

Bel Canto Handbook 2014-2015

Congratulations on being chosen to join this outstanding group of 2nd-5th Grade Singers! This group is the primer division of the Casper Children's Chorale, a nationally recognized choir in existence for 36 years. We operate within the Chorale organization, including leadership from their Parent Board of Directors. We follow the basic rehearsal schedule and philosophy emphasized in Children's Chorale.

Staff

Marcia Patton-Children's Chorale Conductor, Bel Canto Advisor

Terry Schreckengost, Bel Canto Conductor

Terry is beginning her 16th year of teaching elementary general music with this being her 3rd year as Bel Canto Conductor. Terry received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Wyoming with certification in K-12 vocal and instrumental music. She has performed with numerous vocal groups throughout her schooling, directed adult and children's church choirs, taught vocal music grades preschool through high school, and has taught private piano lessons. She and her husband Frank have been married for 22 years and have 4 children, Ben, Josh, Sarah, and Rachel.

Jennifer Cowell-DePaolo, Accompanist/ Rehearsal Assistant

Jennifer is currently in her 13th year as a full-time music instructor at Casper College. She holds a B.M. from DePaul University in Violin Performance and a M.M. from the University of Oregon. Ms. Cowell-DePaolo is an active teacher and performer. She and her husband, Gary DePaolo have two children, Alexis and Evan. She looks forward to this new adventure as an accompanist and rehearsal assistant for Bel Canto.

Lisa Rich, Rehearsal Assistant

Lisa holds an Associate of Arts from Casper College and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Wyoming. Lisa received her Child Development Associate from the CDA National Credentialing Program in 2012. She has taught elementary general music in NCSD #1 for 12 years. She is active in leading the worship time for Pathfinders and sings in her church choir. She also sings occasionally for the Casper Chamber Music Society Concert Series. She currently teaches pre-K at Shepherd of the Hills Child Development Center. She's been married for 22 years to her husband Steve and has two boys, Jeremy and Alex.

Rehearsals

When: Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays from 4:15-5:15.

Where: First Baptist Church (514 S. Beech St.)

Our rehearsals are on the same day as Casper Children's Chorale in an attempt to help families with children in both groups. The rehearsal location is only a few blocks away from St. Mark's and the start/end times have been staggered to allow for singer's to be picked up and dropped off for each group. Please don't arrive earlier than 4:00 for rehearsals and please be prompt in picking up your singer at 5:15.

****Please drop our child off in the alleyway between First Baptist and Our Savior's Lutheran Church or along Beech St. Students should enter and report directly to the sanctuary. Please pick singers up at the same location. During bad weather, singers will wait in entry way for rides.**

***Can parents attend Bel Canto rehearsals?**

We ask that parents NOT attend rehearsals. We have nothing to hide, but we need total concentration from the singers during our short rehearsal time.

Attendance

Attendance is critical for participation in a performing group. Singers will be required **to attend 12 rehearsals out of 15** that will be held each semester as well as a mandatory Dress Rehearsal before the Holiday & Mother's Day Concerts. This will ensure that singers know their parts for performances and do not miss out on important information. All Singers will be expected to perform at the Holiday and Mother's Day Concerts. We will also have 1 additional community performance TBD. A *tardy* arrival (after 4:20) will be marked as an absence. Rehearsals always begin with concentrated warm-ups and are key to developing the voice and ear, and should not be missed.

We understand that kids are busy and involved with many other activities, which is why we have some leniency in the number of rehearsals required. Please communicate with me early when conflicts arise so that we can work it out, especially for performances!

Performances

Holiday Concert---Tuesday, December 16th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**Highland Park Community Church
(with Children's Chorale and Alla Breve)**

Community Concert---TBD (Spring Semester)

Mother's Day Concert---Sunday, May 10th, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

**Casper College Wheeler Auditorium
(separate from Children's Chorale at 6:30)**

Uniform-Required for Performances

Bel Canto Shirt (provided)

Black Slacks (not jeans)

Black Socks

Black Dress Shoes

Dues

Dues for Bel Canto are \$70.00 per semester. Dues pay for music, supplies, organizational costs, instructor fees, and Bel Canto shirts.

Dues must be checks-NO CASH-made out to Casper Children's Chorale.

***Please bring in envelope with Singer's name anytime on or before dates.**

First semester Dues to be paid by October 7, 2014

Second semester Dues to be paid by February 10, 2015

Miscellaneous

1. Bad Weather

We will follow the NCS D policy for bad weather. If school is cancelled, rehearsal will be canceled; this includes early release from school.

2. Pictures

Group Photos will be taken in October. The exact date is TBD. Singers will need their uniforms by then. Order forms will go home if you wish to order one.

3. Monthly Treats

We will have a sign-up for parents to bring treats the last rehearsal of each month two people per month to share the expense. We have 50 Singers-something small that they can take after rehearsal.

4. T-Shirts

I need 2-3 Parent Volunteers to help size Singers for T-shirts on **Tuesday, September 23rd during our rehearsal time.**

Contact Information

**Communication for Bel Canto is generally done through e-mail. Please make sure the information on the contact sheet is correct.

Terry Schreckengost belcanto307@yahoo.com

Bel Canto information will also be posted on the Casper Children's Chorale Website at www.casperchildrenschorale.com

I will reserve Thursdays to respond to Bel Canto emails. Also, please feel free to call me with questions or concerns at 797-1218.

Again, I am so excited for the opportunity to work with your children and give them a great choral experience!

Sincerely,

Terry Schreckengost, Bel Canto Conductor

Rehearsal Dates 2014-2015

September

9/9

9/16

9/23---size for Tshirts

9/30—Ice Cream Social 5:15-6:16 **Families Welcome

October

10/7

10/14 **GROUP PHOTO—NEED UNIFORM**

10/21

10/28---Wear a Costume to Rehearsal

November

11/4

11/11

11/18

11/25---No Rehearsal---Happy Thanksgiving

December

12/2

12/9

12/15—Monday-- Dress Rehearsal for Holiday Concert

12/16---Holiday Concert at Highland Park Comm

Church @7:00 p.m.

January

1/6

1/13

1/20---No Rehearsal (All-State Music Clinic)

1/27

February

2/3

2/10

2/17

2/24---Crazy Hat Day

March

3/3

3/10

3/17

3/24

3/31---No Rehearsal (Spring Break)

April (Community Performance TBD)

4/7

4/14

4/21

4/28---Bring a Friend Night

May

5/5---Dress Rehearsal Mother's Day Concert

5/10---Mother's Day Concert Casper College

@5:00p.m.

5/11-22---Auditions for 2015-2016 Bel Canto &

Children's Chorale