

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR:

## Saskatchewan Youth Choir 2019-20



SASKATCHEWAN YOUTH CHOIR

**Saskatchewan Youth Choir (SYC)** is an exciting opportunity for talented youth ages 15 – 23 to perform in an SATB balanced choir with the best singers in Saskatchewan. The program develops singers ready to participate in premier vocal ensembles across Canada. Singers will be eligible to represent Saskatchewan as part of the National Youth Choir and as part of other, provincially-sponsored choral projects.

As part of their training, singers will prepare a varied program of exciting repertoire designed to enthrall audiences of all ages. The Choir will share their choral proficiency with high school and community ensembles in workshop scenarios and perform at schools, senior residences and community facilities while touring Saskatchewan.

For the 2019/20 season the SYC will be under the direction of Mrs. Marcia McLean, an accomplished choral director with a significant and varied career as a choral singer, conductor, clinician, adjudicator and private voice teacher. Marcia is currently the Artistic Director of the Swift Current Oratorio Choir and the Prairie Spirit Chamber Singers. In 2010 she retired after 18 years as Director of Choral Music at the Swift Current Comprehensive High School where she conducted an 80 voice concert choir, vocal jazz ensembles and the Comp Chamber Singers who performed across Canada at numerous festivals and won awards at Music Fest Canada and the Heritage Music Festival. Marcia was the founding director of the Swift Current Children's Choir, which she conducted for 12 years. She is a member of the Swift Current Music Festival and the Saskatchewan Choral Federation of which she was President for 4 years. On numerous occasions she was a vocal coach at the SCF choir camps and was guest conductor in 2011. In 2001, Mrs. McLean received the "Paul Harris Fellowship" from the Swift Current Rotary Club for outstanding leadership and community work with young people. In 2004, she was awarded the "Pro Musica Award" by the Saskatchewan Choral Federation for outstanding service in the choral community. Prior to teaching in Swift Current, Marcia taught music and choir at Esterhazy High School for 12 years, conducting both vocal jazz and concert choirs.

**Number of Voices:** 24 – 36 singers

**Dates:** September 2019 – February 2020

### Activities:

Singers must be prepared to commit to the following dates:

1. September 20 to September 22, 2019 – Rehearsal/Regina (Friday evening to Sunday late afternoon)
2. October 18 to 20, 2019 OR November 8 to 10, 2019 – Rehearsal/Regina (Friday evening to Sunday late afternoon) – ***we will have this date confirmed asap!***
3. January 2 to January 4, 2020 – Rehearsal/Regina (Thursday mid-afternoon to Saturday mid-afternoon)
4. February 6 to February 8, 2020 – Rehearsal, Tour, Workshops & Concerts – locations to be confirmed (Thursday evening to Saturday late afternoon/early evening – to be confirmed)

Exact dates and times to be confirmed but will not be more than those times noted.

**Cost:** \$550 (maximum)

Includes choral training (sectionals, rehearsals & workshops); tour travel and accommodations and most meals at weekend rehearsals and on tour.

Travel to and from rehearsal weekends and the tour weekend will not be covered. Some meals are not included. Singers will be responsible for their own accommodations for weekend rehearsals, although some billeting will be available.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### **1. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Singers may be recommended by their teacher or choral director or may apply on their own. To apply for an audition, please send an email to [programs@saskchoral.ca](mailto:programs@saskchoral.ca) with the following information:

**First Name | Last Name | Email | Voice Part | what town or city are you from**

**Expressions of interest or recommendations must be submitted by 12:00 pm (noon) Friday, May 31, 2019.**

### **2. MATERIAL SUBMISSION**

Singers that apply or are recommended will be sent a link to the online Chorister Questionnaire and the benchmark music piece. All audition materials must be received in the Saskatchewan Choral Federation office by midnight (11:59 pm) on Wednesday, June 12, 2019. Singers must submit the following as part of their audition package:

#### **1) Chorister Questionnaire**

All prospective participants wishing to take part in the Saskatchewan Youth Choir program must complete the questionnaire. Please be as thorough as possible when answering – this information will form part of your audition package and will impact your overall audition. Specific audition requirements must be met.

#### **2) Audition Recording**

Taped video audition (YouTube, Vimeo or DVD format) including:

- Chromatic scale – one octave (ascending and descending, non-accompanied)
- One (1) test piece provided by SCF as a benchmark
- No sight-reading component is required, but a basic level of musicianship is expected.
- Specifics will be provided upon expression of interest
- **If possible, live auditions will be arranged based on the number auditioning at any given location. You will be notified as soon as possible if that is case.**

**IMPORTANT: Recording quality will affect judging – please use the best equipment possible.**

#### **3) Musical Reference**

A reference letter from the student's director, voice teacher, vocal coach, or music teacher commenting on the student's:

- Work ethic
- Commitment
- Ability to handle SYC participation along with other commitments
- Ability to hold a part
- Leadership ability

**Submit audition materials before 11:59 pm on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 to:**

**Saskatchewan Choral Federation  
1415-B Albert, REGINA, SK S4R 2R8  
Email video links to [programs@saskchoral.ca](mailto:programs@saskchoral.ca)**

**Questions? Contact Sheryl Neher, Executive Director, at 1-877-524-6725 (toll-free), (306) 780-9230 (local) or email [programs@saskchoral.ca](mailto:programs@saskchoral.ca)**

### **3. RESULTS**

Successful applicants will be notified by **July 15, 2019**.