

AN ANCIENT TRADITION

The history of men and boys choirs is, in many ways, the history of the Anglican Church. Originally, women were not in choirs because choristers were a minor clerical order from which women were excluded. As the centuries passed, the sense of such choirs being an honored tradition took over as the technical prohibitions against women singing in the choirs became, thankfully, unimportant. In this country (particularly in the Episcopal Church), vested male choirs became more and more the norm as the nineteenth century came to an end, and the zenith of the tradition was probably in the 1920's and 30's.



Nowadays, such choirs are increasingly viewed as anachronistic. And yet so much of the music written for the Anglican communion over the centuries was written with this type of choir in mind, and still sounds best when sung by such a group. Many churches cannot support a choir of men and boys, and many others would find such a choir an affectation. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the tradition will never die out completely, and that the great music of the Church will continue to be sung by that sort of choir for which so much of it was originally intended.

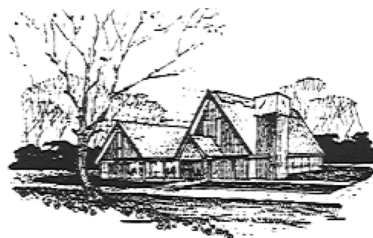
choir of men & boys

EARN A SALARY!

Each chorister in the choir is paid, indicating his professional status and remunerating him for all the time and effort put into rehearsals. The stipend is incremented as he progresses to each new level of musical proficiency.

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

Membership in the Choir of Men & Boys is open to boys of all faith traditions. Prospective choristers, ages 8 to 12, are welcomed at any time of the year. Older boys whose voices have not yet broken are also considered, particularly those with some singing experience. To schedule an audition, please contact the Recruitment Director Mrs. Martha Miller on (410) 321-9038 or at boychoir@mac.com. The audition is a very simple and stress-free process requiring no preparation or prior singing experience on the boy's part. By asking the child to sing along with notes played on a piano, we determine his voice's range (how high and low he can sing) and his ability to hear and match pitches accurately.



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st stephen's church

*A parish in the classical
Anglican tradition*



choir of men & Boys

<http://www.ststeve.com/choir>



WHO WE ARE

The treble section of St Stephen's Choir of Men & Boys is open to any talented boy who enjoys singing and has a desire to receive a free classical music education. The choir is under the direction of Adric Macsisak, a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory with over 15 years experience training boys' voices.

WHAT WE DO

Studying a new skill is of great value in itself, but putting a skill into practice is the only means by which it can be properly developed. Our boys benefit greatly from having a venue in which to perform regularly. The Choir of Men & Boys sings a morning service each Sunday during the school year. We also sing a monthly Choral Evensong, occasional concerts throughout the community, and an annual Lessons & Carols Service at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

In addition to singing, there's always time for fun outings to amusement parks, ball games, cinema, LaserTag, and a Summer Choir Camp in the

beautiful mountains of West Virginia.

WHY WE DO IT

In a culture which focuses attention to the needs of boys primarily on sports and athletics, our organisation is devoted to artistic and intellectual development. The benefits of participation go far beyond developing a high level of musicianship; our choirboys develop social skills, self-discipline, and an honest self-esteem earned from hard work—traits from which they will profit for a lifetime. Opportunities of this calibre clearly stand out on high school and college applications.

FREE EDUCATION

Many local children's ensembles charge expensive tuition fees; however, each boy in St Stephen's Choir receives an extensive classical music education at no cost to his family. The boys are taught to read and write musical notation, and they quickly become proficient singing in several languages, including Latin, English, German, and French. Our musical repertory spans several centuries, from early plainsong chant to Palestrina, Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Bernstein, right through to music composed today.

Royal School of Church Music



The Choir of Men & Boys is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music, which provides a rigorous curriculum for the education and training of choristers.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Many kids today involve themselves in boatloads of activities, and we're fully aware of the added strain on parental taxi services. And somewhere amidst the after-school maelstrom kids also need to find time for homework. While participation in our choir doesn't require an insignificant time commitment, we try to do everything possible to help make it work for you.

The younger boys rehearse twice weekly after school, while the older, more experienced boys practise up to three days. The rehearsals are generally 90 minutes long with a short break in the middle.

As transportation is always an issue with most parents, we go out of our way to arrange carpools to help facilitate rehearsal attendance. When needed, we also can provide a quiet study/homework environment before and after rehearsals, giving parents that extra half-hour to negotiate traffic. We've even got a microwave oven.

