



## St. Bartholomew's Choristers

The chorister program at St. Bartholomew's Church was founded in 1995 as an ensemble for children of all backgrounds up to grade 12. This free choral program for youth offers rigorous vocal training and music education. Participants attend weekly rehearsals and Sunday morning services alongside frequent social gatherings (choir camp, barbecues, talent shows, pizza lunches) which foster a friendly, collegial atmosphere. Between the social events and highly collaborative musical environment, it is no wonder that many choristers form lasting friendships with one another.

Occasionally, the choristers sing at additional services and events throughout the year, especially during the Christmas season: a treasured time of year at St. Bart's. The choristers gain valuable guidance, inspiration, and experience singing alongside the all-professional St. Bartholomew's Choir. Through their active role of leadership in worship, choristers develop a profound awareness of the intersection of music, art, language, faith, liturgy, and history.

## A Chorister's Future

A committed member of St. Bartholomew's Choristers can expect to develop lifelong skills and relationships that will open the doors to all kinds of opportunity. Many choristers have gone on to study music (including sacred, classical, jazz, and pop music) and to participate in all types of musical ensembles. Nowadays, several alumni have become professionals in all kinds of artistic fields including film, drama, art, illustration, and lighting design.

Many alumni of the program go on to attend some of the finest institutions in America and abroad, including: Cornell University, Davidson College, Franklin & Marshall College, Hunter College, Kenyon College, San Diego State University, Stanford University, St. Olaf College, Tufts University, and Vassar College.



## Get in Touch

Contact  
Alexander Pattavina,  
the Director of  
St. Bartholomew's  
Choristers, with any  
questions or to schedule  
an audition.

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# ST BART'S

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SAINT  
BARTHOLOMEW'S  
CHORISTERS  
AT  
ST. BART'S



Alexander Pattavina  
Director



## Vocal Training and Music Education

The choristers are divided into sub-groups according to their vocal progress: Junior Choristers and Senior Choristers. Healthy vocal development is essential to the success of a young chorister. Each child receives tailored vocal training to ensure a healthy voice for years to come. Learning to read music is an essential element of the program, which makes it possible for children to perform advanced sacred repertoire ranging from ancient plainsong to works composed recently. The choristers also study posture, aural training, music history, composition, conducting, and a number of church-related disciplines. Some even choose to learn to play the piano or the organ.



## Weekly Schedule

Mid-September through mid-June

### Sundays

9:30 am Warm-up  
11 am Choral Eucharist  
12:15 pm Children, Youth, & Families Lunch  
1 pm Rehearsal for all Choristers

### Tuesdays

4:45 pm Junior Choristers Rehearsal

### Wednesdays

4:45 pm Senior Choristers Rehearsal



## Progress

Developing one's voice is a gradual process that can be extremely rewarding over the course of a year. To celebrate certain milestones in their progress as a musician, choristers are given special awards, prizes, and responsibilities. It is vital to children's success to give constructive feedback and various tokens of their improvement. There is no time limit to making progress; each chorister studies at his or her own pace.

## Program Highlights

- **Annual Chorister Camp** at Incarnation Center (Ivoryton, CT)
- **Performances** at the Cosmopolitan Club, the Lotos Club, Carnegie Hall
- **Appearances** on NBC's Today Show, Good Morning America, and the Early Show
- **Professional recordings** with Pro Organo: *Sing in exultation!* (2001) and *My song is love unknown* (2002)
- **Tours** to Washington D.C., Burlington, VT, Chestertown, MD, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and abroad to England
- **Collaborations** with the Young People's Chorus of New York City and Southwark Cathedral Choir
- **Use of onsite facilities:** pool, basketball court, playground, gym, and restaurant
- **End-of-year choir parties**

## The Audition Process

Auditions are heard throughout the year, and are arranged directly with the Director. This introductory session typically includes a vocal evaluation and interview with the prospective chorister (with a parent or guardian). No preparation is required before an audition: a child is typically asked to perform simple music reading exercises and ear tests. No choral experience or prior music training is required to audition. St. Bart's is delighted to invite those with a passion to learn to sing! Please call (212) 378-0220 or email [apattavina@stbarts.org](mailto:apattavina@stbarts.org) for more information.

## The Commitment

Joining St. Bartholomew's Choristers is just as much of a commitment for the child as for the family. The time commitment is comparable to being on an after-school sports team. While allowances are made for absences due to pressing matters, choristers are expected to attend all rehearsals, services, and other events.

