

**Young Singers
of
Great Westfield**



**Handbook
Spring 2021**

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 6:30 to 7:15 via zoom. Singers will find the zoom link posted on the YSGW google classroom page.

Thursdays with **NO** rehearsal this Semester: 4/22/2020

If an additional cancellation is required. Families will be notified via email and the YSGW Google Classroom page.

Concerts and Concert Dress

Young singers will have at least one concert per semester.

Spring Concert: A Virtual Concert will premier in June.

To ensure that the group looks polished and professional, all singers are asked to wear the following attire for the recording their final performances.

White on top and black on bottom. White or black dresses acceptable. Black dress shoes. No leggings or jeans.

Meet the Artistic Director



Mrs. Kerry Cipoletta 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.

Mrs. Cipoletta 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. 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. While at Westfield, Mrs. Cipoletta 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 Mrs. Cipolettas' 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 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, google classroom page and posted on the website.

Financial Information

Membership for the YSGW for the Spring Virtual Semester is \$50. Payment plans or financial assistance is available for those who request it.

Payment can be sent to:
Young Singers of Greater Westfield
8 W Silver Street
PO Box 2011
Westfield, MA 01085

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.