

# The Chicago Consort

## **Welcome**

Your child auditioned for and has been accepted as a member of the Chicago Consort. What exactly does this mean? Due to the large influx of new members in the group this year, Mr. Wermuth and I decided that it would be wise to create a document that gives you all the information that you need to know about being in the group.

## **About the Ensemble**

The Chicago Consort is one of the country's premier student performing ensembles. Since its founding in 1983 the Chicago Consort has performed extensively on the world stage. Under the musical direction of Thomas Wermuth, the group has performed concerts and workshops throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and China, and South America. They have produced three music videos for the Centel Cable Network System and were selected by audition to perform at the National Conference of the Suzuki Association of the Americas in 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2016. In December of 2004 the Chicago Consort was invited to perform at the prestigious Midwest Clinic Annual International Band and Orchestra Conference. In addition to presenting live concerts both here and abroad, the group has recorded four Compact Discs.

## **Participation Fee**

We have instituted an annual participation fee for each member of the group. The fee, which is \$300.00 should be paid at the start of the school term. This fee will be used to compensate our directors and accompanists. In addition to the rehearsal and performing obligation, Mr. Wermuth also spends countless hours creating new and interesting musical arrangements for the group to perform.

## **Touring Ensemble**

The primary focus of the Chicago Consort has always been touring. Outside of the school, people know of the Chicago Consort as our "touring group." and as such represents the school as our musical ambassadors. The reasons that we travel are numerous, and I will list several of them here:

1. The opportunity to travel to exciting destinations which one might not go to on their own.
2. To allow students to have a broader vision of their world by experiencing different cultures.
3. So that students will have a better historical perspective on music they have studied or will study.
4. Preparation for the tour provides a focus and challenge to the group.
5. Touring affords an opportunity to present a complete musical program numerous times to different audiences.
6. Touring helps the group to bond musically and personally.

Touring with the group is not an option. Everyone who chooses to participate in Chicago Consort must participate in the tour. Since the entire year's focus will be on the preparation and memorization of the tour material, it is impossible to plan the program around who is going and who is not, therefore we have decided that we need every member of the group to participate in the tour.

## **When we're not touring...**

On the years in between tours, the Chicago Consort takes up special projects such as recording a Compact Disc or special concerts to give the group a focus for the year. For example, in spring of 2016 the group performed at the 35th Anniversary Concert at Chicago's Orchestra Hall and presented a performance at the Suzuki Association of the Americas Biennial Conference in Minneapolis.

# The Chicago Consort

## Rehearsal Attendance Policy

The group rehearses each Wednesday evening from 7:00 - 8:15 in the large group classroom at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs. Members are expected to attend every rehearsal. ***Each member may have one (1) excused absence per term when the group is active (Fall, Winter, and Spring terms).*** Please be sure to notify Mr. Wermuth in advance if you are going to miss a rehearsal so that he can plan the rehearsal accordingly. Attendance will be taken each week. Members who miss more than the allowed number of absences will be considered ineligible to participate in the group.

## Rehearsal Routine

Students should arrive at the school for rehearsal by 6:45 p.m. Unpack and go directly into the group class room. Do not congregate in the area by the conference table as there are other lessons going on that will be disturbed by your presence. Students should be tuned and ready to rehearse at 7:00 p.m.

## Chicago Consort Performance Attire Requirements

### *Girls*

- Black shoes with no higher than a 2" heel
- Black sheer hose
- Black blouse: long sleeve (winter) or short sleeves (summer) - blouse can be worn either tucked in or outside the skirt
- Black skirt, knee length
- Black dress, knee length
- Hair worn back and off the face
- No excessive jewelry
- Pierced earrings studs, no dangling jewelry
- No excessive makeup

### *Boys*

- Black dress shoes
- Black socks
- Black pants with black belt
- Black shirt: long sleeves (winter) short sleeves (summer) - can be worn either tucked in or outside the pants
- Hair length not to cover collar or eyebrows

## Chicago Consort Staff

Thomas Wermuth  
*Musical Director*

Edward Kreitman  
*Executive Director*

Melissa Zindel  
*Pianist*