

Summit Children's Choir

Vocal Development & Music Literacy Program



Parent Handbook

SUMMIT
CHORAL
SOCIETY
Frank C. Jacobs, Artistic Director
25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
2014-2015

www.summitchoralsociety.org



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Summit Children's Choir Rehearsal Location	Coventry High School (Main Location) 3089 Manchester Road, Akron, OH 44319
Summit Children's Choir Concert Location	Cuyahoga Falls High School 2300 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
Summit Choral Society Administrative Offices	Summit Choral Society (SCS) 50 S. Main Street, Suite LL #130 Akron, OH 44308 Phone: 330-434-SING (7464)
Find Us Online	Email: summitchoralsociety@gmail.com Website: www.summitchoralsociety.org YouTube: www.youtube.com/summitchoralsociety Facebook: www.facebook.com/summitchoralsociety Twitter: @SummitChoral
Summit Choral Society Office Staff	Dr. Frank C. Jacobs, Founder/Artistic Director Ms. Karen Prasser, Executive Director Mrs. Shara Cocchiola, Children's Choir Program Administrator Mrs. Rachel Bridenstine, Office Manager, Bookkeeper
Music Instructors & Directors	Mrs. Arlene Jacobs, Touring Choir Mrs. Heather Cooper, Concert Choir Mrs. Shara Cocchiola, Mrs. Missy Smith Mrs. Melanie Mesmer

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

In case of inclement weather on the night of a rehearsal, please check local sources (television, radio, etc...) that typically report school closings or contact the SCS offices at 330-343-SING (7464). If Coventry High School is closed, SCC classes are automatically cancelled. Your child's Choir Manager will also attempt to contact you by phone in the event of a rehearsal cancellation.

SUMMIT CHILDREN'S CHOIR HANDBOOK



	Welcome Letter to Parents	Page 2
SECTION I	About the Summit Choral Society Mission Philosophy Board of Directors	Page 3
SECTION II	About the Summit Children's Choir Program Structure, Mission, Goals Program Placement Interviews Membership Expectations Basic Concepts Taught	Pages 4-5
SECTION III	Curriculum & Philosophy Curriculum Kodaly Philosophy of Music Education Music Instructors/Directors	Page 6
SECTION IV	SCC Program Divisions Preparatory Division Training Division Ensemble Division	Pages 7-8
SECTION V	Rehearsals Classroom & Rehearsal Procedures Parent Mailboxes Music Attendance Policy Touring and Concert Choir Absences Stage Rehearsals	Pages 9-10
SECTION VI	Performances Performance Procedures Concert Tickets Performance Expectations Schedule Conflicts Concert Attire	Pages 11-13
SECTION VII	Financial Matters Tuition Policies Monthly Payment Plan Financial Aid Parents' Association	Page 14
SECTION VIII	Fundraising, Public Relations, Volunteering Individual Tour Accounts (ITA) Public Relations & Volunteering Donations & Matching Gifts Other Fundraising Development	Pages 15-16
	SCC Concerts	Page 17



Welcome Letter to Parents

Welcome to the Summit Children's Choir Program!

The Summit Choral Society Children's Choir Program exists to excite, engage and encourage children to realize their full potential as young singers as they embrace their diversity and explore, through healthy vocal technique, the very best in choral music.

Remember SCS is EXCELLENCE!

The Summit Children's Choir (SCC) Program provides the highest quality music education to your child and the highest performance standards for your singer. We create a positive environment for learning, work with experienced faculty and expect that your relationship with us will be not only positive, but life changing.

This Parent Handbook was designed as a resource for SCC families. Whether you have been with the organization several years or are new to SCC, you will find these materials valuable throughout the season. We ask that you take time to read the entire handbook but especially review those sections that pertain to your own singer(s). Should you have questions, any member of the SCS staff will be happy to help.

We appreciate the commitment you have made to the musical education of your child and we remain dedicated to both you and your child as we grow together during this season.

Again, WELCOME!

- The Summit Children's Choir Program Staff

SECTION I: About the Summit Choral Society

Mission

Our mission is to produce and present quality performances of distinguished choral music for the enrichment, enjoyment and education of our singers, our patrons and the greater Akron community.



Philosophy

We believe that artistically excellent performances of beautiful music — presented with enthusiasm, energy, and insight — provide experiences that educate, enrich and enhance the lives of performers and listeners alike.

Focused on bringing to life the world's greatest choral repertoire, the Summit Choral Society will challenge, enrich, serve and fulfill the lives of our singers, patrons and audiences through the distinctive beauty and power of quality choral performances.

Board of Directors

The Summit Choral Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 educational and performing arts organization. We are governed by a Board of Directors which guides all facets of this unique arts establishment. The Society is particularly committed to having the Summit Children's Choir Program well represented on the Board. In addition, a graduating senior representative from the SCC program is appointed to a seat on the Board each year. This seat is earned and has typically been held by a senior member of the Touring Choir. This representation has proven to be a very significant voice on the Board of Directors.

SECTION II:

About the Summit Children's Choir Program

Structure

The Summit Children's Choir Program (SCC) was organized by and remains under the 501(c)3 nonprofit performing arts organization Summit Choral Society and its governing Board of Directors. Its membership stands at nearly 150 singers from over 70 schools in grades two and up working at several levels of vocal and musical ability.

Mission

The mission of the Summit Children's Choir Program is to **provide quality music instruction resulting in the highest level of artistic excellence in choral performance.**

Program

Our program endeavors to enrich the lives of children and youth from all religious, racial, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Our activities help singers grow personally and socially by promoting self-esteem, accomplishment and pride. The program is made up of three divisions:

- ◆ **The Preparatory Division, emphasizing the joy of making music through song & movement**
- ◆ **The Training Division, emphasizing music education**
- ◆ **The Ensemble Division, emphasizing music performance**

All three divisions emphasize individual understanding and development of musical skills.

The success of SCC has depended largely on the support and partnership it has received from music teachers in the greater Akron area. It is expected that SCC singers will be active participants in their school choirs (if available), and that they be leaders in their school's musical ensembles - both vocal and instrumental.

Our Goals

- Provide an educational experience allowing each singer to grow at his or her own pace.
- Expose children and youth to the music of other cultures and societies.
- Foster personal, musical and social growth.
- Promote a sense of self-worth, accomplishment and pride.
- Provide a supplemental music experience for students who enjoy and want to excel in vocal music.
- Foster a life-long appreciation of, and participation in, the choral art.
- Provide significant, worthwhile and beautiful choral performances for the greater Akron community . . . and beyond.

Placement Interviews



Placement interviews are held throughout the year. These interviews are non-competitive and allow the SCC staff to assess the level at which singers should be placed to align their current skills and abilities with the SCC curriculum. Singers in the 1st through 3rd grades may join a Beginning Singing Class without an interview. After completing this Preparatory class, they typically interview for placement in one of the Training Division classes.

Membership Expectations

Membership in SCC is meant to be a positive learning experience for all singers - one that will stay with them throughout their lifetime. As members of this unique program, singers experience the meaning of the words "commitment" and "responsibility". Because membership in SCC is a privilege, we expect singers to take pride in their membership and treat it as a serious matter.

Enrollment in SCC is for the entire year beginning in late August and concluding in May. Once enrolled, each singing member is expected to remain active and committed to the program for the entire season. **If circumstances prohibit a singer from honoring this commitment to complete the season, the parent is still responsible for the entire year's tuition.**

Basic Concepts Taught

Basic music concepts are taught during every class and rehearsal. Singing, listening and in many instances, formal analysis of the music reinforce these musical concepts. The instruction that singers receive in the three divisions of the Summit Children's Choir Program is heavily influenced by the **Kodaly** philosophy of music education. This philosophy and approach to learning was inspired by Hungarian composer and educator Zoltan Kodaly and is based on a vision of the place of music in the intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of every child. This system of music education is known for its sequential development of skills, emphasis on music literacy, and constant attention to the development of a solid and healthy vocal technique. As a result, students move through the curriculum with a consistent sense of accomplishing ever more challenging music and reading skills, while at the same time taking personal pride in the ever growing beauty in their own singing.

At SCC, singing is the major focus of the musical experience. Because singing is such a powerful means of personal musical expression, it is expected that this experience will form the foundation of a life-long relationship with music for both singers and their families.



SECTION III: Curriculum & Philosophy

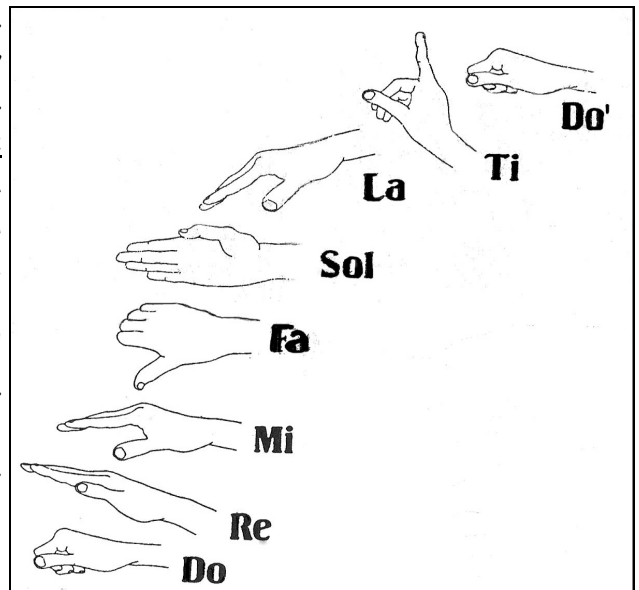
Curriculum

The specialized learning environment fostered by the SCC Program is designed to give each child a rich and rewarding musical experience. Singers study and perform a variety of music ranging from simple folk songs to world cultural pieces to classical literature from the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary periods of music. The Summit Choral Society has also commissioned several world premieres and been privileged to have pieces written expressly for its performers.

Masterpieces from all styles and periods and in various languages serve not only as the foundation for musical learning but as the basis for our curriculum. We believe (as did Zoltan Kodaly) that "children should be led to musical masterpieces by means of musical masterpieces." Simply put, the best musical experiences for children are gained through great music. Therefore, the SCC repertoire continues to include music from well-known masters such as Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Haydn, Schubert, Kodaly, Copland and Vaughn Williams, among others. Folk, gospel, spirituals and music of many cultures are also represented in our music curriculum and performances.

Kodaly Philosophy of Music Education

The instruction that SCC singers receive in the Training Division is heavily influenced by the **Kodaly philosophy** of music education which focuses on the relationship among pitches and is grounded in tonic solfa (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do) combined with a system of hand signs that make tonal memory both more quickly accomplished and a well-defined skill. Hand signs are a way of giving a physical placement for a vocal pitch. Low "do" begins at one's midsection and each successive pitch is then placed above the previous one. The hand signs are therefore placed successively higher as the pitch goes up. (To the right: handsigns used by all singers in conjunction with the Solfege degrees of the scale).



Music Instructors/Directors

All Summit Children's Choir training classes and ensembles are directed and guided by a staff of outstanding area music educators who have all been trained in the Kodaly philosophy of music education. They are assisted during weekly classes, rehearsals and performances by individual Choir Managers and other willing volunteers.

SECTION IV: SCC Program Divisions

Preparatory Division

Beginning Singing Classes

The Preparatory Division has been created to provide Beginning Singing Classes for 2nd and 3rd graders interested in exploring the joys of making music with other children of the same age. These classes are open to all interested singers and are offered in various satellite locations throughout the greater-Akron area.



Singers enrolled in the satellite Beginning Singing Classes will be exposed to basic pitch matching. They will be introduced to solfege hand signs and basic rhythmic patterns and will learn several songs. They will be expected to attend and participate in the Summit Children's Choirs' grand "Holiday Concert" and/or "Sounds of Spring" Concert. They can then choose to interview for placement into the Training Division of the curriculum-based SCC Program (offered at the Coventry High School location), or they may instead choose to continue in one of the satellite Beginning Singing Classes for another semester.

Training Division

Bel Canto



Singers placed into the program at the Bel Canto level will demonstrate the ability to match pitch, will be interested in developing proper vocal technique, and will show a readiness to become musically literate. Through folk songs and singing games, they will develop the ability to hear and read simple melodic lines and rhythmic patterns. Basic vocal techniques, simple solfege patterns, and two-part canon singing as well as basic 'partner songs' will be introduced at this level.

Troubadour

Singers entering this level will be able to demonstrate an ability to sight-sing a melodic line on pitch and be able to reproduce basic rhythmic patterns. At this level, singers will work toward improving their grasp of absolute pitch, two-part singing, and rhythmic and solfege skills. More complex rhythms and three-part canons will be introduced, as well as major and minor keys and key signatures. Basic score reading will also be explored.



Kantorei



Singers entering this level will have a strong working knowledge of solfege and absolute pitch, as well as the ability to sing independently in two parts. Part singing development is continued at this level, and vocal technique and music reading skills (melodic and rhythmic) will continue to be refined. Major, minor and pentatonic scales will be stressed during this year, and the concept of the "circle of fifths"

SECTION IV: SCC Program Divisions (continued)

Ensemble Division

Once singers have completed their journey through the three training levels and/or have demonstrated the skills necessary to become contributing members of an ensemble, they are moved to the Ensemble Division of the Summit Children's Choir Program. These ensembles offer completely different but equally valuable experiences in the continuing education of SCC's young singers. Throughout this period in the singer's continuing education, rehearsal maturity is stressed with the goal of achieving a higher level of rehearsal focus and a clearer dedication to, and understanding of, the concept of "commitment to the ensemble."

Concert Choir

When singers can comfortably sing in parts, consistently use good vocal technique and are able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of solfege skills for sight singing, they are ready for placement with the Concert Choir. In this ensemble, a greater emphasis is placed on singing three-part music (SSA) and more advanced repertoire. An elevated performance activity level can be expected from this ensemble over that which the singer has experienced in the Training Division. The Concert Choir performs at least twice a year at performances other than SCC concerts and has a goal of at least one short 'concert tour' outside of Northeast Ohio each year.



Touring Choir



The Touring Choir includes singers who have established good vocal technique, read music well, can hear dissonant harmonies, and who demonstrate an ability to remain highly focused in the rehearsal setting.

In this ensemble, a greater emphasis is placed on advanced choral techniques, accelerated sight reading and performance readiness, and on singing texts in a variety of foreign languages. This choir performs publicly on a regular basis and serves as ambassadors of the Summit Choral Society, with annual tours both domestically and internationally.

Past international tours taken by the SCS Touring Choir include:
England, Italy, China, Sicily, Malta, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria,
Hawaii, and Western Canada.

SECTION V: Rehearsals

Classroom & Rehearsal Procedures

The following procedures ensure that every member of the SCC program practices the levels of discipline and professionalism that everyone in the Summit Choral Society strives to achieve. They are enforced for the singer's safety, to maintain orderly classrooms, and out of courtesy and respect for the entire membership.

1. Arrive not more than 15 minutes before your scheduled rehearsal time (unless otherwise requested by your Teacher/Director). Go directly to your classroom or rehearsal room and check in with your Choir Manager.
2. Give attendance notes, permission slips and your **PARENT MAILBOX** to the Choir Manager and put on your **NAME TAG**.
3. If singers cannot actively participate in class or rehearsal, they should bring a written note and observe quietly and attentively at the back of the room.
4. **DO NOT** bring food or drink into the class/rehearsal room. **ONLY WATER IS PERMITTED**. Eat a nutritious meal or snack before you arrive.
5. At all times show **RESPECT** for other singers, your Teacher/Director, your Choir Manager, parent volunteers and for your class/rehearsal space.
6. **TAKE HOME YOUR PARENT MAILBOX EVERY MONDAY**. This envelope, email, and the website are your main sources of communication with the Summit Choral Society Office.
7. **ALWAYS BRING YOUR MUSIC, MAILBOX AND A PENCIL** to class/rehearsal.
8. Parents, board members and interested community members are welcome and encouraged to periodically observe classes and rehearsals. Seating in the back of the room is available and remains reserved for guests. It is requested, however, that younger siblings not be made to endure these classes in the event that they should become a disruption.
9. **PARENTS WHO WAIT INSIDE THE SCHOOL FOR THEIR SINGER(S) ARE ASKED TO USE THE CAFETERIA**. Waiting outside the singer's classroom is discouraged so singers are not distracted by activity and conversation in the hallway while rehearsals are in session.

Parent Mailboxes

The parent mailbox is a brown envelope that stays in the music folder and serves as our primary source of communication with SCC families. Each week singers receive a short newsletter in their parent mailbox. Singers and their parents are encouraged to read these thoroughly as information regarding schedules, concert attire, ticket sales, special events, meetings and other SCC activities will be included in this weekly communication. Occasionally, the parent mailbox is used to send personal items (pins, receipts, messages) home. This is also the best way for you to get information to the Staff and/or your singer's Choir Manager.

Please check your Parent Mailbox EACH WEEK. We also EMAIL important announcements and NEWSLETTERS. If you are not receiving our emails, please call the Summit Choral Society offices at 330-434-SING (7464) to update your information.

SECTION V: Rehearsals (continued)

Music

At the beginning of the year, each singer is issued a folder of music. Occasionally music is also distributed during the season. It is each singer's responsibility to take good care of all issued music. It is also the singer's responsibility to bring this music folder to every rehearsal. If music or a folder is lost or irreparably damaged, a \$2.00 fee per piece of music (octavo) will be charged to cover replacement costs. Replacement folders also cost \$2.00 each.

Attendance Policy

For each singer to reap the full benefit of the SCC program, a commitment to faithful, consistent and punctual attendance is required. It is expected that classes/rehearsals will take a very high priority in each singer's life. Singers may be excused **only** for illness, a crisis in the family, or a conflict with a mandatory school performance/activity. In order to be excused, you must notify your Choir Manager or the SCS office. **IF NO CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE PRIOR TO AN ABSENCE, IT IS AUTOMATICALLY CONSIDERED UNEXCUSED.** In cases of a planned absence, advanced notice is appreciated. A *Pre-Arranged Absence Form* is available for this purpose from your Choir Manager or on the Choral Society's website: www.summitchoralsociety.org.

Absences for any reason other than **illness, a crisis in the family, or a conflict with a mandatory school performance/activity** will be considered on an individual basis by your teacher/director. Attendance that does not demonstrate commitment to the SCC program may mean a singer is either unable to participate in a performance, placed on probation, or dismissed from the program.

Touring and Concert Choir Absences

In the case of the Touring and Concert Choirs, no more than three (3) excused absences per semester are allowed. Any absences exceeding three must be made up. Any unexcused absences will require a conference with your Director and will also have to be made up. Should more than one unexcused absence occur in a given semester, withdrawal from the program will be discussed.

Stage Rehearsals

All stage rehearsals are **MANDATORY**. An absence from a stage (or final) rehearsal before a performance in most cases will result in the singer being excluded from that concert. If a final rehearsal has been missed, singers should be in touch with their director and **NOT** arrive at the concert expecting to sing. Any deviation from this policy is considered on an individual basis in consultation with your Director. Stage rehearsals are usually **NOT** dress rehearsals unless specified by your Director.

SECTION VI: Performances

Performance Procedures



*Performances require the **VERY BEST** in conduct, appearance and musicianship!*

1. Singers should always eat a nutritious meal and get plenty of rest before a concert. Be sure each singer has used the restroom before arriving at the concert site.
2. **SINGER'S CALL** (when you should arrive at the concert site) is typically **forty-five minutes** before the performance. You should arrive on time and immediately check-in with your Choir Manager. Tardiness at a performance will most likely exclude a singer from participation in that performance.
3. **All performers must arrive in proper concert attire.** Failure to wear proper concert attire will result in the exclusion of the singer from the performance.
4. If singers feel ill during the performance, they should quietly sit down on the risers and rest for the remainder of the song. If they feel better, they may stand and continue with the performance. If singers continue to feel ill, they should quietly leave the stage. The Choir Managers and Staff are always watching and are there to help. Once singers leave the stage, they may not return.
5. Singers should remember that they are representing not only themselves but the Summit Children's Choir Program and the Summit Choral Society. **(Remember: your appearance and behavior is a direct reflection on the SCC program and your community. At all times, singers should be formally dressed before, during and after performances by keeping shirts tucked in, ties on, and sleeves buttoned.)**
6. Once seated, singers should be attentive to the performance and focused on the task at hand. Singers should remember that the attention they give to others during the performance will be returned to them when it is their turn to perform.
7. Singers will not be permitted to leave their seats once the performance has begun unless accompanied by a Choir Manager or other Staff member.

Concert Tickets

Tickets and ticket information are available online at www.SummitChoralSociety.org, at some Monday night rehearsals, and by phone 330-434-SING (7464). All tickets are reserved seating. Once the season has begun, families of all singers will be offered special (discounted) season ticket packages as well as additional single performance tickets.

Performance Expectations

Attendance is required at ALL scheduled performances. If a mandatory school performance conflict occurs, **the absence must be discussed in advance with your Director as soon as the singer receives the school concert/activity date.**

SECTION VI: Performances (continued)

Schedule Conflicts

Every effort is made to accommodate unavoidable conflicts. In the event of such a conflict, you should notify your Director and Choir Manager **IN WRITING** as far in advance as possible. You should also discuss the conflict with your Director.

Written requests for absences from performances will be reviewed by your Director. The decision to accept your request is based on the degree to which such absences would compromise the integrity of the SCC program or the singer's participation in it. If notice of such conflicts is not received in advance, the absence will be considered unexcused.

**Keep in mind there are only three acceptable excuses from performance:
Illness - Family crisis - Mandatory school performance**

Concert Attire

Just as the ensemble's sound is important, so is the ensemble's appearance. It is expected that all singers will be well-groomed, demonstrate good personal hygiene and present a crisp, neat image. Hair should be a natural color, groomed away from the face and fastened with natural (matching hair color) barrettes. No bows, ribbons or colored barrettes are permitted. No obvious make-up or cosmetics are permitted and only clear nail polish is to be worn. Jewelry, watches and large earrings are not permitted. Only stud earrings are allowed.

All singers must wear a white, long sleeved, buttoned down, collared oxford shirt.

Descriptions of the appropriate attire for each training level and ensemble are listed on the next page. Any questions regarding concert attire should be directed to your Choir Manager.

Concert Attire - Preparatory Division

Boys and Girls: White shirt (described above), black dress slacks, black dress shoes, (flats with no open toes) and black dress socks (no hose).

Red concert accessories will be provided at the concert free of charge. These articles must be returned immediately following the concert.

Concert Attire - Training Division

Boys: White shirt (described above), black slacks, black dress shoes and black socks.

Girls: White shirt (described above), SCC black skirt (see below), black dress shoes (flats with no open toes) and white tights (no hose).

BLACK SKIRTS FOR TRAINING DIVISION GIRLS

Official SCC black skirts are purchased through the Summit Choral Society for \$40 (order forms available from your Choir Manager). Skirt hems must fall just below the knee. Singers will be measured during rehearsal time to ensure a proper order size.

Red concert accessories (cummerbunds and ties) are issued in the fall to each singer free of charge by the Summit Choral Society. These accessories must be returned immediately after the final concert of the season.

Concert Attire - Ensemble Division

Boys: White shirt (described above), black slacks, black dress shoes & black socks.

Girls: White shirt (described above), black skirt purchased by the singer directly from Schoolbelles (order forms are available from your Choir Manager), black dress shoes (no heels, no open toes) and nude pantyhose.

The black cross or bow ties provided by SCS should also be worn by all singers along with an SCC vest which is provided by SCS with a one-time \$40 additional vest use fee.

SCS T-Shirts & Polo Shirts - Ensemble Division

The Concert and Touring Choirs are required to purchase an SCS T-shirt and/or an SCS Polo Shirt which are paired with a variety of options (khakis, shorts, skirts, pants) to expand concert attire for more casual performances and to look more uniform and professional when traveling.

Polo shirts and T-shirts are available for purchase through the SCS office.

SECTION VII: Financial Matters

Member families are asked to pay only a small percentage of the total program cost per child in tuition. In order to be fair to all families, however, SCC requires each singer to pay certain fees based upon the projected expenses of their individual level assignments. These fees include: tuition, black skirts for girls, and a one-time vest fee for all Ensemble Division members. Additional costs may include: SCS T-shirt and/or polo shirt, other performance/travel expenses, etc....

Tuition Policies

1. Registration and tuition payments (either in full or using the monthly payment plan) must be completed by the first scheduled rehearsal of the season. Fee schedules are available on our website or by contacting our offices at 330-434-SING (7464). An early discount is typically offered each year to those who pay in full by the early-bird deadline.
2. Monthly payment plans are available and will be distributed over eight or nine equal installments. (See details under "Monthly Payment Plan" below). Please note that we are unable to design any type of payment plan without the submission of a valid credit card number.
3. **TUITION IS NON REFUNDABLE.** If a singer withdraws from the SCC program at any time during the season, tuition will not be refunded. Written requests for a waiver of this policy must be submitted to the Summit Choral Society Office to be reviewed by the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors on a case by case basis.
4. Other payments & purchases (i.e., concert tickets, t-shirts, poinsettias) can be made by check or money order and should be made payable to: Summit Choral Society. Visa & MasterCard charges are also accepted with a \$3.00 service charge per transaction.
5. Please provide the following information on all payments made:
 - Reason for payment (i.e., tuition, concert attire, t-shirts, fundraiser, tickets, etc...)
 - Parent's name (and singer's name if different than check remitter)
 -

Monthly Payment Plan

A monthly installment plan for tuition is available to all families. Equal monthly payments will be automatically charged to your credit card beginning immediately upon receipt of your singer's registration form. Subsequent payments will be withdrawn on the fifth of each month from September through May. A \$3.00 monthly charge is added for this service. Please see the registration form for more information.

Financial Aid

A limited amount of financial aid is available from the Summit Choral Society to qualified singers for class tuition. If assistance is needed, please request a financial aid application from the office. Applications are reviewed periodically with assistance granted at the discretion of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors.

SECTION VIII: Fundraising, Public Relations, & Volunteering

Individual Tour Accounts - ITAs

It is the policy of the Summit Choral Society that opportunities be made available for its singers to participate in foreign and domestic tours. In order to help finance such trips, Individual Tour Accounts (ITAs) are established for each singer participating in one of our programs. Singers who choose to participate in one of the SCS sponsored fundraising activities will receive tour credits based on a percentage of their individual sales. The number of tour credits earned will vary with each activity and will be published with the announcement of each fundraising event. Each tour credit earned will equal \$1.00 of qualified tour expenses upon redemption and will be the same for SCC and MC (Masterworks Chorale) singers.

Tour credits are NOT transferable and are NOT available for any purpose other than designated SCS tour expenses. They are NOT redeemable for cash withdrawal. These credits continue to accrue as long as a singer maintains membership in good standing with any one of the SCS programs. An updated ITA statement on the status of a singer's ITA account is available upon request.

The Board of Directors instituted the ITA program with the hope that it will help singers to continue their participation in the Summit Choral Society's various touring activities. It is also hoped that this will encourage singers to participate in the Board's fundraising activities. The Board of Directors determines which fundraising activities will qualify for the ITA program and the amount of credits that can be earned from sales. The Board also determines which expenses will qualify for payment from a singer's ITA.

SECTION VIII: Fundraising, Public Relations, & Volunteering (continued)

Public Relations & Volunteering

Much of the Summit Choral Society's concert success has been a direct result of the exceptional willingness and ability of SCS members themselves to bring sizable and enthusiastic audiences to fill our concert hall seats. We also rely from year to year on members' abilities to serve as extended volunteer staff by promoting the quality of our program and referring young singers, adults, and whole families to our organization.

We have always believed that our SCC families are our best marketing tool!

As a result, we often enlist your help to:

- Place posters and flyers announcing our concerts and programs around your community businesses, churches and work places.
- Talk about SCS events to friends, relatives and neighbors explaining how they can purchase tickets through the SCS ticket hotline or website.
- Volunteer occasionally to help with marketing and promotion details (stuffing envelopes, preparing bulk mailings, placing inserts in programs, etc.) and concert related activities (usher, take tickets).

Donations & Matching Gifts

The Summit Choral Society is partially funded by the generosity of individual donations. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, all donations (both cash and in-kind) to the Summit Choral Society are tax deductible as allowed by law. If your employer has a matching gift plan, please remember to include SCS. Our sincerest *thank you* to all those who generously donate to SCS.

Other Fundraising

It is the intent of the Summit Choral Society to provide a variety of options for fundraising that benefit specific projects, provide opportunities to increase individual singers' ITA balances and benefit the organization as a whole. Later in the season, information on several fundraising projects will be available to all singers and their families. This information will be available at Monday night rehearsals or by calling the Choral Society Office at 330-434-SING (7464).

Development

Several times during the year the Summit Choral Society sponsors special activities to help meet various budgetary needs. Tax deductible contributions are accepted on a continuing basis. Special grant requests are submitted regularly by the SCS staff to area and national corporations and foundations for specific needs and programs. If you know of a potential funding source please contact the SCS Office with details.

2014-2015 Concerts

featuring

The Summit Children's Choir Program



SCC Holiday Concert

CUYAHOGA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, December 6

7:00 pm

SCC Sounds of Spring Concert

CUYAHOGA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, May 16

7:00 pm





Christmas Concert Series featuring the

SCC Touring Choir

SCC Concert Choir

Christmas Candlelight Concerts

MASTERWORKS CHORALE & SCC TOURING CHOIR

ST. BERNARD CHURCH - DOWNTOWN AKRON

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, December 19,20,21

7:30 pm

&

Sunday, December 21

3:00 pm

All SCC members attend this concert complimentary!