

The Nashville Children's Choir

AUDITIONS

A citywide program for boys and girls, ages 8 through 14, The Nashville Children's Choir is committed to the rehearsal and performance of quality choral music in a positive and affirming setting. The choir meets in the facilities of Belmont University as a part of the pre-college music program, the Belmont Academy of Music. Three choirs - the Touring Choir, the Concert Choir, and the Preparatory Choir - provide children accepted into the Nashville Children's Choir placement in a group appropriate to their age and ability.

The choir fills a dual role as a quality choral organization and as an ambassador of good will, performing frequently throughout Nashville and Middle Tennessee with groups such as Nashville Opera, The Nashville Symphony, Middle Tennessee Choral Society, and recording artists Reba McEntire, Joe Diffy, and Riders in the Sky. Destinations for the Touring Choir have included San Antonio, Toronto, St. Louis, New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

The Nashville Children's Choir was founded in 1989. The Touring Choir is directed by Madeline Bridges and Brenda Jewell; the Concert Choir is directed by Roberta Rodgers; and the Prep Choir is directed by Elaine Bell.



Rehearsals:

August-May
Mondays from 4:30-6:00 p.m.
at Belmont University

Fee: \$250 per year
(Reduced rates for two children;
some scholarships available)

New Chorister Auditions for 2009-2010:

Tuesday, May 12 and
Tuesday, May 19
at Belmont University

Audition Appointment:

Follow instructions for New Chorister Auditions on website <http://ncc.belmont.edu>. [Notice there is no "www" at beginning of web address.]

Further Information:

Email ncc@mail.belmont.edu or call (615) 460-5400 ext. 1862

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Nashville Children's Choir includes three different choir levels (Preparatory Choir, Concert Choir, and Touring Choir) into which choristers are initially placed according to their vocal development, age and maturity at the time of their audition. Ages of choristers in the choirs tend to be as follows:

- Prep Choir (3rd-5th graders)
- Concert Choir (4th-7th graders)
- Touring Choir (5th-8th graders)

Children then are promoted to a more advanced choir as their skills and vocal maturity increase. A child must be a rising third through seventh grader (current 2nd-6th grader) to audition.

The choir year will begin in August 2009 and will conclude in May 2010. Rehearsals for all three choirs are held simultaneously on Monday afternoons from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on the campus of Belmont University. The performance responsibilities for the Preparatory and Concert Choirs consist primarily of participation in end-of-semester NCC concerts in December and May. The Touring Choir choristers typically sing in approximately four to six other performances each semester and take a 4-day tour each spring.

Neither prior choral experience nor the ability to read music is necessary to audition, and a child does not need to prepare an audition song. During the audition, an NCC director will lead a group of four or five children to sing - both as a group and individually - vocal exploration exercises and familiar songs such as "Happy Birthday." The audition is not a stressful situation, and parents are invited to sit in the back of the room.

and observe if they wish. The directors watch and listen for tuneful singing, evidence of musical aptitude, and demonstration of the child's ability to concentrate, focus, follow directions, and work in a group setting.

To request an audition time, follow instructions for New Chorister Auditions on the website, <http://ncc.belmont.edu>. Prospects without internet access, call 615-460-5400 ext. 1862.

The audition itself will only take about 15 minutes, but families will need to plan on a total of about 45 minutes to allow for completing forms, etc. The auditions will be held in the lower level of the Massey Performing Arts Center building on the Belmont University campus. A campus map is available on the Belmont University web site: www.belmont.edu.

In addition to the three Nashville Children's Choirs, the choir program includes the Nashville Youth Choir (grades 9-12) under the direction of Robert King. Many NCC choristers continue their involvement in the NCC program by singing in this outstanding ensemble following their participation in the children's choirs. Email Mr. King at robert.king@lipscomb.edu for audition information for this ensemble.