



# Savannah Children's Choir

## **Chorister & Family Handbook**

2019 – 2020 Season

## **Savannah Children's Choir Mission Statement**

The Savannah Children's Choir (SCC) is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit, community supported, choral organization whose mission is to unite, mentor and transform Savannah's children into creative, responsible and confident leaders through excellence in choral performance and music education.

SCC is a YPC-Inspired Chorus with YPC National - an independent non-profit organization founded to facilitate the creation and development of youth choruses nationwide, based on the model of the Young People's Chorus of New York City.

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## I. Welcome

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 14<sup>th</sup> season with the Savannah Children's Choir! Our goal is to provide a quality musical training program for interested singers in kindergarten through high school.

We believe music is a language that allows people to communicate in an expressive and ever-changing manner. The study of choral music enables students to explore different aspects of music and fosters a better understanding of the art of singing.

For our first year with SCC we are excited to be working with your children and exploring how we can help our artists grow and evolve as singers and as a community. We are grateful for this opportunity to be working with you and are ready for a great season!

Melinda & Emily

## II. Staff

### **Melinda Fradley, Jean Faircloth Principal Conductor**

Melinda Fradley just finished her 25th year as a music educator for Volusia County Schools, having received a BME and MEL from Stetson University. She was the choral director at DeLand High School for the past 12 years. The beginning of her career was spent teaching music in the elementary schools, and at the same time spent 10 years conducting the Apprentice Choir with the Stetson University Children's Choir alongside Dr. Ann Small.

As a life-long learner, Melinda has participated in post-graduate studies with Dr. Duncan Couch, Dr. Andrew Larson, Dr. Rodney Eichenberger, Charles Bruffy and Dr. James Jordan. In 2017, her Concert Choir was chosen to perform at the Florida ACDA state conference. Most recently, Melinda was a guest professor for City of Beijing University, teaching a choral methods class in Professor Lingfen Wu's 2019 choral workshop.

Melinda is an active member of NAFME and ACDA and is currently a member and president of the professional choir, The Festival Singers of Florida. Melinda is a mother of two sons, Hagen and Dale, and she enjoys "porch time" with friends, reading and traveling the world.

### **Emily Salzer, Chief Operating Officer**

Emily Salzer joins the Savannah Children's Choir as Chief Operating Officer with over 15 years of leadership experience. Emily has spent the last four years directing a non-profit after-school program, investing in and serving over 2,000 children in 37 Savannah Chatham County Public Schools. Emily continues to be an advocate for the potential of young people and providing them with resources necessary for success. She has a passion for community and educational development, the arts, and transformational leadership.

Prior to her community-driven non-profit work, Emily worked in the for-profit industry, specializing in organizational development, management, stakeholder engagement and retention. Regardless of the industry, Emily recognizes the importance of relationships, vision and a team-oriented culture.

Emily attended Georgia Southern University and is an active member of the Savannah Rotary and First Presbyterian Church. She lives in Savannah with her husband and three young boys, where she enjoys music, friends, gardening and an active lifestyle.

## **Caitlin Frasure, Production Coordinator & Accompanist**

Caitlin Frasure is thrilled to be joining the Savannah Children's Choir this season! A versatile pianist with a heart for young singers, she spent six years as accompanist for the Young Voices of Indianapolis, as well as the St. Richard's Episcopal School choirs in Indianapolis. Caitlin earned her MM and BM in Piano Performance from Butler University. She relocated to Savannah, Georgia, in 2019.

A zealous advocate for newly composed music, Caitlin's performances in the United States and abroad have included the premieres of original compositions at Upbeat International (Croatia), the Cortona Sessions (Cortona, Italy), SoundSCAPE Festival (Maccagno, Italy), Institute and Festival for Contemporary Performance (New York, NY), SPLICE Institute (Michigan). In 2016, she competed in the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (Ennis, Ireland) with the Indianapolis Céilí Band, and has toured as accompanist to Australia, Italy and NYC for the Young Voices of Indianapolis. She is currently pianist for The Artsong Collaborative Project (Toronto, CA) which premieres newly composed operas each summer.

Caitlin is co-founder of the duo "Ascending" with violinist Tricia Bonner ([www.ascendingduo.com](http://www.ascendingduo.com)). Since the opening concert in 2015, "Ascending" has successfully commissioned and premiered thirteen compositions from composers around the world, concertizing across the United States. "Ascending" released its first self-titled album of commissions this year.

## **Linda Galván, Discovery Conductor**

Linda Galván, a veteran music educator and performer is honored to be a part of the Savannah Children's Choir this season as the instructor for the Discovery Choir. She holds a B.M. in Music Performance from Texas State University, an M.M. in Music Performance from Kent State University, as well as a music education certification from Armstrong State University. Linda is also certified in the Kodály and Orff Philosophies of teaching music.

Linda has been an educator for fifteen years. In addition to teaching K-5 general music at Marshpoint Elementary, an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program school, she conducts a chorus and Orff ensemble. Prior to her teaching career, Linda performed in the Charleston Symphony, the Savannah Symphony and the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra.

Outside of the classroom, Linda has participated in various professional activities, including collaborating with music teachers in Georgia to design and write the Elementary Music Student Learning Objectives for the Georgia Department of Education. In addition, she helped write the Student Learning Objectives and the elementary music curriculum for the Savannah Chatham County School District. Linda also participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop, Gullah Voices: Traditions and Transformations. She subsequently served as project coordinator for this workshop. Linda belongs to the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and the Organization of American Kodály Educators.

### III. SCC Choral Ensembles

- Discovery
  - Ages 5 – 8
  - Rehearse Mondays, 5 pm – 5:45 pm
  - Singers get an introduction and explore healthy and proper choral singing. They are led to discover musical knowledge and talent through movement and song. They perform 2-3 times a year.
- Inspiration
  - Ages 8 – 13
  - Rehearse Mondays, 5 pm – 6:30 pm
  - Singers learn basic vocal techniques such as posture and breathing, sight-reading and performance skills. They present 3-5 public performances yearly.
- Premier
  - Ages 11 – 15
  - Rehearse Tuesdays, 5 pm – 7 pm
  - Singers learn vocalization, sight-reading and performance skills. They learn to sing in three and four-part harmony with repertoire in many styles and languages and perform 10-12 public performances each season.
  - This group travels every year.
- Encore
  - Ages 13 - 15, SATB
  - Rehearse Tuesdays, 4:25 pm - 4:55 pm
  - Singers mostly work on ensemble singing, blending, and working in a mixed voice ensemble. In this smaller ensemble, they are working to increase skills and acquire the tools to become independent musicians.

#### IV. Rehearsals & Performances

Through regular rehearsals and frequent performance opportunities, the Savannah Children's Choir provides a rich and rewarding experience for each choir member. During our August to May rehearsal and performance season, choir members study and perform repertoire representing a broad range of styles, eras, cultures and languages. Choir members are taught to care for and use their voices appropriately, and through encountering challenging repertoire, are also taught musical terms, concepts and skills.

- Behavior Expectations:

We really look forward to working together this year to bring a sense of satisfaction, unity, and enjoyment to our rehearsals!

1. **Be On Time!** Please be in your section with your folder, and a pencil, ready to rehearse before 5 pm. Use the restroom before or after rehearsal.
2. **Be Prepared!** Come to rehearsal prepared to work and learn, and be sure to finish food, drinks, and gum prior to rehearsal. You are encouraged to bring water each week (no glass bottles, please!)
3. **Be An Artist!** Make positive contributions to rehearsal by listening, limiting distractions, and taking responsibility for your own development as a musician. Respect the efforts of others, help one another, practice professionalism at all times.
4. **Be Excited!** Participate daily with a positive attitude. Every time you sing, make it a quality experience. Enjoy making beautiful music together!



## V. Communication

- Email: Weekly emails are sent to each choir with the current week's information and things on the horizon.
- Handouts: Occasional handouts come home with students with information for the week and things on the horizon.
- Event Details: Each concert and event will have a memo including details of event date, time, location, arrival and dismissal time, directions, uniform, and any special instructions.
- Social Media and Website: Follow us on Facebook and check our website regularly.

## VI. Commitment to the Choir

- Discipline and commitment to a group are vital parts of being in chorus. Each individual singer is a participating member of a larger group that is dependent upon each other for success. We expect choristers to be present and on time to all rehearsals.
- If your singer cannot be present or will be late, due to extenuating circumstances, please email [melinda@savannahchoir.org](mailto:melinda@savannahchoir.org)
- Attendance below 80% of rehearsals throughout a semester will result in a conference in order to decide if the singer is prepared to participate in the performances.

## VII. Concert Attire

- Male -
  - Black Dress Shoes
  - Tall Black Dress Socks
  - Solid Black Dress Pants (the waist band must sit on the hip bones of the singer)
  - Concert Shirt information will be given out soon
- Female -
  - Solid Black Ballet Flats
  - Solid Black Slim Fit Pants Ankle Length
  - Concert Shirt Information will be given out soon
- All Students -
  - Hair should be up and off the jaw line
  - Tasteful makeup, if any
  - No jewelry
  - All clothing should be pressed and presentable for performances
  - Do wear deodorant, don't wear perfume

## VIII. Volunteer

- We often have volunteer opportunities in the SCC office and at our many events throughout the season. We rely on our fantastic volunteers to help make each event run smoothly. We would love to have you as a volunteer! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Melinda or Emily.

IX. Charitable Contributions

- The Savannah Children's Choir is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit who continues to be grateful for the support we receive from parents, families, alumni, community, and friends. Tuition covers approximately 35% of the expenses incurred by the Savannah Children's Choir. Charitable contributions are tax deductible and are deeply appreciated. If you have donated to the SCC this year, we are grateful. SCC is also forming strong partnerships with area foundations and corporations in order to enhance the musical and community outreach experiences for our participants. If you know of a potential funding source, please contact Emily Salzer, [emily@savannahchoir.org](mailto:emily@savannahchoir.org).

X. SCC Board of Directors

Mike Vaquer, Chairman of the Board  
George Woods, Vice Chair  
Adam Kirk, Treasurer  
Lukejohn Dickson  
Russell Fries  
Zach Riddle  
Danielle Paul  
Cheryl Smith  
Mario Incorvaia  
Boston Derst  
Shena Verrett