

Young Singers of Great Westfield



Handbook
Fall 2019

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 7:15 at Westfield State University at the Catherine Dower Center.

Singers should arrive at least 5 minutes before rehearsal starts in order to start by 6:00pm. Students should not arrive more than 10 minutes before rehearsal to ensure proper adult supervision.

Concerts and Concert Dress

Young singers will have at least one concert per semester.

Fall Concert: December 14, 2019

Saturday,

Time and Place: TBD

To ensure that the group looks polished and professional, all singers are asked to wear the following attire for our concerts:

Girls: White blouse and a black skirt or dress pants. No leggings.

Boys: White collared shirt and black pants, and a tie. No jeans.

Meet The Artistic Director



Miss. Kerry Turok is the Choral Music Director at Westfield Intermediate School. She teaches the 5th and 6th grade choruses along with 6th grade general music. She is also the Director of the drama club at WIS and the Artistic Director of the Young Singers of Greater Westfield.

Miss. Turok has held the positions of MMEA-WD (Massachusetts Music Educators Association) Junior Boy's Chorus Manager and CMEA (Connecticut Music Educators Association) Senior Auditions Adjudicator for voice.

Miss. Turok 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. While at Westfield, Miss. Turok Music Directed shows for MTG (Musical Theatre Guild) and was the Vocal Director of the acapella group, The Night Owls. She is now attending Gordon College for her Masters degree in Music Education.

Originally from the Eastern part of the state, Westfield has become Miss. Turok's new home. She is so lucky to work at Westfield Intermediate with such a wonderful student and faculty base.

Communication

Information about the YSGW season and announcements for the group will soon 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. **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 Turok at kerryturok@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

Annual Membership Fee

Membership for the YSGW is \$200 a year, \$100 per semester. Tuition should be paid in full by the second rehearsal, September 19th, 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. If you have a special financial need, you may also arrange a payment plan. The deadline for setting up the payment plan is September 19th.

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 Turok at kerryturok@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 touch no instruments and stay off the carpeted space of the rehearsal room. Only water will be allowed in the building.

Musical Scores

All singers will be given music to use free of charge for use during the season, but the music belongs to YSGW and it is expected to be returned in good condition after each concert. Students are encouraged to take notes in their music but it must be done in pencil. If YSGW music is misplaced, lost or in poor condition, the replacement fee is \$5 per copy.

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 the 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 Turok at kerryturok@gmail.com .

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