

Youth Singers of Calgary

Star[★]★ PROGRAM

Special Talents in Arts
& Recreation



www.youthsingers.org

Welcome!

Youth Singers of Calgary (YSC) is an organization built on the foundational belief that every person should have the opportunity to enrich their lives through the performing arts. It is a great pleasure to welcome the "STAR" program as our 14th division/level in the Youth Singers family.



Music crosses borders, develops friendships, encourages teamwork and challenges all of us to excel in our efforts, artistically and in everyday life. The YSC program nourishes and celebrates the whole person and builds a strong sense of citizenship and pride in our community.

We are proud to be able to expand our programs to include even more young people and look forward to the many rewards and memories this experience will afford to all of its participants and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shirley Penner".

Shirley Penner,
YSC Artistic Director & CEO

**BE A
PART
OF THE
ARTS**





What is the STAR Program?

Youth Singers of Calgary (YSC) believes that every child who has the dream and desire to sing, dance and act should be able to do so. It is exciting for YSC to expand their program to include children who may not have had these opportunities available to them previously. STAR (Special Talents in Arts and Recreation) is a new and interactive experience that allows children with cognitive delays to participate in a tailored program that uses music, movement and instruments to further benefit their current abilities and strengths in the performing arts. STAR aims to develop a love for music and dance in a safe, stimulating and fun environment. STAR encourages and allows children to grow and gain confidence, build friendships and find an appreciation for the performing arts.



Program Overview

Classes provide an opportunity to experience the personal development and growth. Sessions could include African drumming, learning choreography, playing musical games and singing a variety of songs. Every session is instructor and participant lead, taking the children's interests and goals into consideration with each lesson plan and parents and care-givers are encouraged to take part with their child. STAR encourages the students to share their new found skills and abilities with family and friends in a performance at the end of the term. Youth Singers of Calgary is excited to offer the STAR Program; we are confident that these classes will foster your child's love of music and movement and help them grow into confident and bright STARS!

Did You Know?

Founded in 1985, Youth Singers of Calgary (YSC) has become one of Calgary's most accomplished performing arts companies and comprehensive performing arts training programs. YSC provides an exceptional music education and performance opportunity that has shaped the lives of thousands of young people, providing them with passion, purpose and direction.

engage

dance

sing

inspire

create

enrich



STAR's Mission

STAR's mission is to provide safe, exciting and beneficial music and movement education to children with special needs. Children are provided opportunities to develop flexibility, rhythm, increased body awareness and the ability to follow instructions and participate in a group setting. Our goal is to promote growth using a variety of creative music experiences.



STAR PROGRAM

Is the STAR Program right for my child?

Do you know a child between the ages of 8 and 15 that has special needs and a love for the performing arts? Do they have high energy, love to socialize and have always wanted the chance to be a STAR? Youth Singers of Calgary has the perfect opportunity for your child! The STAR Program is engaging and interactive and was developed with the capability to accommodate for a wide range of abilities. With a small group setting STAR allows children to grow both independently and socially. A one-on-one interview allows you to ask questions and discuss individual needs to determine if STAR is the right fit for your child.



Fun Fact!

Interactive strategies that include musical instruments and song games can promote social skills such as turn-taking, following directions, and cooperative play. These are all part of the STAR Program.

Kids make





Amanda Croteau

DIRECTOR

Amanda is excited to be directing the newest division of Youth Singers: STAR. She has been a part of the YSC family for 18 years, and currently performs with the division SHINE. Amanda graduated in 2008 with a Child Studies Degree and Certificate in Mental Health from

Mount Royal University. Since completing her degree program, she has grown as a professional through experience with Special Olympics, the Between Friends Club, Boys and Girls Club of Calgary and Side Door. Working with these specific communities helped shape her desire to combine her two biggest passions in life – the performing arts and working with special needs children.

Amanda's energy and passion is evident as you watch her interact with children, as well as her genuine love of music. STAR was created through a collaborative effort; combining her personal passions with the creative expertise of the Youth Singers of Calgary.

Beyond STAR, Amanda continues to grow and understand her craft as an active member of Youth Singers, she also performs with a band in Calgary, is learning guitar, and takes any opportunity to develop new skills which she can apply to her teaching. Amanda believes Youth Singers has given her endless positive and exciting experiences and she is excited to provide the same for children in the STAR program.

great music... Music makes great kids!



YSC Community

Over 25 years, Youth Singers of Calgary has grown from 28 junior high school students to over 500 strong, ages 3½ and up, in 13 levels/divisions. YSC is pleased to introduce the STAR program as its 14th division. In recognizing STAR, Youth Singers welcomes new participants and their families into the YSC community.



Jennifer Morton

PROGRAM MANAGER

Jennifer brings to STAR a wide variety of artistic and professional experience. She has a strong passion for music and has had a relationship with Youth Singers of Calgary for 25 years. She first joined as a singer in 1986, since

then she has served on committees, and been elected to the Board of Directors. She is now the proud parent of her own Youth Singer of Calgary. Jennifer has experienced first-hand the life long memories and enriching experiences that YSC offers its participants.

After completing her post-secondary education in Social Work, Jennifer began what has become a 14 year career of supporting individuals with special needs. Beginning as a front-line therapist, she provided direct treatment programming to children with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum for several years. Jennifer now works as a Registered Social Worker, supporting families and children living with autism and related disorders.

Alongside her professional experience, Jennifer herself is a parent of a child with special needs. A journey close to her heart, Jennifer recognizes the value of developmentally appropriate programming that enhances social skill development and a successful sense of belonging.

Jennifer is thrilled to be a part of the STAR team and looks forward to an exciting year!

Thank you for
considering the STAR
Program for your child!



Youth Singers of Calgary

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