

Abbotsford Homeschool Choir and String Ensemble

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Psalm 150:6



WHO? Homeschooled children from kindergarten through Gr. 12 (unchanged voices only). The choir is divided into three age groups.

NEW! *Intro to Choir* (K-aged 6 or for younger voices that are "unsure "of choir)

A new program this year for our youngest singers. This program is a 45-minute rehearsal designed to foster individual relationship and offer a smaller group setting where our youngest singers can thrive. This program introduces young singers to basic rehearsal and concert etiquette, healthy unison singing and fun repertoire designed to engage young minds and voices. This choir will prepare a couple songs to sing **with** the Choristers at the concert and perhaps, one piece on their own as well.

Choristers (Gr 2-4)

The Choristers have a 45-minute rehearsal each week focused on learning memorable and truthful repertoire while using proper vocal technique. Additionally, musical games and simple choreography will be introduced to reinforce lyrics and musicality. At the beginning of the term, each singer will be given a binder containing their pieces and music activities they can work on at home.

The Chorale (Gr.5-12)

The Chorale has a 60-minute rehearsal each week with a focus on singing in unison, 2 and 3 parts. Time is spent each week developing proper vocal technique and improving music reading skills through repertoire that encourages and inspires. Singers are given a binder containing repertoire as well as any supplementary singing material to help them in their musical development.

Chamber Singers (Ages 13+)

An **optional, additional** rehearsal time for our older and more experienced singers. Rehearsal is for 30-minutes following the Chorale. Singers will have the opportunity to rehearse additional repertoire (2-3 songs) in a small group setting. An additional fee of \$25/term per singer applies.

String Ensemble (Players with RCM Level 1 and more than a year of formal lessons) *New as of Spring 2024!*

Under co-directorship between Andrea Pederson and Jayne Tobin. This group setting for young string players will focus on learning to play together with other players and accompany the choral program. Repertoire will include many genres. The season-end concert will feature the group both in combination with the choir and on their own. Admittance to the program may require a short audition. If you would like to request an audition, contact us at apederson.ahcc@gmail.com.

WHEN? MONDAY afternoon (2 terms: September-December & January-April).

Intro to Choir: 1:15-2:00pm

Choristers: 2:00-2:45 pm

Chorale: 2:45-3:45 pm

Chamber Singers: 3:45-4:15 pm

String Ensemble 4:15-5:00 pm

WHERE? Currently we rehearse at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Hazelwood Ave and Hwy 11, in Abbotsford, BC.



WHAT DO WE SING? Choral music both sacred and classical, seasonal favorites, appropriate arrangements of pop, folk or Broadway songs... In general, songs that will promote healthy singing and musicianship while speaking truth into the hearts of the singers and encouraging them in their faith and knowledge of God.

PERFORMANCES? The choir will host a concert at the end of each term (December and May). Other opportunities for performance may arise during the season according to availability of singers. Additionally, we intend to prepare the singers for one or two video recordings during the term.

COST/PER TERM?

Intro to Choir: \$100 per term

Choristers: \$100 per term

Chorale: \$125 per term

Chamber Singers: \$25 per term (additional)

String Ensemble: \$100 per term (\$125 if not enrolled in choir)

***Please note, costs have changed since Spring 2025. This is to accommodate for a video project this season without need for fundraising efforts. Thank you for your understanding!**

If you are interested in singing with us or request more information, please send an email to Andrea Pederson at apederson.ahcc@gmail.com and reserve your spot!

Meet the Director: *Mrs. Andrea Pederson, BA Vocal Performance*



Andrea Pederson has been pleased to take over directorship of the choir from the choir's founder, Betty Lieuwen. Andrea has been singing and making music since she was a toddler and remembers fondly the musical experiences of her childhood. She believes firmly that the music children learn when they are young greatly informs both their musical ability and preferences, as well as their understanding of the Word of God and their relationship to Jesus. She desires to expose children to quality music from various eras, to inspire a passion and appreciation that will carry with them throughout their lives.

While challenging each singer to develop their best voice, Andrea values a choral environment filled with respect and lots of fun. Andrea attended MEI in High School where she was heavily involved in the band and choir programs, and she graduated from Trinity Western University with a BA in Vocal Performance in 2002. As part of TWU's Chamber and Concert Choirs she enjoyed singing great choral works and performing with the VSO and other local professional musicians.

After graduation, Andrea taught private voice and piano lessons full-time while pursuing a professional performance career. She has been involved in church music, leading children's choral groups, and teaching private voice and piano lessons for over two decades. She is a professional vocalist and recording artist in the Fraser Valley area. Andrea currently resides in Mission where she homeschools her three daughters and manages the family hobby farm. She also directs the "Spark" division (ages 5-6) at Pacific Voices (formerly Pacific Mennonite Children's Choir).

