

YOUTH SINGERS OF CALGARY

MEMBER HANDBOOK

2022-2023



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Youth Singers of Calgary rehearsals and offices are located at:

ATCO Performing Arts Centre
1371 Hastings Crescent SE
Calgary, AB T2G 4C8
403-234-9549

Youth Singers of Calgary is incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta and is a Registered Charitable organization in Canada.

#127096030 RR0001

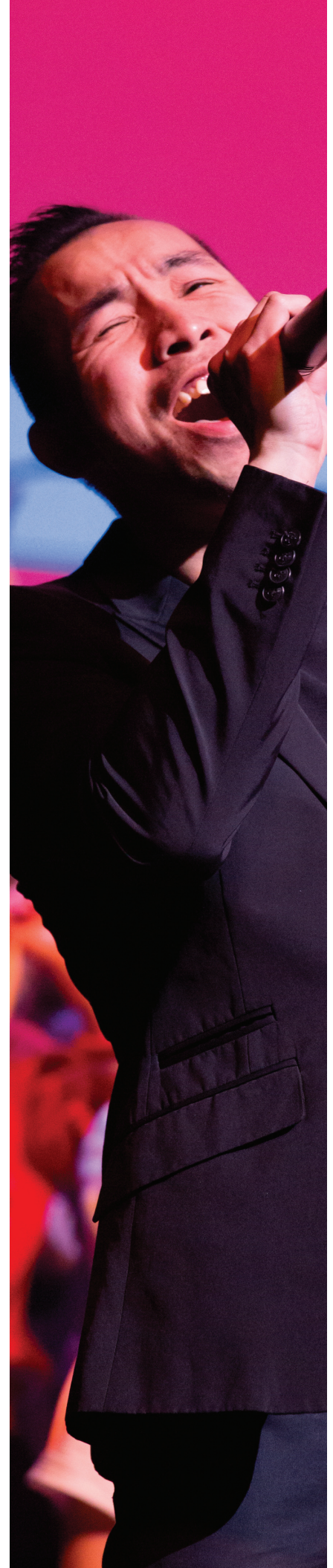


WELCOME

Welcome to the Youth Singers of Calgary! Youth Singers is the place to learn skills in singing, dancing, and acting, while growing in self-confidence through the performing arts.

Youth Singers is a registered charity. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. A small admin team manages finances, fund development, and our facility. A robust team of outstanding educators and leaders work in and out of the classroom as contract artistic staff.

We have music classes for children, performing divisions starting in Grade 3, as well as classes for kids with special needs. We also run adult recreational programs, a daytime choir, and summer camps.



VALUES

Youth Singers is a place where everyone can learn, feel safe, feel valued, grow as a performer, and grow as a person. We treat each other with respect and kindness. We have high expectations of each other. Every rehearsal, workshop, performance, and event is a time for hard work and focus. The classroom relationship at Youth Singers is based on working hard together, achieving our goals, and having fun along the way.

MISSION

To provide an inclusive and engaged community which gives young people the opportunity to grow and express themselves through the performing arts.

VISION

To be a vibrant performing arts company delivering exceptional comprehensive performing arts education and programming that encourages personal and artistic excellence.

CORE VALUES

We are committed to:

- Artistic integrity
- Excellence
- Community building
- Inclusion
- Health and Safety
- Personal development
- Self-expression
- Life-long learning



INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY - IDEA



Youth Singers is committed to living our values of diversity, inclusivity, accessibility, and equity.

We have an IDEA Singer Council that works with their divisions to make the Youth Singers experience awesome. They report to the Board of Directors.

BOARD STATEMENT ON IDEA

As artists, teachers, performers, leaders and community members, the Youth Singers of Calgary whole-heartedly embraces the ongoing work of Diversity and Inclusion. We commit to fostering a community that is anti-racist, and will promote the fair and equitable treatment of all who cross our path, including singers, audience and staff, alike. We will amplify the voices of those who are under-represented, and will celebrate and model creativity, generosity, and a willingness to listen, as we begin our steadfast journey towards becoming a more purposefully inclusive, diverse and embracing space.

We will work towards creating a collaborative environment that seeks to attract, develop and retain staff and performers who reject discrimination in all its forms, and who instead, actively promote the inclusion of those with differing abilities and disabilities, genders and gender expressions, sexual orientations, cultures, ethnicities, races, ages, neurodiversity, and various religious, spiritual and other beliefs.

We acknowledge that we have much to learn, as we strive to uplift and prepare the next generation of leaders through the disciplines of music, dance and acting. May our words, actions, music choices and programs be a reflection of the justice, fairness and loving acceptance we wish to see in the world.



PARENT COUNCILS

Every division has a Parent Council to help run all of our rehearsals and events. The Council President is your main contact, along with the Volunteer Coordinator. There are also council roles in Wardrobe, Library, Hospitality, Heritage and Archives, and Special Events.

Parent Councils meet once a month on a rehearsal night.

We also have a New Family Liaison to help you find your way around in your first year!

Please see the insert to find out who is on your Parent Council this year. You can get their contact information from the YSC Office, or by checking Choir Genius.

HOW TO KEEP INFORMED

ysc.choirgenius.com is your “one-stop shop” for information. Schedules, announcements, music learning tools, wardrobe lists, volunteer sign-ups and so much more are all posted and accessible here. Choir Genius is how you will get all the information you need. You can sync the Choir Genius calendar to your calendar. If you are having trouble accessing the site or using it, please contact the YSC office.

Amilia.com is our registration portal. It’s where you signed up for Youth Singers, where you can check your financial account, and where you’ll make additional purchases like meal orders and merchandise.

YSC News

Each week you will receive an email newsletter letting you know what is happening at Youth Singers. **At the bottom of the YSC News is the link to your Choir Genius log in, and a list of what is newly posted.**

If you read the YSC News and check Choir Genius every week, you will never miss a detail.

Follow and share our social media posts on Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok!

MAIN CONTACTS

Youth Singers has many people here to support you.

Please contact the YSC Office for questions about:

- Registration
- Finances
- Bingo
- Clarification on information on Choir Genius

Please contact the Director of your division for questions about:

- Attendance and schedule conflicts
- Social or behaviour problems in class
- How your child is doing

Please contact your Parent Council for questions about:

- Volunteering
- Wardrobe, Hair and Make-up
- What to expect
- General questions

New Families - Contact the New Family Liaison anytime, for any reason!

Our Board Chair is also available to you if you have concerns or compliments.

Please find Contact Information on Choir Genius, or by calling the YSC Office.

Attendance Line - If you are going to be late or absent, please let us know in Choir Genius. For emergencies, please call the Office or the Attendance Line at 403-214-1400.

CHILD SAFETY

Youth Singers has a policy on Child Safety. All staff receive training on Child Safety every year.

This policy helps us to make Youth Singers a safe place for everyone.

- Everyone is treated with respect and dignity
- Staff have a duty of care to make sure the classroom is safe
- This includes physical safety and emotional safety

Please contact our Board Chair or CEO with any questions.

ATCO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Youth Singers is proud to call the ATCO Performing Arts Centre our home!

Please park in front of our building or at the back. Street parking is available across the street.

ATCO Performing Arts Centre is available to rent for recitals and events! Contact the office for more information.

The ATCO Performing Arts Centre (APAC) has been the home of the Youth Singers since 2009. For the hundreds of kids, teens and adults who use our building weekly, it has become a safe space and a second home. It's a place where people can learn, grow, and express themselves through song and performance.

With four studios, wardrobe and sets workshops, meeting rooms, performance equipment and much more, it has proven to be a valuable and well utilized community arts space for Youth Singers, and many local and visiting community arts groups.



REHEARSALS

When you come to rehearsal, bring indoor shoes and a water bottle. Bring a snack if you need one. Only water is allowed in the studios. Choose shoes that are safe for dancing. Consider wearing your dance shoes! Dress in clothes that are comfortable for singing and dancing. Athletic wear is a great choice.

Attendance records are kept based on signing in with your bar code and name badge. Arrive on time in order to be ready to learn.

Every rehearsal, you are encouraged to participate actively. Come ready to work hard with a positive attitude. This is the best way for us to learn and progress together as a team.

Music binders are kept on site. Take your binder with you into rehearsal. Take care of your binder and sheet music carefully as these are your tools as a musician. Your binder will have a pencil. Use it to make notes as you learn. If you lose your pencil, bring one from home or ask for a new one!

You may bring your binder home to rehearse, however all of your music is also available on Choir Genius! Learning tracks and other resources are also on Choir Genius.

Youth Singers expects members to be ready to learn, be respectful, and work hard during rehearsal. We have a calm room where kids can rest if they need a brief break to regulate their emotions.

If you are sick, please do not come to rehearsal. All rehearsals are recorded and available to review when you are well. Rehearsal recordings are shared on a private YouTube link which you can find on Choir Genius. If you are out of town or too sick to come in person but well enough to attend from home, you can attend on Zoom. Please call the office by 4:00 pm so that we can set up Zoom for you.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance at every rehearsal, workshop, performance, and event is how we build our team and develop our skills. Plan to attend everything!

If you cannot attend, let us know in Choir Genius. That way artistic staff can plan for your absence. It really helps us! Call the Rehearsal Line at 403-214-1400 if you are running late or facing an emergency.

A parent volunteer will call you if you are absent and we haven't heard from you in Choir Genius or via the Rehearsal Line. This is for safety and for our records.

If you miss rehearsal, please watch the rehearsal recording to catch up.

Illness, unavoidable travel, and significant family ceremonies are acceptable reasons to miss Youth Singers. Social events and birthday parties are not acceptable reasons. We need to be together to build our ensembles and achieve our goals.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are intensive weekends where we work to learn choreography and rehearse for shows. Schedules are posted on Choir Genius. Wear comfortable clothes for singing and moving, and dance shoes. Athletic wear is a good choice. You can expect to work very hard during workshops, so plan on bringing water and extra snacks, and get plenty of sleep.

Healthy snacks are provided because you will need a lot of fuel! You will have the opportunity to pre-order lunch for workshops. Pre-ordering lunch is not required.



PERFORMANCES

At Youth Singers, we develop our skills through performing. Performing helps us be stronger singers, dancers, and actors. Performing also develops skills in teamwork, confidence, resilience and leadership! Plan to attend every performance.

You will perform twice a year at the Jubilee (once if you are in Grade 3). There are also performances in the community. All details will be on Choir Genius. Sometimes, our performances are adjudicated. This helps us improve and grow. Some of our performances need tickets to attend, and some are free.

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

If you are ready for a challenge, try out for extra performing opportunities! Vocal solos, dance ensembles, and acting roles are available as extra opportunities. These require an audition, and extra rehearsal and time commitment. More information will be on Choir Genius.



WARDROBE & MAKEUP

During performances, you will wear special wardrobe, make up, and hair styles. We wear make-up and certain hair styles so that our faces can be seen on stage. Unified wardrobe makes us look professional. Uniform dance shoes allow us to be safe, professional, and look great too.

You will need to purchase your own make-up and dance shoes. Some wardrobe you will have to buy, and some is provided by Youth Singers. All details are on Choir Genius, including deadlines of when you need to have everything purchased, and guidelines for hair styles, make-up application, and jewelry.

Parent Councils may hold used wardrobe and shoe sales to help families reuse and recycle, and save costs. Your Wardrobe Coordinator can help if you have questions. Please reach out!

TOURING

Going on tour with Youth Singers is an incredible way to develop performance skills, see the world, and make lifelong connections and memories.

Singers in Grade 3 do not tour. Grades 4-6 go on a single-day School Tour in the spring. Every other year, Grades 7-9 travel to Canada or the United States (usually to Disneyland!) for performances and competitions. Grades 10-12 and ACT3 singers tour in alternate years, often to overseas destinations for festivals, performances, and competitions. Tours are optional. There are extra fees to go on tour and extra rehearsals.

WHERE IN THE WORLD HAS YOUTH SINGERS TOURED?

Edmonton, Halifax, Nanaimo, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, California, Florida, New York City, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, England, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland and the Bahamas



VOLUNTEERING

Youth Singers asks every family to volunteer. We provide a high quality program, and volunteer assistance is needed to make it happen. Volunteering also makes Youth Singers a special place where families are involved in the processes and decisions that support their child's performing arts experience. You may buy out of the volunteer commitment if you wish.

There are countless ways to get involved!

- moving risers
- setting up staging
- building sets
- coordinating wardrobe
- raising funds
- sorting music
- hanging bridge banners
- serving on Parent Council
- and more!

Your help makes the Youth Singers program accessible, affordable, and awesome!.

How can you get started? Talk to your division's Volunteer Coordination or the Volunteer Manager at the Youth Singers Office.

Many companies offer incentive programs or matching donations when an employee volunteers. Please check with your company! Your support makes Youth Singers possible.

Youth Singers is a Registered Charity, #127096030 RR0001.





FUNDRAISING

Your tuition fees cover only about half of the Youth Singers program costs. We need to raise the balance to continue to offer an accessible, professional-level program.

Youth Singers raises funds through:

- Donations and Sponsorships
- HEARTS OUT Gala
- Bingos, Raffles and Casino
- Purdys Chocolate Sales and Skip the Depot donations

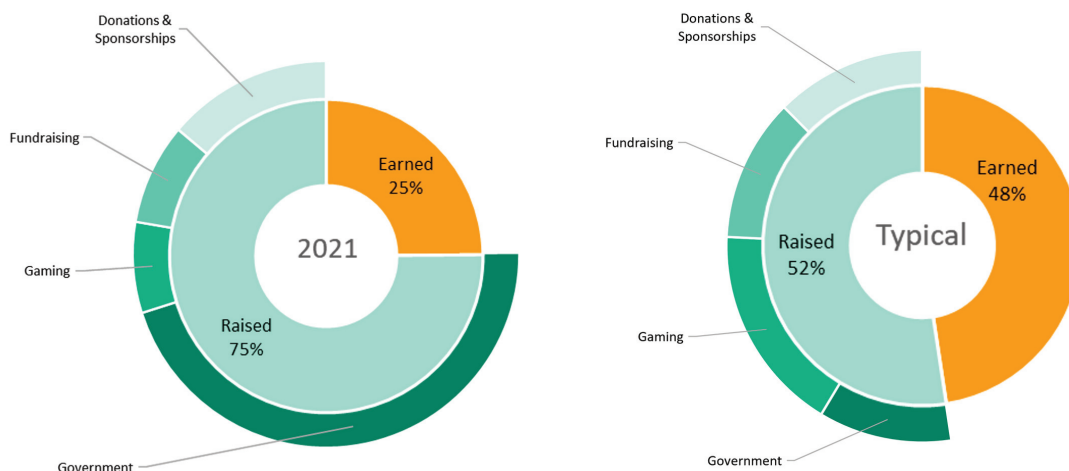
**“VOLUNTEERS ARE THE
LIFEBLOOD OF YOUTH
SINGERS, AND BINGOS ARE
THE ENGINE.”**

Information will come out throughout the year on our fundraising initiatives. Everyone’s support is appreciated to make our fundraising successful.

If you have contacts or relationships in the business community or with philanthropic individuals, please consider making a connection that YSC can follow up with. Support can include gift-in-kind, financial contributions, or corporate sponsorship. Contact YSC CDO Shirley Penner at shirl@youthsingers.org if you have ideas!

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REVENUE SOURCE COMPARISON



BINGO

Youth Singers asks every family to work bingos which provide revenue to support operating costs like Artistic Staff salaries! Thank you for helping out by working your bingo commitment.

Once you have worked all of the required bingos, you can work extra bingos, and earn credit towards tuition fees and tour fees. Some singers have paid for entire tours overseas through working extra bingos!

You can bring others to assist you. Bingo workers must be 18 years of age or older.

The Bingo Program allows us to keep our program affordable while also giving families the opportunity to offset their own tuition and tour fees. If you prefer, you can buy out of the bingo commitment.

To sign up for bingos, visit our website or check Choir Genius.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING YSC!

Thank you for reading through this information about Youth Singers, our community values, and processes. We look forward to working together with singers and families to build a wonderful community of performers who develop into their own selves, contribute meaningfully to society, and provide a life-long spark of inspiration to those around them. Thank you for joining us and being part of the Youth Singers community!



THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS



EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS (\$25,000+)

Alberta Foundation for the Arts
Anonymous
Calgary Arts Development
Calgary Foundation
Government of Alberta (Stabilize, CIP)
Government of Canada (ECBA, CEWS, ECSF)
John & Lyn Thomson
Werklund Foundation

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$10,000+)

ATCO
CH Financial
Howard & Janet McLean
Prosser Charitable Foundation
Shaw Birdies For Kids presented by AltaLink
TELUS Friendly Future Foundation

CREATIVE COMPOSERS (\$5,000+)

Margaret Bawden
Calgary Children's Foundation
Kinsmen Club Of Stampede City
Dr David M. Langelier
Shirley Penner & Don McLean