

2018-2019 Handbook

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I.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission [top](#)

The mission of the Chorus is primarily educational. The children are taught to achieve high artistic standards through singing and performance. An equally important aspect of the Chorus is the nurturing and growth of discipline, responsibility, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Benefits of Choral Music [top](#)

Experience has shown that children who participate in performing arts enhance their verbal and language skills, have higher grades, score better on standardized tests, have better attendance records, and are more active in community affairs than other students. These students improve their overall school performance and develop an elevated level of self-esteem.

Membership [top](#)

Membership in the Chorus is by audition. It is open to interested boys and girls of any race, religion, or ethnic origin.

- Chorus: Singers in grades 4 – 8
- Singenspiel: Singers in grades 2 – 3
- Karussell Kids: Singers in Kindergarten and first grade
- Brenham Broadway Kids: Singers in grades 5 – 8
- Brenham Broadway Kids Chorus: Singers in grade 4 and above
- Encore: Singers in grades 8 – 12, College students
-

Children and youth from all economic and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to audition. No prior singing or performance experience is required. Membership qualifications:

- ♪ Sing with a clear tone
- ♪ Sing in tune with an unchanged voice (with the exception of Encore singers)
- ♪ Demonstrate a good sense of rhythm
- ♪ Self-disciplined and attentive behavior
- ♪ Positive attitude
- ♪ Commit to a one year membership

I.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tuition and Tuition Assistance [top](#)

Tuition is charged according to the schedule approved by the Board of Trustees. Tuition assistance is available by application for those children who qualify based on economic need. The Board of Trustees's policy is that no child will be denied this opportunity because of lack of economic resources

Venues [top](#)

The Chorus performs regularly for civic, cultural, and private events as approved by the Board of Trustees. In addition to performing major concerts in the Brenham area, the Chorus also travels to other communities, and has traveled to other states. This travel allows the Chorus to represent the quality of life in our area as reflected through our children and gives our children an opportunity to gain important social skills.

Repertoire [top](#)

The Chorus learns and performs music from memory as selected by the Artistic Director. The selections may include secular and sacred choral compositions from the Renaissance to Romantic, from contemporary to pop, and from international folk songs to Broadway selections.

Affiliation [top](#)

The Chorus is not affiliated with any religious or political group, but does receive support from institutions that are involved with children, their education, training, and life experiences. The Chorus is a non-profit organization, and qualifies as a tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Act. It is incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas, and the policies are set by an independent Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees [top](#)

The policies and financial and legal affairs of the Chorus are managed by the Board of Trustees which is comprised of individuals from a cross-section of the community.

II.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

ARTISTIC

Jill Stewart, Chorus Director, has been a member of the Blinn College Music Faculty since 1997 where she currently serves as Instrumental Music Coordinator and teaches applied clarinet and Sight Singing for freshmen and sophomore music majors. Jill received her Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance, Texas All-Level Teaching Certification in Music and Master of Music in Clarinet Performance degrees from Texas Tech University where she studied with Dr. Robert Walzel. She was a member of the Lubbock Symphony from 1993-1997 and has been Principle Clarinetist with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra since 1999. She has also performed with the Abilene Philharmonic, The Roswell Symphony, the San Angelo Symphony, the Big Spring Symphony and numerous chamber and pit orchestras across Texas. Jill has also taught music classes for infants and mothers at St. Mary's in Brenham and Karussell Kids at Alton Elementary School. She lives in Brenham with her husband Brian who is Director of Bands for Giddings ISD and their two daughters, Allison and Paige. [top](#)

Kara Freeman, Chorus Assistant Director, graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Arts in English/Elementary Education. She has been an educator in public and private schools since 1998. Mrs. Freeman is currently the Assistant Theatre Arts Director at Brenham High School. She has had a variety of vocal performance experience including church ministry, collegiate, community and professional. Mrs. Freeman is married to Jeff Freeman and together they have three sons. Mrs. Freeman has been a part of Brenham Children's Chorus since 2010. [top](#)

Julie Steen, Singenspiel Director, Chorus Assistant Director, is a Houston Baptist University Graduate with majors in Art, Physical Education and Psychology. She has over 25 years of teaching all ages in private and public school in a variety of subjects. Ms. Steen has had a variety of musical performance experiences. While attending HBU, she was a member of FOCUS, the school's traveling musical ministry team. She spent two years with the North American Baptist Conference's musical ministry team, New Day, touring throughout the USA and Canada. She has worked with ensembles at Houston's First Baptist Church, directed children's ensembles and productions at various churches, and worked as music coordinator and leader at summer camps and Bible schools. She is currently the Theatre Arts teacher at Brenham Junior High School. Julie has been with the Brenham Children's Chorus since its organization. All three of her children have been charter members of the different choirs with the Chorus: Children's Chorus, BBK, Singenspiel and Bravo (now Encore). [top](#)

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INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

ARTISTIC

Kimberly Steen, Singenspiel Intern, is a graduate from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor with an Education major. Kimberly was a charter member of the Brenham Children's Chorus and Brenham Broadway Kids. She graduated from the Chorus in 2009. Kimberly enjoyed her time as a Chorus member and will always appreciate the positive impact the staff had on her life. She is excited to be able to work with Singenspiel and be a part of such an amazing organization again. [top](#)

Amy Bentke, Choreographer, former owner of Aspirations Gymnastics and Dance Studio, Mrs. Bentke has been dancing since the age of two and a half years of age and teaching since she was thirteen. A native of Brenham, she has extensive choreography experience with church and school musicals and programs. In addition to working with the Brenham Children's Chorus, Mrs. Bentke has worked as a choreographer for school musicals at the Brenham High School and Brenham Christian Academy. She has also assisted in choreography for the Brenham Maifest Coronations. [top](#)

Jennifer Patrick (Theatre Director of Brenham Broadway Kids) is thrilled to be returning for another year with Brenham Broadway Kids. She began working with BCC as Set and Lighting Designer for *Honk! Jr.* She has now directed musicals for the BBK & BCC for the past 12 years. She is currently an adjunct theatre instructor at Blinn College. She designs costumes and hair/make-up for all the Blinn productions. Jennifer has loved being a part of the Blinn Faculty Showcases as an actor: *Steel Magnolias* and *Arsenic & Old Lace*; and as a director: *Greater Tuna*, *The Odd Couple* and *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. She has also designed costumes for Unity Theatre. Some of her previous designs at Unity include: *On Golden Pond*, *Harvey*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Sander's Family Christmas*, *The Christmas Schooner*, and *The Odd Couple*. Her passion for theatre crosses into her church life as well. She is the Director of Student Ministries at the First United Methodist Church. Performing is a family affair for the Patrick family. Her daughters Mollie and Rylie have enjoyed their time in the BCC and the BBK. They now help as interns and sing with Encore. Her son Maxwell is beginning his first year in the BCC. Mrs. Patrick has a BFA in Theatre from Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX and an MFA in the Theatre Design from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. [top](#)

II.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

ARTISTIC

Deidra Mearns, Karussell Kids Teacher, teaches music classes to children ranging in age from 12 months through 4th grade at St. Paul's Christian Day School. She is the coordinator/director of the school's various programs and musical theatre productions throughout the year. "Mrs. Deidra" co-owned a gymnastics and dance studio for 28 years; and she has been involved in community theatre, church choirs as director and cantor, director of children's choirs and liturgical movement troupes. She enjoys working with all ages: choreography for weddings, adult Country and Western dance classes, choreography for Maifest coronations, and choreography for Brenham High School Musicals and Unity Theatre. "Mrs. Deidra" loves to go to the ballet, the movies, musicals and Christian concerts. [top](#)

Amy Schramm, Accompanist and Encore Director, a native of Brenham graduated from Prairie View A & M University with a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance. She and her husband Aaron are members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Brenham where she is the parish administrator and member of the choir. She has been involved on and off stage in several Unity Theatre shows and sings with the Brenham Choral Society. Amy is happy to return to the Chorus as the principal accompanist and is the director of Encore. [top](#)

Pam Bennett Young, Founding Artistic Director, has many years of experience in vocal music as a performer, voice teacher and choral director. A graduate of the Baylor University School of Music, she has performed in a variety of venues from musical theatre at Stages in Houston and Unity Theatre in Brenham to classical halls in South America and commercial recording studios in the United States. Among her favorite productions are the many years of "Pageant: A Christmas Spectacular" in which she performed, but perhaps her favorite role was that of the Cheshire Cat in Unity Theatre's Alice in Wonderland.

Pam retired from BCC after 15 years and recently retired from teaching public school music after 39 years of service. The high school choirs under her direction received sweepstakes ratings each year, and she is the founding director of elementary chorus programs in several public-school districts. While her last twenty years of teaching were spent at Krause Elementary School in Brenham, she has taught music in such diverse locations as the fifth ward in Houston to the island of Java in Indonesia. Pam loves to sing and loves combining the unique timbres of individual voices to create one glorious, soul-unifying work of art which will never be repeated exactly the same way again.

Pam has been married to her childhood sweetheart, Bob Young, for 42 years and has two sons. [top](#)

II.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE

Rosellyn McIver, Administrative Manager, Bookkeeper for the Brenham Children's Chorus, has directed children's church choirs in Arkansas, West Virginia, and San Antonio. From 1996 - 2012, she served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Board of the Parents' Auxiliary of The Children's Chorus of San Antonio. Rosellyn taught and directed private schools in Early Childhood Education in New Orleans, Arkansas, West Virginia, and San Antonio, Texas. She is currently a soprano member of the choir at Brenham Presbyterian Church. Rosellyn has 3 grown daughters and two granddaughters. She loves being a part of the Chorus family. [top](#)

Chris Dougan, Administrative Assistant is the mother of three very busy children. Music is a big part of family life at the Dougan house. Her daughter, Colleen is a founding member of both the Brenham Children's Chorus and Brenham Broadway Kids. Chris enjoys working in the office of the Brenham Children's Chorus and being a part of the success, it brings to all the choristers. [top](#)

III.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

[top](#)

Regular rehearsal days, times, and locations are announced as they become available. Extra rehearsals may be called by the Chorus Director at her discretion. During the school year, rehearsals are held once a week at the Community Education Building. At times, especially right before a performance or when choreography must be learned and rehearsed, it is necessary to schedule extra rehearsals.

The Brenham Independent School District schedule is used to determine when practices will not be scheduled because of holidays. There will be no rehearsal on scheduled BISD holidays or waiver days. When BISD does not have school because of bad weather, the Chorus does not have rehearsal. The rehearsal schedule is determined by the Chorus Director.

All performance venues are approved by the Board of Trustees and the Chorus Director. An effort is made to not only have concerts in the Brenham area, but to offer the Chorus opportunities for travel and performing outside the local community.

This year, the Spring Concerts and Brenham Broadway Kids Musical will take place at the Blinn College Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Center Performing Arts Center. The Christmas Concerts will take place at the Brenham First Baptist Church.

*Texas Arts and Music Festival:	Saturday, October 20, 2018 Downtown Brenham, time TBA
*Brazos Valley Symphony Concert:	Sunday, December 9, 2019 at 5 pm Christ United Methodist Church, Bryan
* December Concerts:	Friday, December 14, 2018 at 7 pm Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 2 pm Brenham First Baptist Church
* BBK Musical:	Friday, February 1, 2019 at 7 pm Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 2 pm Blinn College O'Donnell Center
*Texas Independence Day Celebration:	Saturday, March 2, 2019 Washington on the Brazos, TBA
* Spring Concerts:	Friday, May 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 2 pm Blinn College O'Donnell Center

IV.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Rehearsals [top](#)

During Chorus rehearsals, the choristers are involved in learning new music and performance skills under the direction of the artistic staff. To maintain this learning atmosphere and encourage student concentration, we ask that parents attend rehearsals only if they are involved with committee work that pertains to the rehearsal. Parental involvement in the Chorus is encouraged through participation on committees, chaperoning, or other Chorus activities. Due to the limitations of the rehearsal space, we are unable to offer a waiting area for parents. Parents are encouraged to contact the office staff at 979-277-3897 with questions or concerns regarding attendance, excused absences, uniforms, tuition payments, or schedules.

Chorus Members and Parents

It is expected that the following guidelines will be adhered to:

1. Arrive in plenty of time to pick up new music and memos.
Mrs. Stewart's Motto: If you're early, you're on time.
 If you're on time, you're late.
 If you're late - you're in big trouble, Mister!
2. Please pick up your child promptly at the conclusion of the rehearsal. If you are late, your child will never be left alone; however, you will be delaying the departure of a BCC staff member or chaperone that has other commitments.
Repeated tardiness in drop-off or pick-up will result in a monetary fee.
3. Please plan doctor's appointments, dentist appointments, etc. on a non-rehearsal day and do not pick your child up early from rehearsal. Children should remain for the entire rehearsal. When children leave the rehearsal early, they miss important preparation time and it is very distracting to the Chorus and staff.
4. Bring all music to all rehearsals in your music folder unless told otherwise.
5. Use restroom facilities before rehearsal since no breaks are given during regular rehearsals.
6. **Singers should carefully collect all newsletters or memos that are handed out and deliver them to your parent immediately after rehearsal. It is your responsibility to stay informed. Parents please ask for memos!**
7. Gum chewing is not allowed at rehearsal, performances, or on tours. Water bottles are allowed and encouraged. Choristers are responsible for disposing of trash.

IV.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

8. At all times show respect for each other, parent volunteers, chaperones, and the Facilities. Pay attention to the Musical Directors and Chaperones at all times, and do not talk or in any way distract other Chorus members.
9. Behavior at any BCC rehearsal or performance should reflect maturity, respect, and courtesy. Leave your outside voices outside.
10. No personal isolation devices (portable music players, headphones, iPods, Gameboys, cell phones, etc.) are allowed at any rehearsal or performance.
11. If, for any reason, a child cannot actively participate in a rehearsal, the parents should notify office staff and the singers should observe quietly and attentively. This will not be counted as an absence.
12. Space does not permit parents or other visitors to attend any rehearsals, unless invited by the staff to assist with organizational matters. Choristers are often inhibited and distracted by such visitors.
13. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE FROM CHORUS MEMBERS AND PARENTS IS MUST! A POSITIVE ATTITUDE FROM THE CHORUS STAFF IS A GIVEN!

A Message from the Chorus Director:

- Singers:
1. Be on time.
 2. Come prepared.
 3. Use restroom before rehearsal.
 4. Take home all information.
 5. No gums or sodas at rehearsal.
Yes, to water bottles.
 6. Respect.

Parents:

Rehearsals are very important. Please save Tuesdays for Chorus rehearsal and Mondays for Singenspiel, BBK, and BBK Chorus rehearsals. This is when we are building self discipline, musicianship, respect for others, and a strong work ethic. Training takes place at rehearsal. While we are having fun, we are building character. Please respect our start and finish times and make every effort for your child to be on time and stay until the end of rehearsal. In addition, please consult the monthly take home calendar and newsletter for special rehearsals, concert information, and other Chorus activities.

IV.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Parents:
1. Don't be a stage mom (or dad).
 2. Arrive on time.
 3. Make sure child is prepared: practices at home, has folder, gets adequate rest the night before a rehearsal or concert.
 4. Pick up on time.
 - 5. Ask for memos after every rehearsal.**

Attendance [top](#)

The quest for artistic excellence requires a high level of commitment. Therefore, the Chorus maintains high expectations for attendance.

While we encourage perfect attendance, choristers are allowed two (2) weekday absences from rehearsal per semester (August to December, and January to April.) These absences are excused, but still considered an absence. Awards are given at the end of the year for perfect attendance.

A chorister is tardy 10 minutes after the rehearsal start time. Choristers should plan to attend on time and remain for the entire rehearsal. Excessive tardiness and leaving rehearsal excessively early will be counted as an absence.

At any time if the Chorus Director feels that the child does not adequately know the music, choreography, or stage direction, the staff has the right to pull the Chorus member from upcoming concerts.

While the BCC commitment is extensive, and the seriousness of that commitment is reflected in our attendance policy, BCC encourages all choristers to participate in their school and religious music programs. Furthermore, absences for graded school or worship performances are considered excused absences, but are still recorded as absences. Any absences should be reported in advance to the Chorus office in writing, sent by e-mail, or by phone at 979-277-3897. Please do not contact the Chorus Director regarding absences. The Chorus office will notify her of absences.

The Chorus calendar is set early in the year. Concerts, rehearsals, retreats, and trips are added to the calendar as soon as they become known and approved. It is the responsibility of the parents to be aware of these scheduled dates. Sports and other extracurricular events are not considered excused absences.

IV.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

The following pertains to all absences:

- All absences are to have written, emailed, or called excuses turned in to the Chorus office.
- The BCC office should be informed of all absences prior to a rehearsal or performance. It is not the responsibility of the BCC office to contact a family after an absence. The Chorus member family must contact the office.
- Families who believe that they have special circumstances that will result in three or more absences should contact the Chorus Administrative Manager.

Required Performances [top](#)

All Chorus performances are required. BCC members are strongly encouraged, but not required to attend BBK productions.

Resignation/Dismissal [top](#)

Chorus members' contracts are for the entire year. The Chorus Director feels very strongly that choristers should be committed to finish what they start.

However, if a chorister is dismissed or must leave the Chorus for any reason, the Chorus office should be notified and an exit interview form should be completed. All music, practice CDs, folder, and all wardrobe attire must be returned to the Chorus office, clean and in good repair within two weeks of departure from the Chorus.

There will be no reimbursement for any fees, costs or expenses as a result of a dismissal of a performing member by the Chorus. The Board of Directors may in its sole discretion refund some or part of the tuition paid in case of relocation.

Memos [top](#)

The Brenham Children's Chorus is a very active organization. **It is essential that Chorus members and parents carefully read the parent newsletters and memos that are given out at rehearsals, mailed, or posted on the website.** If you are absent from rehearsal, contact the Chorus office immediately to find out if music, a parent newsletter or memo was distributed. Chorus members are responsible for updating their own rehearsal/performance schedules.

We always pass out detailed information to the children prior to events. Please refer to these memos for arrival and dismissal times, food, uniforms, etc. for each event. All of this information is given to the children at the rehearsals prior to performances. If you need clarification or more information, please contact other Chorus families or contact the BCC office, 979-277-3897.

IV.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Remind [top](#)

In the past, we have found that Remind is an effective way to communicate information to parents. Please follow instructions to sign up for Remind or give the office permission to add you to Remind at the beginning of the year. Consistent with the regulations of Remind, singers are not allowed to sign up for Remind unless they are 14 years of age.

Music [top](#)

Music will be issued to each member of the Chorus and members of Singenspiel will receive a music folder. ALL music is the property of BCC. Additional music is assigned from time to time during the year. It is the responsibility of the Chorus member to take good care of the music! Music is very costly and difficult to replace. All music must be turned in by the last rehearsal in December and again at the last rehearsal in May. If music or folder are lost, irreparably damaged, or not returned, an additional fee will be charged to cover replacement costs. (Music replacement fee is a minimum of \$3.00/copy).

Performances [top](#)

Performances require the very best in conduct, appearance, and musicianship.

1. Always eat a nutritious meal and get plenty of rest before a concert. Avoid milk products.
2. Each performance has a "call time" when chorus members are to arrive. Since all of our performances vary as to location and stage set-up, singers should be on time.
3. All Chorus members must have proper wardrobe attire and appearance. If a singer is not dressed appropriately for concerts or Chorus trips, every effort will be made to correct it and the parent will be notified.



Appearance Requirements:

Hair: Girls: For ALL performances, hair must be pulled back totally off face. Clips or a band matching the hair color may be worn. (no sparkles or glitter, please). Singers should bring their own hair brushes and supplies.

Boys: Neat, combed hair, OFF THE FACE for all performances

4. Jewelry – earrings (other than studs), necklaces and watches are not permitted during performances. No polish on nails, perfumes or scents other than deodorant, extreme makeup, or accessories.

IV.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

5. Good personal hygiene is a must for all Chorus members. Deodorant, clean teeth, and clean hair is always expected at any Chorus event.
6. Conduct yourself at all times in a calm, polite, professional manner. Give your undivided attention to the Chorus Directors, Chaperone, Office personnel or person in charge at all times.
7. Parents are not to attend private performances unless invited to attend. Some performances for the community are closed events, yet several are open to the public. There is a fee for tickets to most of our concerts. The sale of our concert tickets helps cover the high cost of producing these concerts. In addition to tickets that you buy for your own family, we ask you to sell tickets to co-workers, neighbors, friends, church members, and anyone else who might enjoy our concerts. There's nothing more motivating to the Chorus than a full house. Every effort must be made to fill what would otherwise be empty seats.
8. When parents are invited to attend special concerts, they should not interfere with the BCC staff, Artistic Staff, chaperones, or other performance personnel, including standing and talking in the concert hall during the rehearsal before the doors are open to the public. This is when concentration is of the utmost importance and any noise, talking, or distractions interfere with the concentration of both the choristers and the Chorus Directors. Any committee work that takes place at this time should be done very quietly.

Security [top](#)

The Chorus staff is very concerned about the welfare of your child. We will make certain that the choristers are adequately supervised, but please note that the children are in the direct care and supervision of the staff when they sign in at the Community Ed building. With the help of chaperones, parents are responsible for ensuring that the children arrive safely to their vehicle after leaving the rehearsal. The staff and parent chaperones will do everything possible to make drop off and pick up as smooth and safe as possible, but there is no substitute for parents ensuring that children arrive in the rehearsal room safely and on time and return to their cars afterwards. Directions from the chaperones must be followed at all times. All parent chaperones must fill out a Consent to Background Check.

IV.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Supervision of Choristers [top](#)

Whenever and wherever Brenham Children's Chorus gathers to rehearse or perform on stage, the choristers are under the supervision of the Artistic and Administrative Staff. When the Chorus is in transit, touring, waiting, eating, moving, in a holding area, or backstage before or after a rehearsal or concert, the choristers are under the direct supervision of the adult chaperones. The children are expected to respond appropriately and immediately to all directions from the Artistic and Administrative Staff and adult chaperones. The Chorus is committed to providing the appropriate number of chaperones at each rehearsal and performance. Because the safety of your child and every child in the Chorus is one of main concern, the Chorus Directors defer to the chaperones with regard to dismissal of the children or permission to leave the group for any reason. Parents are expected to defer to the chaperones by following the safety rules, including the permission to leave the group procedure, and sign-in/sign-out rules. Parents are expected to discuss and reinforce these concepts with their child. Children in non-compliance may be dismissed from the Chorus. Before and after all performances and bus trips, choristers will be signed in and out by a parent. Permission to leave with someone other than a parent must be requested ahead of time by written note, email, or phone call to the office, and be communicated to the chaperone in charge. Last minute arrangements are discouraged.

V.

WARDROBE

Wardrobe [top](#)

Just as the ensemble sound is important, so is the ensemble appearance. A well-groomed, neat ensemble is essential for a truly professional and artistic experience.

Because of the generosity of our patrons, we are able to provide the wardrobe without asking parents to purchase these items. Concert attire provided to you by BCC is the property of the BCC. These outfits are costly to replace, so we ask you to take extreme care in the use of these outfits. They are not to be worn for any reason other than for BCC performances and events. At the end of the Chorus year, uniforms should be cleaned, pressed, on a hanger, and turned in to the Chorus office. The Chorus parent will be held financially responsible for the loaned outfits. **When turning in your child's uniform, please attach his/her name!**

Sometimes the Chorus will wear items other than those included in the casual uniform wardrobe. Occasionally they will be asked to wear choir t-shirts or polo shirts (provided) or blue jeans instead of slacks for their performances. The uniform requirements will always be made clear either by newsletter, memo, or during rehearsals prior to the performance.

☆ See page 4.5 (under Performance) for hair and general appearance requirements.

REQUIRED UNIFORM INFORMATION

BCC Polos

The purple or blue polo and black slacks are worn when the Chorus Director wants to portray a more casual look and is provided by the Chorus.

The purple or blue polo shirt with the Brenham Children's Chorus logo on the front comes in Youth small, medium, and large: and Adult small, medium, large, XL, XXL, and XXXL. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the Chorus office of the correct size. Shirts should not be baggy or oversized. The polo shirts are washable in cold water and usually don't require ironing if they are removed from the dryer quickly.

V.

WARDROBE

SINGENSPIEL [top](#)

Members of Singenspiel will receive a red Singenspiel t-shirt when they join. During performances, these t-shirts will be worn with black uniform slacks, black flat closed-toe shoes, black socks, and a black belt with small buckle and no decorations. The black slacks are provided and ordered by the Chorus and come in slim, regular, and plus sizes are available for girl and husky available for boys. The parent will be responsible for hemming the slacks to the appropriate length. Slacks should be hemmed by hand or with hemming tape. **Please do not use heavy duty tape or hot glue to hem the slacks.** Members of the wardrobe committee will measure the singers to determine the correct size needed. See below for care and laundering.

Formal Vest, Mandarin Shirt, and Slacks: BCC

This uniform is worn for a more formal look. The vest, Mandarin shirt, and black slacks are provided and paid for by the Chorus.

The reversible vests with the Brenham Children's Chorus logo embroidered on the front are locally sewn. The wardrobe committee will measure the singers to determine the correct size. **The vest should be cleaned professionally to prevent shrinking and wrinkling. Please do not wash the vests!**

The white, long sleeved Mandarin shirt is provided by and paid for by the Chorus. The sleeves should be buttoned at the tightest hole and the button at the neck should be buttoned and comfortable. The shirt is machine washable and dryable and should be ironed for a neater look.

The black slacks are provided and ordered by the Chorus. Slim, regular, and plus sizes are available for girls. For boys, slim, regular, or husky sizes are available. The parent will be responsible for hemming the slacks to the appropriate length. Slacks should be hemmed by hand or with hemming tape. **Please do not use heavy duty tape or hot glue to hem the slacks.** Members of the wardrobe committee will measure the singers to determine the correct size needed.

Baggy, hip hugger, or oversized slacks will not be permitted. If a singer's uniform does not fit, parents should notify the wardrobe committee and the Chorus office as soon as possible. If uniform items have to be ordered at the last minute and express mailing is necessary, the parent may be responsible for the cost of

postage. These slacks are machine washable in cold water and dryable, but may look neater if they are professionally cleaned and pressed.

V.

WARDROBE

BCC: Black jazz shoes, black socks that cover the ankles or black trouser socks, and a black, well fitting, belt with small buckle and no decorations are required as part of the BCC uniform. Parents are required to provide and pay for these items. Black jazz shoes will be ordered and purchased through the Chorus office. Jazz shoes from previous choristers may be available. No child will be permitted to perform with a wrinkled or soiled uniform. Shirt tail must always remain tucked in.

T-Shirt [top](#)

A purple t-shirt with the Chorus logo is provided for the BCC singers to wear to school on rehearsal days if desired, and members of Singenspiel will receive a red t-shirt. It may be required for use on trips because it helps the chaperones identify members of the group. Chorus or Singenspiel t-shirts are given to the singers when they join the Chorus. The t-shirt is washable in cold water and dryable and shouldn't require ironing if it is removed from the dryer quickly. The t-shirt does not need to be turned in at the end of the year, but as sizes change should be exchanged. We would encourage choristers who have no further use for the t-shirt, to donate it to the Chorus.

Please keep in mind that children grow at amazing rates. The uniform may fit perfectly at the beginning of the season, but by the next concert, it might be too small or short. Please check for this well before concert week so arrangements can be made to replace the outgrown item.

End of Year Return [top](#)

At the end of the Chorus year, each chorister must return all uniform items, music folder and all music to the Chorus office or other location determined by the Chorus office. Uniforms must be clean, on hangers, and **labeled with the chorister's name**. The parent will be billed for any necessary laundering. Uniform items not returned or returned in poor condition will be billed to the parent.

VI.

AUDITION AND FEE INFORMATION

As the Brenham Children's Chorus begins its 2018-2019 season, the purpose is to teach children to achieve high artistic standards through choral singing and performance. An equally important aspect of the Chorus is the nurturing and growth of discipline, responsibility, teamwork, and self-confidence. The Brenham Children's Chorus is an exemplary children's program with a lifelong benefit for each child.

BCC – Grades 4 – 8 [top](#)

- *WHO: Singers in grades 4 – 8 as of September 1, 2018
- *REHEARSALS: Tuesdays, 4 – 6 pm, August through April
- *WHERE: Community Education Building
Bus transportation available from BISD schools
- *HOW MUCH: \$25 Enrollment fee, non-refundable (includes scholarship applicants)
\$40 a month for 10 months (July – April), total \$400
Payment in full: \$375 by first rehearsal (\$25 discount)
Tuition due on the 10th of each month
Pay with cash or check
- *FEE INCLUDES: Music camp: July 30 – August 2, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm at Community Ed
Winter Overnight retreat: January 18-20, 2019
- FUNDRAISING: Each family should sell a minimum of 10 drive thru Dinner tickets for each of the 2 drive thru dinners or make a donation to the Chorus for the profit amount

Singenspiel – Grades 2 – 3 [top](#)

- *WHO: Singers in grades 2 - 3 as of September 1, 2018
- *REHEARSALS: Mondays, 4 – 5 pm, August through April
- *WHERE: Community Education Building
Bus transportation available from BISD schools
- *HOW MUCH: \$25 Enrollment fee, non-refundable (includes scholarship applicants)
\$25 a month for 10 months (July – April), total \$250
Payment in full: \$225 by first rehearsal (\$25 discount)
Tuition due on the 10th of each month; Pay with cash or check

VI.

AUDITION AND FEE INFORMATION

*FUNDRAISING: Each family should sell a minimum of 10 drive thru Dinner tickets for each of the 2 drive thru dinners or make a donation to the Chorus for the profit amount

Karussell Kids – Grades K – 1st [top](#)

*WHO: Singers in grades K – 1st as of September 1, 2018
*REHEARSALS: Mondays, 4 – 4:45 pm, August through April
*WHERE: Community Education Building
Bus transportation available from BISD schools
-OR-
Wednesdays, 3:45 – 4:30, St. Paul's
No bus transportation
*HOW MUCH: \$25 Enrollment fee, non-refundable (includes scholarship applicants)
\$25 a month for 8 months (September – April), total \$200
Tuition due on the 10th of each month; Pay with cash or check
*FUNDRAISING: Each family should sell a minimum of 5 drive thru Dinner tickets for each of the 2 drive thru dinners
Or make a donation to the Chorus for the profit amount

Brenham Broadway Kids – BBK [top](#)

*WHO: Singers in grades 5 – 8
Singers must also participate in Chorus to be a part of BBK
*REHEARSALS: Mondays, 4 – 5:30 pm to begin; 4 – 6 pm beginning in October
*WHERE: Community Education Building
Bus transportation available from BISD Schools
*HOW MUCH: \$25 Enrollment fee, non-refundable (includes scholarship applicants)
\$25 a month for 8 months (September – April), total \$200

VI.

AUDITION AND FEE INFORMATION

Tuition due on the 10th of each month Pay with cash or check

Brenham Broadway Kids Chorus [top](#)

- *WHO: Singers in grades 4 – 8
- *REHEARSALS: Mondays, 4 – 5:30 pm to begin; 4 – 6 pm beginning in October
(Not required to attend every Monday, schedule will be distributed)
- *WHERE: Community Education Building
Bus transportation available from BISD Schools
- *HOW MUCH: \$25 Enrollment fee, non-refundable (includes scholarship applicants)
\$125 for the year (\$62.50 per semester)
Tuition due on the 10th of each month; Pay with cash or check

Parents are responsible for payment of the entire amount if the child drops out mid-year. The Chorus invests funds to provide music and uniforms for each chorister who enrolls.

Monthly payments begin in July to keep monthly payments lower and to allow for purchasing music and uniforms for singers. Please make checks payable to the Brenham Children's Chorus or BCC. Checks can be mailed to Brenham Children's Chorus, P.O. Box 2274, Brenham, Texas 77834.

Financial Assistance – BCC, Singenspiel, and Karussell Kids [top](#)

Financial assistance is available and is based on need. The Scholarship Committee reviews all applications and supporting information. This information is completely confidential. Tuition Assistance forms are available in the Chorus office.

VI.

AUDITION AND FEE INFORMATION

BCC

Tuition fees include the use of:

Uniform slacks
Uniform shirt & vest
Music and CD

Singenspiel and Karussell Kids

Tuition fees include the use of:

Uniform slacks (Singenspiel)
Music

Tuition includes

Chorus t-shirt

Camp & Retreat fees
Insurance
Instruction
Consumable supplies

Tuition Includes:

T- Shirt (Singenspiel or KKids)

Instruction
Consumable Supplies
Insurance

For more information, contact Chorus office 979-277-3897 or
brenhamchildrenschorus@gmail.com

[top](#)

VII.

PARENT COMMITTEE CHOICES

Every parent of a Brenham Children's Chorus member is required to participate in the life of the Chorus by chairing or serving on at least one committee. Parent volunteers help keep the cost of operating the Chorus at a minimum. The following is a list of the committees and their function.

Box Office Committee Chairman [top](#)

Job Description:

Take care of ticket sales, handing out programs, and ushering at each concert or venue as needed:

- ✓ Arrive 1 hour prior to concert. (doors open 30 minutes prior to concert)
- ✓ Set up tables and signs for Tickets and Will Call. (Office has signs)
- ✓ Staff ticket sale and will call tables. (Office will bring)
- ✓ Hand out programs at each concert. (Office will bring)
- ✓ Designate ushers for taking tickets at door and assist with handicap and available seating.
- ✓ Hold ticket money until office staff picks up.

Chaperone Committee Chairman [top](#)

Job Description:

Organize and supervise singers when not under Artistic Staff direction.

- ✓ Organize the chaperones to instruct and supervise the singers as needed prior and after event.
- ✓ Inform singers of any instruction on discipline, encouraging good manners and responsible behavior.
- ✓ Have adequate chaperones for each event.
- ✓ Carry all emergency contact forms to all out of town events.
- ✓ Keep all information on singers confidential.
- ✓ Collect parent notes, etc on any special instructions for a singer.
- ✓ Be aware of and plan for security risks and safety concerns for each event.
- ✓ Communicate with the Chorus office staff of any needs, questions arising with chaperone volunteers, and singers.

VII.

PARENT COMMITTEE CHOICES

- ✓ Chaperones and volunteers are required to complete a confidential background check to be done by the Texas Department of Public Safety or some other law enforcement agency. (BCC office maintains the forms and requests.)
- ✓ Weekly car line list will be provided by the Office Staff. Chaperone chairman should text, email, or call car line parents weekly to remind them.

History Committee Chairman [top](#)

Job Description:

Maintains a pictorial and written history of Chorus activities during the year.

- ✓ Share pictures with the BCC office to be used for publicity.
- ✓ Develop a scrapbook during the year of activities/concerts/events.
- ✓ Contact the BCC office for budget and for supplies needed

Publicity Committee Chairman [top](#)

Job Description:

Work with the BCC office to help distribute publicity to area businesses, schools, churches, etc.

- ✓ Flyer handouts – Post flyers and rack cards at area businesses. This is done 3 weeks prior to each concert. The Chorus office will provide a list of businesses that are willing to post our fliers, season brochures, and rack cards.
- ✓ At the beginning of the season, distribute season brochures to area businesses and the Washington County Chamber of Commerce (list provided by Chorus office)

VII.

PARENT COMMITTEE CHOICES

Event/Rehearsal Refreshments Committee Chairman [top](#)

Job Description:

Plans and serves refreshments/meals for any rehearsals and concerts as requested.

- ✓ Plans the logistics for when, where, what and how to serve the refreshments/meals before concerts and performances when needed.
- ✓ Organize the number of volunteers needed to execute the meal/snack.
- ✓ Plan, purchase supplies for, and prepare meals for choristers, chaperones, and staff at the annual music camp and winter retreat. Parent chaperones will be available for help during camp and the retreat.
- ✓ Provide ideas for an end of year party for the choristers and their families; be responsible for ordering the food, setup of the food and cleanup afterwards. Reserve the location (Silver Wings or other locations suggested by the Chorus office) for the end of year party. Organize time of use, set-up & take-down, and facility cost. Contact BCC Office with scheduling, etc.
- ✓ Foods not to be served prior to a concert: peanut butter, chocolate, carbonated drinks, milk, sugary treats.

Wardrobe Committee Chairman [top](#)

Job Description:

Maintain a wardrobe library and its distribution to Chorus members.

- ✓ Maintain wardrobe library for BCC. This includes inventory, sizes, and repairs, if necessary.
- ✓ Distribution of wardrobe to singers (correct fitting) and record the clothing article and size loaned to the singer. Note any flaws on the clothing article so when returned it can be addressed if necessary. Parents are responsible for any piece of clothing not returned and if something comes back unusable. The distribution and return process should be coordinated with the Chorus office.

VII.

PARENT COMMITTEE CHOICES

- ✓ Special note: When singers are not dressed correctly, every effort will be made to adjust the uniform so they can perform. The parent will be notified of any uniform deficiencies so it does not happen again.
- ✓ Parents need to be informed not to alter the uniforms by cutting, taping (duct tape), or gluing hems of the pants.

Set-Up

Committee Chairman [top](#)

Job Description: Moves and sets up equipment when requested by the office staff.

- ✓ Move the keyboard from the Chorus office to concerts when needed and back to the office after the concert.
- ✓ Help transport/set up sound equipment prior to concerts when needed
- ✓ Get several volunteers to help load buses with luggage for the Winter Retreat and unload upon return.

ALL CHORUS PARENTS

Each and every parent has the responsibility to see that Chorus information, flyers and tickets are made available to all schools, clubs, organizations, churches, communities, and neighborhoods. When possible, parents are asked to post concert information through social media.

VI.

Parents' Role in Fundraising

WHY DOES THE CHORUS NEED TO RAISE MONEY?

Approximately 25% of the operating budget comes from parents' tuition payments and the remainder comes from grants, donations, and fundraising efforts. Without an effective fundraising effort, the activities of the Chorus will be limited, and the Chorus will not be able to operate as effectively.

HOW DO WE RAISE MONEY?

- Direct mailing to individuals (previous donors, musicians, parents, and "friends" of the Chorus)
- Proposals to foundations, civic organizations, music societies and corporations
- Grant requests to local, state, and federal organizations and private foundations
- Development of and support for a major fundraiser every year through the Board of Trustees
- Sale of tickets to our own concerts
- One or two drive thru dinners a year

WHAT SPECIFICALLY CAN PARENTS DO?

In short, a lot! Specifically, parents can:

- ❖ For the individual fundraising effort:
 - ✓ Provide us with a list of people that you believe might make a donation to the Chorus
 - ✓ Write a personal note to those people on the fundraising material we send them (this significantly improves our success rate).
 - ✓ Make a (tax deductible) donation yourself (if you make a donation, check to see if your employer will match it).
 - ✓ Post concert information on social media. Concert announcements and posters will be provided by the Chorus office.
 - ✓ Encourage your employer to purchase an ad for our concert programs. If you own your own business, consider purchasing an ad.
- ❖ For our proposals to organizations that fund the arts:
 - ✓ If you think the company you work for may be interested in supporting us, put us in touch with the appropriate company representative.
- ❖ For our concerts:
 - ✓ In addition to the tickets you buy for your own family, sell tickets to people you know who would enjoy watching the Chorus perform. Filling what would otherwise be empty seats adds greatly to our revenue.

NOTE: We are a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible. [top](#)