



2026-2027 Concert Choir Member Agreement

Parents/guardians: Read through this season information carefully with your singer. This 40th season of NYC includes new policies, opportunities, and commitments. Thank you for being a part of NYC! We are looking forward to a wonderful season.

Once you have read this in its entirety, fill out the back page and return on Monday, September 21st. This information can also be found on our website.

CONCERT CHOIR DESCRIPTION

Concert Choir brings together SATB singers in grades 6-12 who are motivated to grow their voices, musicianship, and character through choral singing.

Together in rehearsal, we work to:

- **Refine Voices & Technique:** Practice healthy vocal habits while blending as one ensemble.
- **Discover Global Repertoire:** Engage with rich musical traditions across different styles and eras.
- **Master Music Fundamentals:** Develop independent reading skills, ear training, and music theory concepts.
- **Grow Beyond Music:** Build confidence, leadership, and collaboration skills that extend past the choir room.
- **Foster Connection:** Belong to a positive community where every singer's voice matters.
- **Share Our Music:** Prepare engaging concerts that bring the joy of choral singing to our audience.

This fall, Concert Choir is very large and therefore broken into grades 6-8 and grades 9-12, with some combined grade 6-12 rehearsals held during regular rehearsal times.

ANIMA: Anima is our treble choir for singers in grades 6–12, with repertoire and instruction designed specifically for adolescent and emerging adult treble voices. Singers develop healthy, age-appropriate vocal technique, musicianship, and expressive performance skills while exploring diverse and challenging treble repertoire. The ensemble provides a supportive community where singers can grow in confidence, artistry, and connection through music.

TROUBADOURS: Troubadours is a cambiata, tenor, baritone, and bass choir for singers in grades 6–12, with repertoire and instruction designed specifically for adolescent changing and emerging adult lower voices. Singers develop healthy, age-appropriate vocal technique, musicianship, and expressive performance skills while exploring diverse and challenging repertoire for changing and lower voices. The ensemble provides a supportive community where singers can grow in confidence, artistry, and connection through music.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

Monday rehearsals held at Northfield Middle School this year. On nights when NMS has a concert, rehearsal moves to Bethel Lutheran—check your email newsletter for advance updates. If you need help with transportation, please contact our office.

Group	Time	Activity & Location
MIDDLE SCHOOL SINGERS (Grades 6–8)	6:30–7:15 PM	Grades 6-8 rehearsal (choir room)
	7:15–8:00 PM	Grades 6-12 / Anima (choir room) & Troubadours (orchestra room)
HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS (Grades 9–12)	7:00 PM	Warm-ups & activities led by St. Olaf interns & student leadership (orchestra room)
	7:15–8:00 PM	Grades 6-12 / Anima (choir room) & Troubadours (orchestra room)
	8:00–8:30 PM	Grades 9-12 rehearsal (choir room)

Middle school singers will have focused instruction to strengthen their musicianship and rehearsal skills, while high school singers will benefit from additional time to develop advanced musicianship and leadership. Our shared rehearsal each week will continue to bring everyone together to create the vibrant, unified sound that defines Concert Choir. We're excited about these changes and believe they will create an even stronger experience for every singer. We look forward to welcoming everyone for a wonderful season of music, growth, and community!

MEMBER EXPECTATIONS & REHEARSAL SKILLS

Choral singing is a shared commitment where every voice matters. Our Member Expectations outline five core pillars that guide our rehearsals, help directors evaluate progress, and give singers a framework to self-assess their growth throughout the season. Every week, singers are expected to embody these habits **consistently & reliably**:

- **Singing & Musicality:** Maintain healthy posture and breath support, produce a clear tone that blends with the ensemble, deliver accurate pitches and rhythms, and perform with musical expression.
- **Preparation & Learning:** Arrive with materials ready, learn music and lyrics, keep pace with the group, and proactively ask questions when clarification is needed.
- **Focus & Active Participation:** Remain attentive and on-task, follow directions on the first request, build stamina for self-control, and engage fully in warm-ups, games, and rehearsals *without cell phone distractions*.
- **Respect & Ensemble Community:** Treat directors, guests, peers, and shared spaces with kindness and respect. Support fellow singers, use encouraging words, and foster a welcoming, inclusive environment for all.
- **Commitment & Reliability:** Attend all rehearsals on time, notify directors in advance of absences*, remain for the entire rehearsal period, care for assigned binders/music, and arrive performance-ready for concerts.

**To report an absence, go to our website and under "Current Families" click "Report an Absence."*

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

1. A bottle of water is highly recommended.
2. A black music binder is assigned to each singer and must be kept neatly organized. Take it off of our rack prior to the start of rehearsal and put it away properly before leaving. Do not tear or pick at the binders. We sometimes use them on stage and they need to be in perfect condition.
3. Sheet music is assigned to each singer. It must be cared for, well-maintained and returned to our music library once we finish using it. Do not doodle, tear or leave loose on the floor.

NOTE: Cell phones may not be used during rehearsal.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE AND CONCERT DATES

Concerts are a meaningful part of the NYC experience and the culmination of our singers' hard work throughout the season. They are an opportunity to celebrate our growth and share our music with family and community. Concert attendance is expected of all choir members. Singers arrive prepared and ready to give their best, with respectful performance and audience etiquette. Uniforms must meet the specific requirements listed in the uniform section and planned for in advance. All singers are expected to stay for the entire NYC concerts in December and May.

We understand that occasional conflicts arise. If a singer must miss a concert, please communicate with the NYC office as soon as the conflict is known. If you need help with transportation, please contact the office. Thank you for helping us honor our commitment to one another and make these performances meaningful!

Date	Event	Time & Location
OCTOBER 9, 2026	Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Opener & Fall Retreat	5:00–10:30 PM • Bridge Square & Goodtree Farmstead (performance at 5:30 PM)
DECEMBER 12, 2026	Northfield Youth Choirs Winter Concert	3:00 PM • Skinner Memorial Chapel, Carleton College (<i>Free & open to public</i>)
JANUARY 29, 2027	Renaissance Revelry: A Feast of Song & Celebration — Dress Rehearsal	6:00–9:00 PM • St. John's Lutheran
JANUARY 30, 2027	Renaissance Revelry: A Feast of Song & Celebration	1:00 PM & 7:00 PM • St. John's Lutheran
MARCH 6, 2027	ACDA National Conference Presidents' Concert (<i>Anima only</i>)	Time TBA • Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis
MAY 23, 2027	Northfield Youth Choirs Spring Concert	4:00 PM • Skinner Memorial Chapel, Carleton College (<i>Free & open to public</i>)

CONCERT DRESS / INFORMAL AND FORMAL EVENTS

INFORMAL ATTIRE: There will be informal events where we all wear our red NYC t-shirts. Please purchase a red NYC t-shirt (if you need one) when the office sends out t-shirt and casual wear order forms in the fall.

FORMAL ATTIRE: For formal performances we wear "concert black," which can also be described as all formal black attire from the shoulder to the floor. Please read the list of items below and acquire these in advance. Notify the office if you need help.

- Solid black top, blouse or button down shirt, with at least a 3/4 length sleeve. Shoulders must be covered.
- No low necklines
- Solid black dress pants, FULL LENGTH skirts or dresses
- Black socks or black opaque stockings/tights
- Solid black, flat, closed-toes dress shoes
- No accessories visible but stud earrings
- Wear hair neatly and out of your face

No sneakers, sandals, white/colorful socks, jeans, sweatpants or other casual clothing items.

EIGHTH GRADE AUDITION REQUESTS

If you are in 8th grade and would like to audition for the high school ensemble (which meets from 8-8:30 PM) auditions and interviews are required. Since we strive to make all ensemble sizes manageable, space is limited for this.

Auditions must be scheduled with Michelle and Zach for 8:30 PM on most Mondays. Please contact the office when you are ready to schedule an audition. Auditions will include a range evaluation and solo song. Prepare an art song or folk song of your choice to sing in its entirety, with live accompaniment, recorded accompaniment, or a cappella. Interviews will follow the audition.

In most cases, middle school singers accepted into the high school group are still expected to sing in the middle school group from 6:30-7:15 PM.

SUMMER TOUR

Concert Choir has been selected to participate in the 3rd San Diego Youth Choral Festival, hosted by the San Diego Children's Choir, from June 24–29, 2027.

This six-day festival brings together outstanding middle and high school choirs from across the country for an inspiring week of music, collaboration, and cultural exchange. Under the direction of acclaimed Iranian-American conductor Dr. Arian Khaefi, singers will rehearse and perform alongside other youth choirs, culminating in performances at unique venues throughout San Diego—including the world premiere of a newly commissioned choral work.

Beyond the music, our singers will enjoy the opportunity to experience the beauty and culture of San Diego, making this an unforgettable educational and artistic adventure. We are thrilled to offer our students this extraordinary opportunity to grow as musicians, connect with peers from around the country, and represent Northfield Youth Choirs on a national stage.

FUNDRAISING: Organized fundraising opportunities for this trip will include Culver's Night, bagging Cub groceries, Jersey Mike's and Renaissance Revelry (+ silent auction). We will factor the amounts raised into each singer's amount due as money is raised.

Pricing for San Diego Youth Choral Festival:

\$1,495 per person: 6 days, 5 nights. All-inclusive package: lodging, meals, admissions, transportation during the festival, and more. *NYC will need to add flights and trip insurance once we know who is attending.*

Deposit Schedule:

- **November 15, 2026:** Tour commitment form and 30% of total festival package due (non-refundable after December 15, 2026) = \$448.50 per singer.
- **January 15, 2027:** 35% of total festival package due (non-refundable after February 15, 2027) = \$523.25 per singer.
- **April 15, 2027:** Final festival balance due in the amount of \$523.25 per singer. We will calculate this per singer after factoring in fundraising amounts earned.

RETREAT

Each fall we hold a retreat to allow us extra time to bond, build skills and practice teamwork! This year our retreat begins with a performance in Bridge Square for the Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener. Following the performance we will head to Goodtree Farmstead (8289 300th St W, Northfield, MN 55057) for more fun and music making. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 9th from 5:00-10:30 PM.

RENAISSANCE REVELRY: A Feast of Song & Celebration

Friday, January 29th Dress rehearsal, 6:00-9:00 PM | Saturday, January 30th @ 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM | St. John's Lutheran, Northfield | Performed by Concert Choir

At our Renaissance Revelry dinner theater fundraising event we will sing music from and inspired by the Renaissance period, in costume and in character. Preparation for this event begins at the start of the season. January will be our time to move into the performance space and put on the magical finishing touches. There will also be a silent auction. We will encourage everyone in the community and beyond to join us for this special event. Ticket information available soon.

NATIONAL ACDA / ANIMA

Anima has been asked to sing for the 2027 ACDA National Conference in Minneapolis on Sunday, March 6th, 2027. *This is an enormous honor and responsibility.* We will perform with Vocal Essence, The St. Olaf Choir, and MN Boychoir in Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis for choral directors from around the country and the world. Details are still being worked out by the organizers and will be communicated to our singers as soon as we have them. For now, please mark your calendar for that entire day, which will likely include a morning or afternoon dress rehearsal and evening performance.

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Due Date: Monday, September 21st or prior to the singer's second rehearsal

Singer First Name: _____	Singer Last Name: _____	Singer Grade in School: ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
Name of Parent/Guardian Completing Form: _____		Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature & Acknowledgement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to all sections, commitments, schedules, uniforms, and dates contained within this agreement. (NOTE: Signing here does not commit a singer to our June 2026 San Diego trip. Commitment forms will be sent separately.)

Singer Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

QUESTIONS / DATE CONFLICTS

Is there anything else we should know or any further questions? If so, please send a message to office@northfieldyouthchoirs.org.



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09/14/2026