



HANDBOOK 2016-2017

HISTORY

Maranatha Music Ministries was established with the founding of the Maranatha Touring Choir by the late Carroll P. Kelly and Mary Louise Kelly along with Carlton and Shirley Onderdonk in 1972 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Touring Choir is composed of young musicians in grades eight through college. Several thousand young people and over 350 adult leaders have contributed to the choir since its inception. As members of the original Maranatha Touring Choirs begin to raise their own families they had a desire to provide a choir opportunity for students in grades 4-8 and thus begin Maranatha Second Generation (M2G).

Maranatha Second Generation Choir was founded in 1992 for young people in grades four through eight. It rehearses weekly on Monday nights and performs at least 10 to 12 free concerts annually. Since its founding, the choir has served hundreds of young people, enjoyed the leadership of almost 100 adults, and performed throughout Virginia as well as in several states along the east coast. M2G is currently under the musical direction of Barbara Powell and Tammy Burton-Strickland. The choir performs both a formal choral musical program and a drama program, which includes costumes and appropriate choreography.

Maranatha Music Ministries operates a website with information pertaining to schedules and events. Please visit us at: maranathachoirs.org

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of Choir Members:

Respect

Respect for all leadership is expected. The choir members are to give the choir directors and the accompanist their undivided attention and respect during rehearsals at all times. This includes staying in their seats, not visiting with friends, and, above all, not talking while the director is speaking. This respect and attention is also to extend to those parents/volunteers chaperoning each week. The chaperones are there to assist the directors and should be obeyed. Choir members are also expected to show respect and Christ-like concern for fellow choir members and their practice time.

Regular Attendance

Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals and performances. Regular attendance at rehearsals and concerts is the key to learning the music. Rehearsals are from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm each Monday evening at the Maranatha Building located at 1915 Charles Street in

Fredericksburg.

Music and parts memorization

Music memorization is vital for a polished performance. Each member must learn the words to all the music. Members with speaking parts are responsible for memorizing their parts for all performances.

A **successful** choir season is only possible if all the choir members agree with each other that they will faithfully, and to the best of their ability, follow these guidelines.

Responsibilities of Choir Parents:

Conduct



Conduct of choir members is ultimately their own responsibility, yet parents are expected to support choir leadership and to help correct behavior when possible. Please be sensitive to your child's behavior and encourage them to know the rules outlined on the previous pages.

Attendance



Attendance at rehearsals and concerts is the backbone of the choir program. Your child is dependent on you to be in attendance and on time. Please have your choir member at rehearsal a few minutes early so that they feel prepared to begin and ready to contribute to the rehearsal.

Please notify choir leadership if they will not be attending a rehearsal or concert. Contact information for all choir leaders is included in this handbook.

Choir leadership is going to make every effort to be respectful of your time. We are going to begin and end rehearsals on time and there will be no additional rehearsals added to the calendar.

Uniforms



Uniforms are worn for all performances unless indicated by the choir directors. The uniform is to be maintained in a **clean** and **neat** condition for performances. **Failure to have proper uniforms will result in the choir member not being allowed to perform in that concert.**

Performance attire will be: **Black dress slacks (remember – we will be performing November through June – children grow!), black socks/hose, black shoes and a M2G shirt.**

We anticipate having 2 different M2G shirts that will be purchased through your choir participation fees. Specific concert needs will be decided and communicated by the music directors. Be sure to check the **RED** folders for announcements and information.

Financial



The financial responsibility for each choir member is **\$300**. This money provides all music, specified uniform pieces and travel expenses for the choir. It also provides for choir socials and defrays the cost of the monthly community dinners. There are fundraisers throughout the year to help defray the costs of membership. A suggested payment schedule is as follows.

All money should be given to the **Treasurer** and must be paid in full by April 18th, 2016

Checks are to be made payable to: **Maranatha Second Generation**.

\$50.00 Payable by September 28, 2015

\$50.00 Payable by October 26, 2015

\$50.00 Payable by January 25, 2016

\$50.00 Payable by February 29, 2016

\$50.00 Payable by March 21, 2016

\$50.00 Payable by April 18, 2016

Payment in full must be received by April 18, 2016 in order to participate in Mini-Tour.

Maranatha Music Ministries does not want any child to miss out on the opportunity to participate due to financial restraints. We are currently working on adopting a policy for a family discount. Additionally, there are a few choir scholarships available. Please see one of the music directors to privately discuss your personal situation.

We realize that sometimes choir members may have to drop out for personal reasons. Unfortunately there can be no refunds of choir obligation payments.

Parents' Meetings



In an effort to honor your busy schedules the M2G leadership will be sending communications home via email. Please provide a good email address for your family that will be checked consistently for updates and information. There will be face-to-face parent meetings scheduled throughout the year normally during regular Monday night rehearsal

times – email notification will be sent in ample time for scheduling.

CHOIR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The Second Generation Choir operates by way of functioning committees that are staffed by parents. Those committees are as follows:

Spiritual Emphasis	Fellowship
Community Meal	Fundraising
Sound Equipment/Truck/Set-up & Break Down	Publicity

ADULT LEADERSHIP



<u>Choir Manager:</u>	Julie Perry 540-273-4284	japerry@fredericksburgva.gov
<u>Music Directors:</u>	Barbara Powell 540-760-5682	sbcapowell@verizon.net
<u>Accompanist:</u>	Tammy Burton-Strickland 540-842-0190	mstammy59@gmail.com
<u>Choir Treasurer:</u>	Tammy Hancock 540-371-2828	tam1981@gmail.com
<u>Community Dinner/ Fellowship:</u>	Velvet Payne 540-846-2411	vapayne@yahoo.com

The Board of Directors has a firm policy in place that states that all music directors of Maranatha Music Ministries must have a degree in music. Because of this requirement, the selection of music, its presentation, and the selection of soloists and narrators is solely the responsibility of the Music Directors.

PERFORMANCES



The choir will perform no more than **10-12** concerts each year. Concerts are given by invitation of local churches and other community organizations. The Concert/Mini-Tour* committee makes all the arrangements concerning scheduling of concerts. Every effort is made to schedule concerts as far in advance as possible, please check the existing calendar for concert dates and times. To arrange for a concert at your church, contact the chair of the Concert Committee.

*Each spring, a mini-tour is planned. This **weekend tour** involves an overnight trip and several concerts combined with some sight-seeing or other recreational activities for the choir. Chaperones will be needed for each room.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Sound Committee



The Sound Committee is designated at the beginning of the season and performs their required functions from November until the last concert of the season. The two to four members of this committee should be in relatively good physical condition because this job involves quite a bit of physical activity. Members may be asked to arrive ahead of the scheduled choir sound check to set up the stage and sound equipment. **If you are interested in helping with this committee please contact Barbara Powell.**

Mini-Tour and Local Concert Committee



The Mini-Tour and Local Concert Committee is selected at the beginning of the season and is responsible for helping to set up local performances and Mini-Tour. This year's leadership is interested in traveling to the Williamsburg, Newport News, Hampton Roads area. **If you have contacts in this area or are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Julie Perry.**

Spiritual Emphasis Committee



The Spiritual Emphasis Committee is selected at the beginning of the season and has the responsibility, through the last rehearsal of the season, to lead a five minute devotional/prayer at each rehearsal. In addition, they are to present a 5 minute devotional/prayer before every concert at the time designated by the choir director. **If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact Tammy Burton-Strickland.**



Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee is selected at the beginning of the year. This committee will arrange three to five social events for the choir members during the season. In the past, these have included a beginning-of-the-year event, a Christmas celebration, a January warm-up, a mid-winter movie night, and a season-ending family picnic in June.

The committee chairperson will recruit parents to help with set-up, games, food, and clean-up. Dates have already been reserved at the Maranatha building for this year's events. **If you are willing to help with these fellowship activities please contact one of the music leaders.**

Community Meals: Maranatha Music Ministries has committed to serving our community by partnering with other local churches and organizations to provide a free community dinner for people in need. Dinner is prepared and served for 60-80 people at the Maranatha Music Ministries building. M2G is responsible for these dinners on the first Tuesday of October, November and December. **If you are willing to help with these fellowship activities please contact Velvet Payne.**

COMMUNICATIONS



Email is now the primary route of general information of the choir. Please ensure the choir manager has your current e-mail address. Please look for a weekly e-mail from one of the choir directors. Make sure your spam system is not eliminating our e-mail.

Telephone Contact Numbers

Please be sure the phone numbers on your Interest Form and the Choir Roster are correct and current. Complete information, including mobile numbers, will enable us to provide the best communication.

Cancellations

All decisions on cancellations are discussed and decided by the choir manager and the choir directors. We will cancel Maranatha if the Spotsylvania County School District cancels school for the day. Our general policy for rehearsals in dangerous weather is that, if the area's public schools are out or if we have inclement weather during the day, an e-mail will be sent. **Please respond immediately to any email you receive concerning cancellations, so that the choir manager knows who must be phoned.** Please know that we do not want to miss any more rehearsals than are necessary, but we do not want to put Maranatha family members in jeopardy.