

Logansport Children's Choir Student & Parent Handbook

I. Introduction and Purpose

The Logansport Children's Choir was founded in October 1988 by its directors, Tim and Susan Cahalan. Selection is made by auditions, which are open to third through eighth grade boys and third through twelfth grade girls from all public and private schools in Logansport, Indiana and vicinity.

The choir has performed, in addition to local concerts, for the Indiana Music Educators Association (five times), the Indiana Elementary Music Educators Association, the Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association, for the National Convention of the Psi Iota Xi sorority, and for the Midwest Kodaly Music Educators Association. The group has also traveled to the International Children's Choir Festival in Canterbury and London, England and toured the northeast, including Niagara Falls and Toronto, Ontario. In 2001, the choir toured Italy, Austria, and Germany, with performances in Rome, Florence, Vienna, and Salzburg. The choir also performed at the Crescent City Choral Festival in New Orleans in the summer of 2003. In June and July of 2005 the Chamber Choir again participated in the International Children's Choir Festival in Canterbury as well as toured and performed in the great cathedrals of London and Paris. In the summer of 2007, the Chamber Choir participated in the Vermont International Choral Festival at Stowe, Vermont, and toured the northeastern U.S. The Chamber Choir returned to Europe for the fourth time in July 2009 to participate in the International Salzburg Choral Festival, including visits to Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein, and the Czech Republic. In the summer of 2011 the Chamber Choir returned to the Crescent City Choral Festival in New Orleans with stops in St. Louis, Memphis, and Asheville, NC. In 2013, the choir celebrated its 25th anniversary, culminating in a tour to Hawaii where they participated in the Pacific Rim Choral Festival. The Chamber Choir toured Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City and Niagara Falls in Canada as well as Boston and the northeastern U.S. in the summer of 2015. In June 2017, the Chamber Choir traveled to New York City to participate in the National Children's Choir Festival in Carnegie Hall. The group completed its 12th major tour by traveling to the southeastern U.S. in June of 2019, including visits and concerts in Savannah, GA and Charleston, SC along with stops in Nashville, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Colonial Williamsburg, Jefferson's Monticello, and Lexington, KY.

The group has sung with choirs from throughout the United States as well as with several of Indiana's finest children's choirs. The choir has performed under the direction of internationally recognized conductors Mary Goetze, Henry Leck, David Flood, Z. Randall Stroope, Robert DeCormier, and Bob Chilcott, and has commissioned six new compositions by recognized composers, including a new composition by ACDA composition contest winner, Alex Berko, which was premiered at the 2016 Spring Concert. In addition, through the Performing Arts Council of Logansport, the choir has been able to perform with visiting entertainers including Alan Thicke, The Lettermen, Judy Collins, Rita Coolidge, and Brenda Lee. Numerous individuals from the choir have been selected for state, regional, and national honors choirs, representing our choir and city in New Orleans, Chicago, Cincinnati, San Antonio, Chattanooga, Washington D.C., Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Charlotte, NC, Denver, and Dallas.

The purpose of the choir is to offer talented students opportunities to learn more about music in general and choral singing in particular, than can usually be learned in the classroom or in the school choir. Rehearsal time is divided between warm-ups, exercises designed to teach proper singing techniques and musicianship, and work on pieces for performances. Literature is carefully selected to be appropriate for children's voices, and to expose the children to fine music, both by today's composers and by the masters of the past.

It is our hope that our students will develop a life-long love for singing and for fine music; that they will have a solid foundation for future participation in choral and instrumental groups and that they will understand the value of excellence. We believe that this striving for excellence together with other children helps give each child a feeling of accomplishment, self-worth, and self-confidence.

II. Instructional Goals – Divisions of LCC

CONCERT CHOIR – consisting of students in grades 3 through 8, this group brings young singers together with experienced voices for the benefit of both.

CHAMBER CHOIR – consisting of students in grades 6 through 8 from the Concert Choir, as well as treble-voiced veteran members of LCC now in high school, this group was formed to provide our experienced singers with an opportunity to perform more advanced literature, and to progress at a pace appropriate to their level of experience. The Chamber Choir is the primary touring ensemble of LCC. In major tour years, fifth grade students who have completed at least one previous year in the choir are invited to join the Chamber Choir in the second semester.

The choirs will also often perform together, particularly at our annual Winter and Spring Concerts.

Please note: **Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are members of both the Concert Choir and Chamber Choir and attend rehearsals on Mondays and Wednesdays.**

III. Membership

The Logansport Children's Choir is designed to be a positive learning experience for our children, one that they will carry with them throughout their lifetime. Members should take to heart the meanings of "commitment" and "responsibility". They should feel a sense of pride at being in this very special organization and not take their membership lightly. **Enrollment into LCC is for the season of September through May**, and each member is expected to remain active and committed to the program for the entire term. These young people will be sharing some wonderful times together, both musically and socially. While we do expect students to commit to LCC for an entire year, if you find it necessary to remove your child from the choir, please contact Mr. or Mrs. Cahalan so that we know your child will not be with us any longer.

IV. Membership Fees (Tuition) and Fundraising

In order to ensure the future of our choir, the Logansport Children's Choir Board of Directors has adopted a non-refundable annual tuition program for the members of the Logansport Children's Choir:

\$150.00 per year for once-a-week choir students

\$200.00 per year for twice-a-week choir students

There are two main options for payment of the annual tuition:

Option 1 – Full payment by October 1

Option 2 – Three equal payments due October 1, November 1, and December 1

If necessary, we can also make special arrangements for payment, but ***we must receive this arrangement in writing by September 25th.***

Payments can be made by cash, check, or money order. Please write on the memo line of all checks and/or money orders as to what the payment is for and send cash payments in a labeled envelope. All checks should be made payable to either Logansport Children's Choir or LCC. **NEW THIS YEAR: Tuition payments can be made ONLINE through PayPal.** Visit the Forms, Letters, & Payments page of our website at www.logansportchildrenschoir.org and use Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, or your own PayPal account to make partial or full tuition payments.

For families with more than one child in LCC, there will be a \$25.00 discount for each additional child. In addition, it will be required that each family raise at least \$25.00 in donations through the annual "Friends of the Logansport Children's Choir" campaign. It is also expected that all members will actively participate in each of our other fundraising activities, generally four or five projects per year – more in major touring years.

V. Commitment to School Music Programs

It is expected that LCC students will use their musical skills in their individual schools. Elementary students should participate in their school choirs, if there is a choir available at their school. LCC members who attend the Columbia Sixth Grade Academy or Logansport Junior High School are required to participate in the school choir unless it is a direct conflict with an honors or remedial class. Other conflicts which prevent a student from participating in their 6th, 7th, or 8th grade choir should be discussed directly with Mr. Cahalan. High school students are strongly encouraged to participate in choir, band, or both.

VI. Rehearsal Schedule and Attendance

Rehearsals are held in the Logansport High School Choir Room. **Concert Choir rehearses on Mondays from 3:45-5:15 p.m. Chamber Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 3:45-5:15 p.m.** There will also be combined rehearsals of the entire choir on Wednesdays as concert dates approach. A complete rehearsal schedule will be sent home at or near the beginning of each semester. A monthly calendar will also be sent home and will contain changes or updates to the schedule. In addition, the complete schedule can also be found on our website at www.logansportchildrenschoir.org. The choir's season is generally September through May. Membership in LCC is a commitment to faithful, consistent, and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsals will be a **very high priority** in each child's life. A choir member may be excused from rehearsals if a legitimate conflict occurs. In order to be excused, Mr. or Mrs. Cahalan must be notified by phone, e-mail, or written note, BEFORE the planned absence if at all possible.

Of particular importance are the final rehearsals before our Winter and Spring concerts. All choir members are expected to attend these rehearsals. If a child misses any part of the mandatory rehearsal before the Winter or Spring concert, the child will not be allowed to sing at the concert. The only exceptions are illness of the child or participation in a high school varsity meet or game. In case of inclement weather, please check your email inbox and/or the Remind app, Twitter & Facebook for any announcement regarding cancellation. If the Logansport Community Schools are dismissed early or closed on a Monday or Wednesday, LCC will not rehearse.

Excessive absence from rehearsal may result in removal from the choir.

VII. Reminders for Successful Membership

1. Parents/guardians are responsible for the student's transportation to and from rehearsals and performances. There are some LCSC school buses from the elementary and middle schools that happen to stop at LHS and some of our members have been able to take advantage of this in past years. Arrangements for any LCSC bus transportation should be made directly with your child's school.
2. Arrive on time before rehearsal and report to your assigned place in the choir room. Students should be **dropped off between 3:30-3:45** and **picked up promptly at 5:15** at **Door 12** in the back of the high school. *(Please note that Door 12 cannot be unlocked until 3:25.)* Those dropping off students should **NOT PARK in any of the drives leading down to Door 12**. Buses are constantly using these driveways all day and cars parked along the curbs often prevent the buses from getting through. You are welcome to stop along the curb for a few seconds in order to drop off your child, but if you need to stop for a longer period of time, please park in one of the high school lots until your child can be dropped off quickly. Please be sure to follow this rule as we have had several complaints from bus drivers about not being able to access these driveways. When picking up students after practice however, you are welcome to park along the driveways since the bus routes are finished for the day by the time we dismiss.

VII. Reminders for Successful Membership, continued

3. Give attendance notes, permission slips, etc. to Mr. or Mrs. Cahalan before rehearsal begins.
4. **Do not roam through Logansport High School at any time!** We are guests in this building and have limited access to the facilities. Students are not to be out of the choir room at any time without permission of Mr. and Mrs. Cahalan. Students are reminded to report directly to the choir room after entering the building - do not roam through the hallways or enter the weight room on your way to and from the choir room.
5. Communication with the parents is primarily through letters, either emailed or sent home with the child. **It is expected, and very important, that the parent will read each letter right away.** Failure to read a letter will not be an excuse if it causes for example, a missed performance. **IMPORTANT: Please be sure that we have an accurate, up-to-date, and frequently checked email address for you.** We do a lot of our communication through the LCC gmail account (logansportchildrenschoir@gmail.com), and you will miss important messages if we do not have your accurate information (including home address). In addition, we will announce upcoming events through email and on the LCC website, Remind app, Google calendar, Facebook page and/or our Twitter account @logansportchoir.
6. Parents are requested to pick up students promptly to avoid confusion and unnecessary worry. It is the choir's responsibility not to leave any student of any age waiting on a parent when the directors leave LHS.

VIII. Performances

Major performances – Winter and Spring Concerts, trips, performances involving the entire choir – are few in number and are **MANDATORY**. The only exceptions will be conflicts that were already on the choir member's calendar at home at the time of notification of a choir performance. Mr. or Mrs. Cahalan should be notified of any such conflicts immediately – months before the concert in many cases.

Chamber Choir “community” performances for clubs, service organizations, etc. are to be attended by each member unless a conflict exists. Mr. or Mrs. Cahalan will attempt to work with members of the Chamber Choir and their parents but if, as mentioned earlier, LCC is a very high priority, when conflicts arise it can be expected that it will not always be the LCC performance that is missed. Compromise on both sides is required, and it is expected that parents will help prevent excessive absence from Chamber Choir performances.

IX. Concert Dress

Just as the ensemble's sound is important, so is the ensemble's appearance. A well-groomed, neatly uniformed ensemble is essential for a truly professional and artistic experience.

Good personal hygiene is a must for all singers. **Shirts are to be tucked in.** Clean combed hair is always expected of each singer whenever a specific appropriate dress is required. Hair should be groomed **away from the face** and may be fastened with natural (matching hair color) barrettes (**no bows, ribbons, clips, or colored barrettes**). Hair must be of a natural color – no member with pink, blue, purple, etc. hair color will be allowed to perform. No obvious make up – including fingernail polish – is necessary. Dangling earrings, necklaces, bracelets, or visible piercings (other than ears) will not be allowed. Small earrings, such as tiny pearls or gold/silver studs, are acceptable.

A singer who fails to dress properly for an event may not be allowed to participate.

- Uniform description on next page -

OFFICIAL UNIFORMS OF THE LOGANSPOUT CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Casual Uniform – Boys and Girls

Green LCC polo shirt
Maroon LCC polo shirt (**Chamber Choir ONLY**)
“Stone” colored pants
Clean WHITE tennis shoes

Formal Uniform

BOYS: Black dress pants
White, oxford cloth, long sleeve, button-down collar shirt*
LCC tie**
Black socks
Black dress shoes
Vests**(Chamber Choir ONLY)

GIRLS: Black circle skirt*
White shirt* (as above)
LCC tie**
Suntan colored hose
Black dress shoes (flat!)
Vests**(Chamber Choir ONLY)

* Purchased through LCC

**Distributed by LCC (not purchased by parent)

Optional Items

LCC long-sleeved T shirt (NEW this year!)
LCC Sweatshirt and/or “Hoodie”
LCC tie dyed T shirt
LCC drawstring bag
LCC duffle bag
LCC Garment Bag

X. The Board of Directors

The Logansport Children's Choir is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the ideals of high quality singing for children in Logansport. The corporation is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors. These individuals give their time, talents, and expertise to ensure that the goals of the choir are met in a clear and business-like manner. The staff of LCC appreciates the great efforts of these volunteers to keep the artistic opportunity alive for young singers in our city.

XI. Parent Committees

The Logansport Children's Choir depends greatly on parent volunteers and annually has several parent committees (uniforms, concert help, chaperones, fundraising, etc.). Parents are encouraged to serve on or chair one of these committees, and may sign up to do so at the annual season-opening parent meeting.

XII. Conclusion

It is expected that parents of LCC students read, understand, and follow the guidelines spelled out above. Failure to do so may result in the student's removal from the choir.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any child from the choir if it is deemed in the best interest of the group to do so.

Contact Information:

Logansport Children's Choir
P.O. Box 1026
Logansport, IN 46947

Home: 574-722-6457
LHS Choir Room: 574-753-0441 ext. 23117
Mr. Cahalan's cell phone: 574-721-6250
Mrs. Cahalan's cell phone: 574-721-6249
e-mail: logansportchildrenschoir@gmail.com
cahalant@lcsc.k12.in.us (school)
cahalans@comcast.net (home)
FAX: 574.722.6496

www.logansportchildrenschoir.org



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