

San Francisco Girls Chorus **PREP CHORUS**

Information and Curriculum Spring 2021

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1. WELCOME

Welcome to the San Francisco Girls Chorus Prep Chorus!

The San Francisco Girls Chorus (SFGC) Prep Chorus began in January 2008 to provide young girls the opportunity to develop their voices and musicianship in an exciting, positive, age-appropriate atmosphere.

Prep Chorus is the first ensemble of the San Francisco Girls Chorus Chorus School, which is comprised of six levels: non-auditioned Prep Chorus, Training Chorus, and Levels I–IV, which choristers move through as they develop musically. Choristers spend an average of two years in each level. The carefully structured training stages are designed specifically to increase technical skills, stamina and discipline in accordance with each chorister's age and physical development.

For Spring 2021, Prep Chorus is open to singers ages 4–7.

2. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding Prep Chorus administration, registration and tuition should be directed to our Chorus School Administration Staff:

Monica Covitt, Director of Chorus School Operations & Community Engagement and Level II Director:

mcovitt@sfgirlschorus.org

Johann Joson, Chorus School Coordinator:

jjoson@sfgirlschorus.org

All other questions should be directed to your singer's Prep Chorus Director:

Christopher Street, Kanbar (Monday) and Bayview Prep Chorus Director, at cstreet@sfgirlschorus.org

Emily Ryan Kusnadi, Kanbar (Saturday) and East Bay Prep Chorus Director, at eryan@sfgirlschorus.org



3. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to let their choristers develop independently during their Prep Chorus class. We ask that parents refrain from taking photos or videos during rehearsals, demonstrations, and performances.

Open Parent Demo Classes occur throughout the Fall and Spring. Performance opportunities will be held throughout the Spring semester to celebrate our Prep Choristers' accomplishments. Please check the associated Prep Chorus calendar for these important dates.

4. CURRICULUM

The SFGC Prep curriculum uses American and multicultural folk music, games, and dances to foster the enjoyment of making music and develop musical skills, including reading, writing, improvising, interpreting, and describing music. Students use their voices, bodies, and rhythm instruments to make music, experience music, and internalize music.

Students also learn and memorize unison choral pieces each semester, culminating in performances for families and friends. Repertoire selection may encompass a wide variety of genres, including classical, folk, and music from around the world. Singers take first steps in reading from a choral score, increasing their ability to read both words and music. Students build listening and memory skills through weekly practice, and develop confidence and stage presence in preparation for their final performance.

Musical concepts covered include:

- Singing in tune
- Loud/soft
- Fast/slow
- High/low
- Beat
- Rhythm: quarter note, eighth note, quarter rest
- Melody: pentatonic solfege
- Simple meter

5. ASSESSMENT & CHORISTER EXPECTATIONS

A written report is sent home at the conclusion of each semester, describing the individual chorister's progress in the Prep Chorus. Choristers may remain in Prep Chorus through age six. At age six, choristers will be recommended to audition for the SFGC Chorus School. While participation in Prep Chorus provides an excellent foundation for further music study, it does not guarantee acceptance into the auditioned levels of the Chorus School, which is based on individual maturity and vocal ability, and gained through an audition process.

Every Prep Chorister learns to:

- Work with her best effort, focus, and concentration at all classes, demonstrations, and performance workshops
- Be punctual to every class
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior and follow directions
- Be supportive of and courteous to all efforts of fellow Prep choristers as they attempt to learn and improve their skills
- Follow the SFGC Code of Civility

6. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because each class builds sequentially upon previously learned material, attendance at all classes is crucial to a young singer's development and growth. Prep choristers are allowed a maximum of **eight absences per year**.

In the event of illness, emergency, or anticipated absence, please email your Prep Chorus Director. There are seven Prep Chorus classes that meet at different locations and times. If a chorister misses one week's lesson, she may make up that same lesson by attending a different Prep Chorus class that week.

7. ARRIVAL EXPECTATIONS

Choristers should arrive five minutes prior to the rehearsal's start time, even online.

In the event of illness, emergency, or anticipated absence, please call or email the Prep Chorus Director at the email addresses provided above to let them know of any anticipated conflicts.

8. ATTIRE

For weekly class, choristers are to wear comfortable clothing that allows for stretching, moving, standing, and sitting on the floor.

For the class demonstrations or any final workshops and performances (including online performances), all choristers are to be in the Prep Chorus uniform, which includes:

- Prep Chorus T-shirt, tucked in (to be provided during the year)
- Long solid color pants
- Closed-toe shoes or sneakers
- Hair groomed and pulled away from the face
- No jewelry, make-up or nail polish

The cost for the t-shirt is included in Prep Chorus tuition.