

Young Singers of Great Westfield



Handbook

Fall 2025

YSGW Mission

This choir will work to promote the choral art and enrich the lives of area youths by instilling a life-long love of music through performance and education.

Young Singers of Greater Westfield will bring together students grade 5-8, who rehearse weekly to develop vocal skills, musical literacy, and a beautiful choral sound.

Benefits of Membership

YSGW provides its members with the opportunities to:

- Experience an eclectic mix of exciting repertoire
- Enhance their musical knowledge and skills
- Sing and have fun with other talented students
- Build a sense of community
- Provides an outlet for self-expression

Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals will occur on Thursday nights from 6:00 to 7:30 at Westfield State University at the Catherine Dower Center. Singers should arrive 5 minutes before rehearsal starts in order to start rehearsal by 6:00. Students should not arrive more than 10 minutes before rehearsal to ensure proper adult supervision.

If a rehearsal needs to be canceled families will be notified via email and our website YSGW.org

Concerts and Concert Dress

Young singers will have at least one concert per semester.

Fall Concerts:

1. December 6, 2025 at 3pm at the First Congregational Church of Westfield
2. December 14th at 2pm

To ensure that the group looks polished and professional, all singers are asked to wear the following attire for our concerts. White on top and black on bottom. White or black dresses are acceptable. Black dress shoes. No leggings or jeans.

Meet the Artistic Director



Mrs. Kerry Cipoletta is the Choral Music Director at Westfield Middle School. She teaches the 7th and 8th grade choruses along with 8th grade general music. She is also the Artistic Director of the Young Singers of Greater Westfield.

Mrs. Cipoletta has held the positions of MMEA-WD (Massachusetts Music Educators Association) Junior Boy's Chorus Manager, MMEA-WD Senior Auditions Adjudicator for voice and CMEA (Connecticut Music Educators Association) Senior Auditions Adjudicator for voice. Mrs. Cipoletta graduated from Westfield State University in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Vocal Music Education. In her years at Westfield State, she sang in the University Choir and Chorale under the direction of Allan Taylor and Dr. Felicia Barber. She studied voice under Dr. Mary Brown Bonacci. She helped start both the ACDA and NAFME chapters with the help of Dr. Felicia Barber and Dr. Gibson. She graduated from Gordon College with her Masters degree in Music Education in 2019. Mrs. Cipoletta is so lucky to work with such amazing musicians at Westfield Intermediate School and with the Young Singers of Greater Westfield.

Communication

Information about the YSGW season and announcements for the group will be posted on the Young Singers Website at www.ysgw.org. Families will be able to check the site at any time for the latest news. You can also follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay up to date.

Note: All our announcements will also be emailed home. Please be sure to provide us with an up to date email that you check regularly. If singers or their families have any questions, they are welcome to contact Kerry Cipoletta at Kerry.cipoletta@gmail.com.

Cancellation Policy

The decision to cancel or reschedule a YSGW rehearsal or other event will be made at least three hours before the scheduled event. Notification will be through email and posted on the website.

Financial Information

Membership for the YSGW is \$100 per semester. Tuition should be paid in full by the second rehearsal, or paid in 4 monthly installments. Late charges may be applied to membership fees submitted after these deadlines unless arrangements have been made in advance. Payment plans or financial assistance is available for those who request it. Payment can come in the form of cash or check made out to The Young Singers of Greater Westfield.

Financial Assistance

YSGW provides a limited amount of financial assistance to help cover the cost of the membership fee. Financial aid is awarded on the basis of demonstrated need and may be applied to the membership fees only. To be considered for financial aid, families must complete a scholarship application form. For the form, email Kerry Cipoletta at Kerry.cipoletta@gmail.com

Conditions of Membership

Attendance

Consistent attendance at rehearsals is required and attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory for concerts. For each semester, only 3 excused absences are permitted. If a student misses more than the allotted number of absences, the artistic director and board will need to review the situation. Too many absences may result in the nonparticipation in concerts or dismissal from the group.

Punctuality

Singers who arrive late distract others and reduce the efficiency and effectiveness of rehearsals. Please arrive on time to every rehearsal. In order to be able to start on time, singers should arrive to rehearsal at least 5 minutes early. Excessive tardiness (3 or more late arrivals) will be considered as an absence.

Singers Responsibilities

Singers are responsible for behaving appropriately at all rehearsals and concert performances. They are expected to pay attention and follow instructions. Singers are also expected to treat all members of the choir kindly and with respect. In addition, singers are expected to keep in mind that the rehearsal space used by the group is the property of Westfield State University. It is a privilege for YSGW to be allowed to use this facility. All spaces should be treated with care and respect at all times. There can be no rough-housing in the rehearsal or performance spaces. Students should not touch any instruments and stay off the carpeted space of the rehearsal room. Only water will be allowed in the practice space.

Parent Participation

Parents are an integral part of YSGW. They enhance the musical experience of YSGW by sharing their time and talents in many ways, including:

- Making sure singers bring their folders, music, and a pencil
- Ensuring students arrive on time
- Ensuring students attend rehearsals consistently
- Fundraising
- Coordinating and assisting with special events/ activities.

Parents, please make sure all of your contact information is current and up to date, so that we can contact you about important information and updates. If your contact information changes at any time, please notify Kerry Cipoletta at kerry.cipoletta@gmail.com

Suggestions and questions from parents/ guardians are always welcome. Please feel free to reach out at any time with questions or ideas.