and be invited to the Rock Climbing Day on November 10th. The Rock Climbing Day is open to the first 25 choristers who sell at least 48 bags of nuts. Keep up the good work!



Our goal is 10,000 bags

We've sold: 137 bags

(as of printing on 8/31/07)

Concert Choir Calendar Additions

Please note the following engagements that have been added to the Concert Choir schedule since the calendar in the handbook was printed. Approximate times are listed below—look for the confirmed information in upcoming memos.

- Wedding; Saturday, November 17; 11:30am-2:00pm
- Grace Episcopal Advent Series; Friday, December 21; 11:15am-1:30pm

Please notify the office as soon as possible if there are conflicts.

Happy Birthday!

Dominique Burney	9/2	Cameron Kirk	9/11
Gregory Dies	9/2	Hunter Almy	9/14
Tyler Giuliani	9/2	Chad Henderson	9/14
Tyler Miller	9/2	Jordan Hicks	9/18
Bobby Schow	9/2	Kylan Harrison	9/19
Nate Oliver	9/3	Oak Gast	9/21
Devyn Powers	9/4	Nick Stabile	9/21
Andrew Randall	9/4	Ben Higley	9/28
Jamie Matherley	9/8	Travis Lytle	9/30
Pontrael Ellison	9/11		

Buy Groceries, help the CBC

Many of you are very familiar with the programs that local grocery stores promote to help local schools and non-profit organizations. Currently, the Chattanooga Boys Choir participates in the Bi-Lo Booster Plus Program and the Food Lion LionShare Program. Each of these grocery stores contribute a percent of your grocery bill to the organization which you designate.



To participate in the Bi-Lo program, simply take the bar code form found in your handbook to the Bi-Lo cashier once—the CBC will be designated for one year, and you can designate up to three different agencies. To participate



in the Food Lion program, simply fill out the form found in your handbook and return it to the office. You will be enrolled until you designate otherwise.

Last year the CBC began participating in these programs in January and received close to \$100. It is our goal this year to have more family members enrolled and to receive enough funding through this program to reduce the last tour payment by \$25 for those choristers who will be going on the summer tour. That's a huge stretch from last year, but these programs don't require you to do anything more than you already do—grocery shop! Friends and family can help us reach our goal as well—the flyers in your handbook include extra bar codes and forms for each of the programs so that you can get friends, family, and neighbors to join in.

Fall Picnic & Chili Cook-off

Saturday, October 20th

Stephenson Park, Fort Oglethorpe

11am-2pm

RSVP by October 15

Cook-Off Entry Forms
online & on bulletin board



On A Mission

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.

At its very core, a basic mission statement defines the core purpose for an organization's existence. Mission statements often describe who the organization is, what its goals are, and what it considers important. Often mission statements are lofty statements describing the state in which that an organization *wishes* to be.

The mission statement of the Chattanooga Boys Choir serves as the defining statement of the choir's purpose and the litmus test by which all programs and decisions are judged. Over the next several months this column of the newsletter will dive into the CBC mission statement and what it means to the choristers, staff and Board. We encourage you to think about the mission statement and how you think the CBC is doing toward fulfilling its mission.

In the next newsletter we'll look at "positively influence and develop the lives of boys," the very first imperative in the mission statement, and arguably the most important.