



Student Handbook 2020-2021

Welcome DYC Students!

The DYC board & staff would like to welcome you and your family to Detroit Youth Concert Choir and Performing Arts Company.

## **REGISTRATION**

The registration fee for our 2020-2021 season is **\$150** per student. This year's registration fee will cover administrative cost, materials, as well as the backstage catering for our students' winter and summer productions. We are asking that registration fees are paid by Saturday, **September 26<sup>th</sup>**. If registration is not paid in full, your student will not be allowed in rehearsal the following week until payment is made. Remember communication is the key. We have several options for payment. PayPal (**dycchoir@yahoo.com**) CashApp (**\$dyc4art**) or you may see NeQuan White onsite for cash payments.

### **\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

If you choose to use PayPal or CashApp as payment to DYC for items such as: tshirts, ticket monies, fundraising monies, registration, etc please include an additional 3% service fee.

### **Contact/Communication Information:**

You filled out a registration form during auditions/evaluations. Please be sure to update us if any contact information changes throughout the season. It is imperative that you have a working email address and it is one that you check or have access to regularly.

DYC's primary source of communication is GroupMe and email. There are 2 parent chat groups: Information Only (for our calendar ONLY) and Chatter (for regular communication, questions and updates)

**\*\*\*GroupMe is required by parents as a source of communication. There is an optional chat for students run by the Logistics Coordinator. GroupMe is used by parents/students between the hours of 8a-11p, unless there's an emergency.**

### **Uniforms:**

Dress uniforms can **ONLY** be purchased through Schoolbelles, located at 42073 Ford Road in Canton (**please see uniform details-last page**).

Socks (girls only) (**\$10**), Bowtie (**\$5**) and DYC performance t-shirts (**\$12**) can **ONLY** be purchased through the Detroit Youth Concert Choir. (see NeQuan White)

# 2020-2021 NYC Syllabus

\*\*\*Each student must participate in Choir/Choreography,  
however acting is optional\*\*\*

## Rehearsal Information/Location:

### Tuesdays:

**Limelight** Choir/Choreography 5-8pm @ Marygrove

### Wednesdays:

**Center Stage** Choreography 5:30-8:00pm @ Durfee **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed**

**Prime Time** Choreography 5:30-8:00pm @ Durfee **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed**

Thursdays: Detroit Youth Theatre (DYT) 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (ALL students welcome)

Saturdays: Choir/Choreo @ Durfee

**Center Stage 12-2pm; Prime Time 2:30-5pm**

**Location: Durfee Innovation Society 2470 Collingwood St. Detroit 48206**

**Location: Marygrove College 8425 W. McNichols Detroit 48221**

Thank you in advance for your commitment Anthony White, BA Music/Staff

## **Vocal, Theatre & Dance**

### **Objective(s) to accomplish:**

- 2 Shows; Christmas & Summer/Travel
- Provide a platform for students to perform in front of various audiences nationwide and locally
- Learn stage presence (Expression)
- Vocal Techniques
- Theatrical techniques
- Dance Choreography, Modern, Lyrical Dance.
- Sight Reading
- Ear training

**Materials:**

- DYC folder (bring folder to every rehearsal)
- Pencil/Pen
- DO NOT DESTROY FOLDERS (\$5 Fine)
- Sheet Music/Lyric Sheet(s)

**Discipline of Rehearsal**

- Breathe Correctly/Sing Correctly
- Sit on the edge of the seat (Posture)
- Respect choir members in rehearsal
- Respect staff & parents
- **NO CELL PHONES/NO GUM CHEWING**
- Keep questions until the end of rehearsal
- Respect the Alumni of DYC.
- Be a leader!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Keep a Positive attitude

**Students can access music material via Dropbox.com (download Dropbox app)**

**\*\*\*please DO NOT sync, edit, delete or change anything in Dropbox\*\*\***

**Username: [dycchoir@yahoo.com](mailto:dycchoir@yahoo.com)**

**Password: detroitouthchoir**

# **DYC Student Code of Conduct**

The Detroit Youth Choir is an organization that emphasizes the importance of respecting others as well as themselves.

The Detroit Youth Choir has a no-tolerance policy for inappropriate behavior(s). We would like to reinforce to you that the following behaviors will not be allowed:

- **Sexual conduct and or inappropriate touching.**
- **Bullying.**
- **Peer pressure.**
- **Body shaming.**
- **Fighting.**
- **Disrespectful or disruptive behavior towards staff or other students.**

If a student demonstrates/participates in any of the listed behaviors, under our supervision, appropriate action will take place which includes, but is not limited to parental notification, removal from rehearsal/performance & ultimately dismissal from the DYC program. Please speak to your child about the consequences if any such behavior is observed. If your student is disruptive and therefore removed from a performance or rehearsal, you will be called and asked to pick up your student or provide an option for them to be picked up as soon as possible. This is a last resort, but we ask you cooperation should this be deemed necessary.

## **DYC Academic Requirements**

DYC values education as much as performance. We pride ourselves on a 100% college acceptance rate. We feel that DYC can be a vehicle to assist in academic pursuits via our connections with several Institutions of higher learning including Central State University, Lane College and Olivet College. That being said, we encourage and insist that our students maintain an acceptable GPA in order to perform. ***Members must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better in order participate in performances. If a member falls below a 2.5 GPA he/she will be placed on academic probation and are unable to perform.*** They are encouraged to continue to rehearse. When they show that their overall GPA has returned to at least a 2.5 they will regain performance status. Report cards/grades are checked quarterly following the DPS schedule. If your student's school district is on a different schedule, then a current progress report or similar electronic grade report is acceptable at the time grades are requested. DYC's Dean of Students will handle requesting grades and can assist in recommending tutoring options if needed. Dean of Students can be contacted at: [dycdeanofstudents@gmail.com](mailto:dycdeanofstudents@gmail.com)

## **DYC Social Media Policy**

As a member of DYC we encourage you to promote our activities, events and projects. Being a member can also put you in the spotlight especially amongst friends, peers and family. DYC is well known and revered within our community. Our expectation is that our student members and their families will represent DYC in the positive light in which we have achieved our success. If your student states they are a member of DYC on any social media profile we expect that their page reflects the image that DYC has which is positive, encouraging, drug free and respectful. We ask that the DYC organization not be associated with any negative, violent, or suggestive behaviors that may cause people to question our image. Also, for the integrity of our performances or projects that we are invited to collaborate on, under no circumstances are students to post video or photos from recordings or shoots until given permission by DYC staff. Doing so can jeopardize the project and invalidate our reputation as a professional organization. If at anytime you are unsure if its ok to post don't, until you have spoken with DYC staff. Lastly, under no circumstance can any student or family member start social media pages for or under the name of DYC without permission from DYC staff. All of our social media is managed or formed with the express intent of promoting the choir and we need to always have access to our "DYC Official" name for our content.

***The health and well-being of our youth is our #1 priority.***

## **DYC COVID Protocol**

The Detroit Youth Choir is committed to the health and safety of our students, their families and our staff. The attached information outlines our steps to keep everyone safe and our protocols in response to COVID-19.

Our general safety protocols include:

\*We absolutely encourage/insist your student stay home should they feel ill

\*We will have hand sanitizer on hand at events and rehearsals

\*Students are required to have masks at all rehearsals/events and must wear them properly unless performing.

\*Social distancing will be enforced during rehearsals and at events

\*Students will have their temperature taken prior to entering any indoor space, if their temperature exceeds 100.4 they will be advised to go home

\*Please have a discussion with your student urging them to follow general COVID protocols as described by the CDC to help us as we enforce these protocols at rehearsals and events.

## **COVID Response & Instructions**

### **Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

- Hand hygiene stations should be set up at the entrance of the facility, so that children can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol next to parent sign-in sheets. Keep hand sanitizer out of children's reach and supervise use. If possible, place sign-in stations outside, and provide sanitary wipes for cleaning pens between each use.
- Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and plan to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible.
  - Have childcare providers greet children outside as they arrive.
  - Designate a parent to be the drop off/pick up volunteer to walk all children to their classroom, and at the end of the day, walk all children back to their cars.

- Ideally, the same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day. If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not pick up children, because they are more at risk for [severe illness from COVID-19](#).

## **Screen Children Upon Arrival**

Persons who have a fever of 100.4° (38.0°C) or above or other signs of illness should not be admitted to the facility. Encourage parents to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Screen children upon arrival, if possible.

There are several methods that facilities can use to protect their workers while conducting temperature screenings. The most protective methods incorporate social distancing (maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others) or physical barriers to eliminate or minimize exposures due to close contact to a child who has symptoms during screening.



Staff & Leaders:

We encourage staff to take [everyday preventive actions](#) to prevent the spread of respiratory illness.

- [Wash hands](#) often with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Remember to supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol.
- [Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces](#).
- [Cover cough and sneezes](#).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a [cloth face covering](#) when you have to go out in public.
- Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.

### **Require sick children and staff to stay home.**

- Communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick.
- Communicate to staff the importance of being vigilant for symptoms and staying in touch with Administration if or when they start to feel sick.
- Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who come to the child care center sick or become sick while at your facility are sent home as soon as possible.
- Keep sick children and staff separate from well children and staff until they can be sent home.
- Sick staff members should not return to work until they have met the [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).

## Have a plan if someone is or becomes sick.

- Plan to have an isolation room or area (such as a cot in a corner of the classroom) that can be used to isolate a sick child. Additional information about isolation in related settings can be found here: [isolation at home](#) and [isolation in healthcare settings](#).
- Be ready to follow CDC guidance on how to [disinfect your building or facility](#) if someone is sick.
- If a sick child has been isolated in your facility, clean and disinfect surfaces in your isolation room or area after the sick child has gone home.
- If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member:
  - Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
  - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
  - Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
  - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
  - If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.

## DYC Choreography/Dance Rehearsal

DYC will be performing several choreographed selections in the June show, as well as in upcoming performances. It is very important that we have 100% attendance for all choreography rehearsals. New material as well as previous material will be reviewed.

Choreography rehearsals will be primarily held on Wednesday's but are not limited to choreography. Students may be asked to have extra choir/acting/choreography rehearsals as well.

There is a dress code for choreography rehearsals. This dress code Includes:  
Comfortable attire (nothing needs to be purchased for rehearsals)

- Sweat/Jogging pants
- Basketball shorts (gentlemen)
- T-shirt (or baby t-shirt for ladies)
- Leggings (must be appropriate and paired with a top that covers accordingly)
- Gym shoes
- Any clothing of stretchy material

We do understand that some students will be commuting from school, but the dress code still applies, or students may be asked to sit out for the day. Students are easily distracted and unable to move comfortably when dressed improperly.

**\*\*\*No jeans, close fitting clothing, tank tops, flip flops, slides etc.  
this is also for the safety of our students\*\*\***

Thank you, Director of Choreography Ashia Lee/Dance Team

## **Detroit Youth Choir Performance Policy**

The Detroit Youth Choir has put in place, a structured performance policy. This policy will prepare our young people to know hard work and dedication is the key to success. We also want to teach our students that striving for excellence in whatever they want to accomplish in life, comes from working hard. In order for our organization to push students to the next level, we must put this policy in place. DYC has been fortunate to connect with colleges such as Central State University, Olivet College and Lane College, that are willing to distribute scholarships to students with interest in music. However, the student does not have to major in the music. This policy is not to discourage students, but to build their confidence and make them become better performers at a professional level. The policy goes as follows:

**Each student will have the opportunity to perform (2) seasonal shows; however other performing opportunities will be based upon auditions/attending rehearsals.**

The Performance policy criteria is as follows: 0-100% (No Exceptions)

1. Stage presence
2. Vocal tone
3. Knowledge of Material (lyrics)
4. Showmanship
5. Choreography
6. Rehearsal attendance (unless special arrangements are made)
7. Attend performances as required

## DYC ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is an important part for students to receive the full DYC experience! This is a fundamental part of your membership in choir. Concerts and performances are a public demonstration of what has been learned in rehearsal. Each performance for the group is dependent on each choir member being present to perform his or her part. The choir is more than just a collection of individual performers, it is necessary that we rehearse and perform as a unified group. A problem with an individual performer's attendance seriously inhibits our consistency and excellence. Every attempt has been made to structure a performance calendar that includes a reasonable amount of time to make students and parents aware of the performance. The following performance and attendance policy is to ensure that all students are able to uphold our professional standards

If a student is selected to attend a planned performance we expect each student selected to adhere to following. Failure to adhere to the following will result in your student not being allowed to perform.

- Must attend the rehearsal prior to the performance. *Ex: If there is a performance on a Friday. Student must be in attendance at the Wednesday rehearsal.*
- Must meet all performance expectations. *Ex: Mastery of vocal presentation, song memorization, choreography execution, and meet behavior expectations.*
- Must have bring all articles of clothing from the selected DYC uniform for the performance.
- Must be on time and follow call time instructions and arrive to transportation/venues/performances on time.

Should student have to miss the rehearsal prior to the performance, regardless of circumstances, student becomes ineligible to perform in the upcoming performance. Students will regain eligibility immediately once they return to next scheduled rehearsal.

Selection for all performances is at the discretion of the DYC staff. Please note any adjustments and or changes to: performers list, soloist selection, song list.

Student selection criteria includes but not limited to.

- Behavior compliance
- Auditions
- Performance Mastery
- Stage Presence
- Grades & Academic

**Attendance/Performance policy notes:**

- If your student will be absent from rehearsal or assigned performance we must be notified of their absence via DYC's attendance line: [dycattendance@gmail.com](mailto:dycattendance@gmail.com) . Only use this line to report an absence, not for running late or other issues. This does not excuse the absence.
- Students are asked to report to events/performances at the appointed "call time" for instruction, sound checks, rehearsal/warmup or performance modifications, if they are more than 10 minutes late for call time, they will not be able to perform.
- Students must arrive prepared in the selected uniform. We are not able to provide/sell uniform items the day of an event.
- If transportation is provided for an event/performance, students must utilize the transportation provided and travel with the choir to the performance. If you wish for your student to leave with you from the venue after the performance that is acceptable but must be arranged in advance.

## DYC Choir Tier Structure

The Detroit Youth Choir's primary focus is to provide a world class performance development program for the children in the metro Detroit community. It is our goal to nurture your student's performance ability, as well as stimulate them mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. 2020 has also presented the challenge of being exceptionally careful and mindful of our environment and the structural system in which we operate. To that end, we must also take into consideration their health and wellbeing, and that of their families. Based on the new norms we must now address, as well as the idea of developing a more structured dynamic for the DYC organization, the tier concept was created.

The tiers as described below are the structural system that DYC will now operate from. This will enable us to reduce the number of students present at one time in a rehearsal space. Helping us limit our groups and also be more focused on students that need assistance or coaching. This will also allow students to grow and develop amongst others who will push them to excel within their peer group. It gives our students opportunities to step up and lead, and work to achieve the next level as well. These tiers are by no means a place for your child to remain or be stagnant, the expectation is to groom them for the next phase and inspire them to grow.

Your student has either been evaluated or has auditioned for placement in a particular tier. Based on their ability to meet our standards as an individual performer, they were assigned their current placement. There will be periodic review and evaluation of a student's abilities to determine if tier placement should be adjusted. Please know that each student is closely considered for placement and that there are many factors that determine placement. Any questions or concerns regarding tier placement should be discussed privately with staff.

# **DYC TIER BREAKDOWN**

## **DYC "Limelight":**

Limelight will be our up and coming training group. These students will grow vocally, learn fundamentals of performing, choir singing and dancing. We will emphasize on behavior, confidence, overcoming stage fright, memorization, following instruction, and establishing techniques.

## **DYC "Center Stage":**

Center Stage group will focus on developing skills and adopting methods of performing arts. I.e., Stage presence, vocal techniques, more complex performance & music styles. Emphasizing: Discipline, Self Confidence, Responsibility, Self-Expression and Creativity.

## **DYC "Prime Time":**

Prime time will be our Performance based group. Students will have to audition to join this group. Participants are required to be a member of DYC for a minimum of 1 year. These students will individually be able to perform at a comprehensive level. Demonstrates: commitment, responsibility, discipline, high level of performance, dancing and vocals. Emphasizing Self-image, discipline, responsibility, creativity, Professionalism College readiness.



# **Detroit Youth Theatre**

Dear Parents & Students,

The mission of the Detroit Youth Actors is to provide theatrical enrichment through the performing arts. This will afford the members of the company to enjoy enormous growth, through acting, musical training, speech, creative movement and dance. DYA's goal is to teach our thespians the following theatrical skills which is categorized into the following areas:

- Creativity
- Personal Development
- Social Development

## **What is theatre?**

- Creating an ensemble
- Movement and Space
- Character Development
- Objectives and Tactics
- Voice/speaking/diction
- Listening and Reacting
- Stage Direction and Blocking

Thank You Sonya Harris, Director of DYC Theatrical Arts

## **In Lieu of Fundraising**

If you choose to opt out in fundraising, there is a donation sheet for families to donate a minimum of \$100.

Each family is required to participate. Fundraising is not an option, but a requirement, in which it is a part of the membership agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$100 minimum**

\_\_\_\_\_ **above \$100**

**Student(s) Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your participation!

# **DYC's March Madness Fundraising Month!!**

The Detroit Youth Choir has provided several options for our MARCH MADNESS FUNDRAISING MONTH!

**Double Good Popcorn, Katydid's Candy are our most popular**

**Each child is expected to participate in our once a year fundraiser. Students are required to pick one of our fundraising options.**

## **Donation Sheet**

If you choose to opt out in fundraising, there is a donation sheet for families to contribute a minimum of \$100. Each family is required to participate. Fundraising is not an option, but a requirement, in which it is a part of the membership agreement.

## **Fundraiser Details:**

Target markets - churches, teachers, jobs, other organizations, etc.

**Goal: \$5k-10k**

## **Purpose of Fundraiser**

- Band/Staff compensation
- Staging
- Wardrobe, props, wigs, costumes, make-up
- Venue
- Student activities
- Travel

The ultimate goal is to raise \$15k in fundraisers this year to go towards upcoming events. We look forward to your full participation.

***An Incentive will be given to the student that sells the most....***

## **Ticket Sales Policy**

Each student household is required to sell a minimum of 7 tickets for each of our productions. However, if you take more than the required amount of tickets you are responsible for them (***no returned tickets will be accepted***). If the minimum of 7 tickets are not sold, your student will not be able to perform in the production. Nevertheless, please feel free to sell as many tickets as you like. Please encourage family and friends to come out and see NYC's gifted and talented students.

If you choose to pay ticket monies through CashApp (**\$dyc4arts**) please add **3%** or you may pay cash onsite (no extra fee).

Thank you,

Finance Team &  
Anthony White, Artistic Director