

PHILADELPHIA BOYS CHOIR PHILADELPHIA GIRLS CHOIR PHILADELPHIA VOCAL CONSERVATORY

Dear Parent,

The Philadelphia Girls Choir is looking for talented young girls to join our internationally acclaimed programs. The Mount Laurel School District has been chosen as an audition site for our Choir. The auditions will be held in the music room at Hillside Elementary School (1370 Hainesport-Mount Laurel Road) after school on Thursday, June 1st. We expect auditions to conclude around 4:30pm.

The audition process is very low-key. No musical training or preparation is necessary. Each girl may be asked to sing a simple song that she knows and some intuitive singing exercises. We are looking for children who have musical and vocal *potential*, not necessarily a polished performance.

This is a preliminary audition without obligation. You will be notified by e-mail whether or not your daughter has moved on to the final round in Center City. Our headquarters are located on the northern Avenue of the Arts corridor (Broad & Spring Garden), and house our rehearsal spaces, voice studios, small performance spaces and administrative offices. The location is highly visible and easily accessible by car and public transportation as well as placing the Choirs in close proximity to the Center City.

The girls in our programs come from throughout the whole Greater Philadelphia area. Currently, there are about a dozen girls from Mount Laurel in the Philadelphia Girls Choir. For those not familiar with our programs, I urge you to check out our websites at www.phillygirlschoir.org and www.phillyboyschoir.org. If you are interested in having your daughter audition, please sign the attached form and have her return the form to her music teacher. If you are not available for the audition date, feel free to contact us directly to schedule an audition at our headquarters.

I've also included some basic information on the back. I know you will find that our Choirs provide an extraordinary experience!

Jeffrey R. Smith



Artistic Director
Philadelphia Vocal Conservatory

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YOUR SCHOOL NAME: _____

I, (parent's name) _____, grant permission for my daughter
(daughter's name) _____, to audition on June 1st for the
Philadelphia Girls Choir.

SIGNATURE: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Organizational Background

Music opens a window to the beauty of the world. At Philadelphia Girls Choir, we see music as the central piece in a cultural jigsaw puzzle. Through music, we gain a deeper understanding of ourselves, our community and our world.

An after-school music education program for girls 7 and older, Philadelphia Girls Choir was established in 2012 with 18 girls. As more girls joined the organization in the fall of 2012, the choir was split into three distinct ensembles: Etude, Cantata and Concerto. Now in its 5th season, there are 200 girls enrolled.

To join the choir, girls audition and are placed in one of the training programs based on proficiency and age. After the training programs, selected singers are asked to audition for the performing choir Concerto. All programs include public performances.

Cantata's most recent performances include an appearance at the National Constitution Center as well as the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. They are looking forward to their first international trip to Montreal. Concerto girls perform in the Pennsylvania Ballet's annual holiday production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*, and began touring annually in the summer of 2014, traveling to Prague, Kraków, and Vienna. In 2015, they traveled to Italy and sang mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This past spring, they performed regionally in New Hampshire and then internationally, in Spain and Portugal this past July. The girls also perform around the region during the winter holidays and are excited for a performance at the Barnes Museum as part of their inaugural choral series.

Philadelphia Girls Choir takes a holistic approach to choral music. PGC relates singing, musicianship, and choral performance to the broader human experience through art, drama, history, and cultural diversity. Each year, the Choir's repertoire has a core idea that relates to experiences the girls will have throughout the year, including visiting museums, attending performances, and performing in locations that are tied to the core repertoire. For the current season, the theme is "*Women in Music*" with a repertoire ranging from Hildegard to Renaissance and Baroque composers to Sarah Bareilles.