

Canticle Choirs - Student Expectations

Your mission: to give glory to God, build up the Church, and help people pray.

Our work as students, teammates and teachers is focused on God first, and we get to have fun together along the way. Though we train primarily in Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony, Canticle students have a mission to the entire Catholic Church.

You are expected to sing as invited and whenever possible for various rites of the Catholic Church. For the 2024/2025 academic year, this may include: TLM, Novus Ordo, Chaldean, or Byzantine sacred liturgies (Mass, and also Vespers, etc).

How blessed are we to serve Christ's Catholic (Universal) Church, and experience various authentic Catholic traditions!

Class Expectations

1. Show up to class on time and prepared.

- a. If you cannot avoid being late, or need to leave early, please do so *like a ninja*, to avoid being disruptive.
- b. Please communicate early departures to your teacher via email if you know ahead of time.
- c. Bring your pencil, music books, water, and a helpful, prayerful attitude.
- d. Have any homework ready to show your teacher.
- e. Cell phones are to be put away during class. Exceptions need to be cleared by a teacher.

2. Show respect to all teachers, parents, and clergy.

- a. Go with the flow, raise your hand, and wait to be called upon. You'll be given time to talk and ask questions.
- b. Bring non-musical concerns to your teacher or assistants first.
- c. You will be asked to take responsibility for your own behavior.

3. When doing homework and practicing, remember your mission and sing with specific intention(s).

- a. Simply do your best, do whatever you can, and ask God for help in taking the prayers to heart.
- b. Pray and speak the words. Use your Catholic imagination to paint a picture.
- c. Speak the words in rhythm.
- d. Write in solfege.
- e. Play your notes on an instrument.
- f. Look or ask for a recording.
- g. Ask other teammates for help. *Practicing with a small group can make homework more fun!*
- h. Leadership opportunities will be given to those who complete homework and engage in class.

4. Be helpful, patient, and show kindness to all teammates.

- a. Look out for new and young students, and help them find their place.
- b. Spend a little time with everyone on your team and avoid sticking to only your friend group during breaks.
- c. Show kindness, always. Criticism, gossip and talking about events to which everyone is not invited is unkind and should be avoided.

5. *Everyone sings something, and no one sings everything.*

- a. Remember that several factors go into choosing readiness for cantors and small groups.
- b. If you want more opportunities, establish a pattern of working hard on assignments first, and then specify your requests to a teacher in private or via email.
- c. Practice being glad for others who are chosen for a specific task. This will help support the whole team and guard your heart against destructive envy and pride.

6. *Practice modesty in speech and dress at all times.*

- a. Dressing in your Sunday best is expected for Mass and all public events. Knees and shoulders covered, please. Wear collared shirts, pants, skirts or dresses, and nice shoes.
- b. More casual clothing is fine for class. Because we rehearse in the church, please respect your own family custom of what to wear in church.
- c. Remember that different families have slightly different rules and respect that.
- d. Modesty also governs speech and actions- how you discuss and joke around with teammates should be kind and patient. Remember Christ is present.

7. *For safety, remember the rule of "Eyes and Ears":*

- a. Please stay within the boundaries of class and events, able to *see and hear teachers*.
- b. If you feel there's an unsafe situation, **alert a teacher or any assistant immediately**.
- c. Girls and guys hang out in groups of three or more.
- d. Look out for each other, and especially seek to include newer and younger teammates.
- e. Let a teacher know when using the restroom, and use the buddy system in public places.

8. *Illness:*

Please stay home from class if you are having symptoms, especially fever and/or vomiting within 24 hrs of class. Student assistants will help you catch up, and assignments will be posted for you. Health information, including vaccinations status, will not be asked of students. Please assess your own risks and act accordingly.

**When in doubt, return to your main purpose, your mission, as a Canticle Choir teammate:
*you train to give glory to God, build up the Church, and help people pray.***

**So, do your best to align your behavior with your mission, and ask for help when needed.
We are all on the same big team, and here to support your growth as a student.**