



Sweet Season Sixteen!

RYC's distinguished artistic staff is planning a joyous, musical season, with challenging and fun rehearsals, inspired performances, community outreach, and memorable travel.

All choirs rehearse Monday evenings at Cedar Heights Middle School (19640 SE 272nd, Covington) September through June. *Tuition is pro-rated for January enrollees—five monthly payments, Feb. 10-June 10*

_____ **Primo Voce (PV)** (*Italian-ish for 'first voice'*): ***Monday, 5:30-6:30 pm**
Grades 2 - 4, no prior music training necessary. Directed by Brittney Clegg & Brad Wills.
Tuition: \$70/month in nine monthly payments or \$630 in full

_____ **Bella Voce (BV)** (*Italian for 'beautiful voice'*): ***Monday, 5:30-6:45 pm**
Grades 5 – 7, no music training needed. Directed by Leora Schwitters.
Tuition: \$100/month in nine monthly payments or \$900 in full.

_____ **Colla Voce (CV)** (*Italian for 'with the voice'*): ***Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm**
Grades 6 - 8 who have been promoted from BV or have had similar training/experience.
Directed by Jackie Grant.
Tuition: \$115/month in nine monthly payments or \$1,035 in full.

_____ **Consonare (CS)** (*Latin for 'to sound together'*): ***Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm**
Grades 9 and up; younger changed TB voices may be added. Directed by Brian Hoskins.
Tuition: \$135/month in nine monthly payments or \$1,215 in full.

CV and CS soprano/alto and **CV and CS tenor/bass** singers also combine separately during this time to prepare additional repertoire for performance. *Directors: SA- Grant; TB-Hoskins.*

Sibling discount: After paying full tuition for the most advanced family singer, a 15% discount is applied for each additional sibling.

Financial assistance: Partial, needs-based tuition scholarships are available. Applications may be requested and will be reviewed confidentially.

Rainier Youth Choirs is a non-profit, community-based organization with no religious affiliations. RYC offers an exceptional, affordable and family-friendly youth choral music education and performance program that fosters teamwork, self-discipline, accomplishment and pride.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What is RYC's COVID policy?** RYC will follow whatever policy required by King County and the Kent School District. Vaccinations and masking are currently optional.
- When does the season begin/end?** RYC's season runs from September through June. Singers may join in the fall or in January. Breaks follow the Kent SD calendar.
- When and where are performances held?** 'Two all-RYC Sunday 'main-stage' concerts in Kent: **December 11, 2022** and **May 21, 2023**, each with a dress rehearsal on Thursday prior. Tickets are free, and audience donations are welcome. Other community performances have included Argosy Christmas Ship, Pacific NW Ballet and Benaroya intermissions, retirement homes, Thunderbirds hockey games, backup for Barry Manilow, and even a wedding! **Performances are required for all singers.**
- What if the weather is bad?** We follow the Kent School District's announcements for school closings or for cancelling evening activities. When possible and safe, an alternate location will be used. *Note: teacher workshop days with no students do NOT cancel RYC rehearsals. If the school is open, we will meet.*
- What can I do while my child is in rehearsal?** Many parents enjoy visiting in the check in area at CHMS, where free wi-fi is available after you sign in your singer. Shopping is within two miles of CHMS in either direction. Plan to pick singers up promptly afterwards.
- How does RYC communicate with member families?** Most RYC communication occurs via email with twice-monthly **eUpdates** and occasional text reminders using the free 'Remind' app.
- Why/How does RYC raise more money?** RYC strives to keep tuition affordable and as a non-profit, works to break even each season. Grants and donations help provide scholarships and cover other general expenses. Non-mandatory fundraisers are offered.
- Are additional obligations/expenses expected for members and families?** On-time attendance with all materials at all rehearsals/performances and regular home practice is expected. Formal uniforms vary among groups, usually costing less than \$100. Parent volunteers are necessary to keep tuition as low as possible. See the next page for other obligations.
- What communities are serviced by RYC?** Members come from Auburn, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Maple Valley, Puyallup, Renton, Snoqualmie, and Sumner. No restrictions.
- What's new with tuition payments?** Full tuition may be paid by check at the start of the season with no processing fee. Full payment by credit/debit has a \$25 fee. Biannual and monthly payment plans must be linked electronically to your bank account (no fee) or credit/debit account (\$25 processing fee.) **Checks and cash will not be accepted for partial payments.**

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

OTHER EXPENSES:

These costs are not included in tuition.

Annual registration fee: \$85 per singer, non-refundable, to cover administrative set-up costs and materials and supplies to start the season.

***Casual Uniform:** Black RYC t-shirt; black dress pants, black socks and shoes, supplied by singer. First year singers get a complimentary black t-shirt. Replacement shirts are \$10.

***Formal Uniform** Cost varies by group/gender, approximately \$70 - \$95 for auditioned groups
The full casual uniform is also Primo Voce's formal uniform.
**Gently used casual and formal items may be available upon request.*

RYC music tote bag: This bag is highly recommended to protect the sheet music that needs to be returned or replaced after each concert.
(\$30, optional)

Tour/Festival Costs: Travel is an expected part of the curriculum and not covered by tuition. These opportunities are often life changing and greatly enrich each singer and ensemble. Younger groups: one to two days, local tour or festival. Older groups travel farther and longer. Previous destinations have included Oregon, New Orleans, Hawaii, and New York City. NYC's Carnegie Hall was the cancelled destination for 2020. RYC's first international tour was to Ireland in 2017.

All singers are expected to plan ahead to participate when possible.

Optional fundraising activities are made available to help members bring these costs down.

Festival and Travel plans for 2022-2023:

Consonare and Colla Voce: The Pacific International Choral Festival (PICFEST) at University of Oregon in Eugene, June 28-July 3, est. \$1,000. (With fundraising and grants, fee is lowered to \$650)

Primo Voce and Bella Voce: Music in the Parks Festival at Wild Waves, June 10, est. \$75.

OTHER OBLIGATIONS:

Singers are expected to participate in all retreats, events, dress rehearsals, and performances.

Volunteer commitment: in an effort to keep costs down, RYC relies heavily on parent/family volunteers.

Volunteer teams, each chaired by a board member, include: Concerts, Marketing, Information and Attendance Table, Travel/Chaperoning, Uniforms, and Fundraising.

RYC requires one family adult to volunteer an average minimum of one hour per month. As an alternative, we do offer a \$180 buy out (\$90 for half season).

Safety is a number one concern and background checks are required for all RYC adult volunteers, staff, and for any singers 18 and older. We use the easy Washington State Patrol WATCH form.