



Flint Hills Youth Choirs

HANDBOOK

BLUESTEM CHORALE

Shana Lander, Artistic Director

Treble voices grades 3-6

KONZA CHOIR

Janie Brokenicky, Artistic Director

Treble voices grades 5-9

FRONTER SINGERS

Drew Horton, Artistic Director

Tenor-Bass voices grades 7-12

PRAIRIE FIRE

Janie Brokenicky, Artistic Director

Treble voices grades 9-12

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Flint Hills Youth Choirs is to provide excellence in choral music instruction and performance for youth and to provide enrichment in the arts for Manhattan and surrounding communities.

ABOUT THE CHOIRS

The Flint Hills Youth Choirs (FHYC) bring children and youth of different ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds together in universal song. These musically talented and motivated young people join together to produce high quality, beautiful music from a wide variety of genres and styles. The students learn the value of leadership, self-discipline and teamwork as they join their voices in the pure, angelic tones that only children and youth can achieve.

ATTENDANCE

Flint Hills Youth Choir members are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance unless otherwise communicated with a director. The rehearsals are sequential, each building upon the next, leading up to performances which cannot be complete without the voice of every choir member. The FHYC schedule is posted early in the year to ensure that events can fit into busy schedules. In order to ensure the choir's success and growth, the following Attendance Policy is in place:

1. For an anticipated absence, parents need to fill out the Conflicts and Absence form on the website Member Portal as early as possible. For an absence due to sudden illness or emergency, the parents should fill out the form AND notify a director by using the exec@flinthillsyc.org email address or emailing a specific director.
2. Students who have to miss multiple rehearsals for any reason may be asked to submit practice recordings, depending upon proximity to an upcoming concert. If attendance becomes an ongoing issue, a director will talk with a parent or guardian about the student's plan to continue with the organization.
3. Please arrive at rehearsals on time! Rehearsal can only be successful when everyone does their part to be there from the start. Excessive tardiness can result in the choir member being dismissed from the choir at the discretion of the Directors if previous communication has not been made.

AUDITION PROCEDURES

The Flint Hills Youth Choirs are open to students with voices in grades 3 – 12. While prior musical training is not necessary, an audition is required. Previous choir members are not required to re-audition for the following concert season unless wanting to advance to a different ensemble. The audition process can be found in Appendix #3 of the handbook or on the website.

BEHAVIOR

The Flint Hills Youth Choirs were created to give musically motivated students the opportunity to create beautiful music in an energizing, invigorating, and loving atmosphere. Choir members are expected to act appropriately at all times. Behavior problems are not acceptable and may result in termination from the choir at the Directors' discretion.

CONCERTS / PERFORMANCES

(Please see website for an updated yearly schedule.)

Each choir will perform in at least one large concert per semester. These are typically held in late November/early December for the Fall/Holiday concert and late April for the Spring concert.

Additional performances will be communicated with each ensemble by their respective director.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Choir members will have separate attire for concert dress and for casual performances (see Appendix #2). Requirements will be discussed and orders placed at the beginning of the year.

Attire fees are included with the registration deposit.

REGISTRATION DEPOSIT

Bluestem Chorale and Konza Choir require a non-refundable \$40 deposit.

Frontier Singers and Prairie Fire require a non-refundable \$80 deposit for their first year in the ensemble (to cover higher attire costs) and a \$40 deposit for subsequent years in the ensembles.

TUITION FEES

ANNUAL TUITION FOR 1) Prairie Fire, 2) Frontier Singers AND 3) Konza Choir:

\$360 per student, with a \$40 discount for each additional singer in one of these three ensembles

ENSEMBLE	Tuition	Additional non-refundable deposit	
PRAIRIE FIRE	\$360 full / \$180 per semester	\$80 1st year	\$40 each following year
FRONTIER SINGERS	\$360 full / \$180 per semester	\$80 1st year	\$40 each following year
KONZA CHOIR	\$360 full / \$180 per semester	\$40 each year	

A singer transitioning between ensembles (e.g., aging out of Konza Choir into Prairie Fire or aging out of Bluestem/Konza into Frontier) will be assessed the first-year deposit for the new ensemble, as new attire is required.

ANNUAL TUITION FOR 4) Bluestem Chorale

\$300 per student, with a \$20 discount for families with multiple singers in the Bluestem Chorale

ENSEMBLE	Full Tuition	Additional non-refundable deposit
BLUESTEM CHORALE	\$300 full / \$150 per semester	\$40 each season

Non-refundable deposits cover attire and administrative costs associated with each singer's enrollment and are not tied to tuition refund eligibility.

- If paying for the full year, payment is due September 1st.
- If paying by semester, the first payment is due September 1st. The second payment is due by the first January rehearsal.

If, for whatever reason, a singer resigns or is asked to leave the choir:

- Prior to Sept. 15th: Tuition will be refunded accordingly.
- After Sept. 15th: No tuition refunds will be made.
- Should extenuating circumstances arise, an appeal may be made to the Board.

LATE PAYMENT POLICY

- Tuition payments for the fall semester (or full year) not received by **September 30th** will result in the student being withheld from FHYC performances until the balance is paid in full.
- Tuition payments for the spring semester not received by **January 30th** will result in the same.
- Should extenuating circumstances arise, an appeal may be made to the Board.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Partial tuition waivers and/or monthly payment options are available for financial hardship situations. Please contact a director for tuition waiver guidelines and an application form. The form is also available on our website under the Member Portal. Tuition Assistance is not available for the initial non-refundable deposit.

MUSIC

The music for the choir is chosen at the discretion of the Directors and may include music of diverse religious and non-religious cultures and traditions. Choir members are expected to accept and respect the choir's music repertoire from an artistic standpoint.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Flint Hills Youth Choirs cannot function and succeed without the participation and dedication of the choir members' parents and guardians. We appreciate all efforts of parents/guardians to do the following:

1. Make sure your choir member(s) are at all rehearsals on time and with all necessary items (music, water, etc.).
2. Inform the organization and/or director of absences.
3. Make tuition payments in a timely manner, help with fundraising and help with your choir member's uniforms.
4. Check emails, website, and choir member's music folder for the latest choir information.

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parents play a vital role in the Flint Hills Youth Choirs! Thanks to the volunteer work from parents, we can keep tuition prices affordable and offer many opportunities to our musicians. We encourage all parents to help with various short-term or long-term activities. Please consider helping with one or more of the following:

- Help with uniform orders/distribution.
- Be a chaperone on short and/or long trips.
- Help with events which may include:
 - Concert decorations
 - Passing out programs
 - Organizing food when needed at concerts or choir events
 - Transportation to local performances
- Help with fundraising events which may include:
 - Check order forms
 - Help at pick up times
 - Help choir members find customers
- Help with distribution of publicity... This may include poster design, delivery, etc.
- Serve on the Board of Directors.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Parents often have questions and concerns and may be unsure how to address them:

1. Always feel free to call or email the Director.
2. On rehearsal nights, please wait until after the rehearsal to address questions or concerns with a Director.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for Bluestem Chorale, Konza Choir, and Prairie Fire will be held on Monday nights at First Christian Church, 3001 Grand Mere Pkwy.

- Bluestem Chorale (3-6 grade treble choir): 5:45-6:30pm
- Konza Choir (5-9 grade treble choir): 6:45-8:00pm
- Prairie Fire (9-12 grade treble choir): 8:00-9:00pm

The Frontier Singers will rehearse on Monday nights at Peace Lutheran Church, 2500 Kimball Ave..

- Frontier Singers (7-12 grade tenor-bass choir) 7:30-8:40pm

Additional rehearsals may be scheduled closer to performance dates as needed. These dates will be set at least one month in advance.

Parents, grandparents, teachers, and visitors are always encouraged and welcomed to sit in the back of the room quietly and enjoy the rehearsal! The rehearsal atmosphere is not conducive to young children - we ask that they not be in the room during rehearsal. Please consider visiting us!

REHEARSAL TRACKS

Each semester rehearsal tracks will be available via the website in the Member Portal. Following weekly rehearsals, students are expected to learn the assigned music for the following week and are encouraged to use this resource to do so.

TRIPS / TOURS

FHYC strives to find unique performance opportunities for its singers. This includes performances at choral conventions, area-wide festivals, and biennial tours for our older ensembles.. Tuition fees will not cover these costs and all students who attend will be expected to raise the funds in order to go with the choir. Fundraising events will be offered to assist with these additional expenses.

WATER

Choir members are highly encouraged to bring a leak-proof water bottle to every rehearsal. Water is needed to hydrate the vocal folds and only one water break will be taken. Remember that only water is allowed at rehearsals.

CELL PHONES

Students are not permitted to be on their cell phones during rehearsals. They may check them during scheduled breaks, but we ask parents to contact their students before or after to allow full focus.

APPENDIX #1:

FHYC Contact Information

For general inquiries, please use exec@flinthillsyc.org

Staff

Executive Director	Janie Brokenicky (785) 313-4704	exec@flinthillsyc.org
Bluestem Artistic Director	Shana Lander (785) 313-3834	lander@flinthillsyc.org
Frontier Artistic Director	Drew Horton (785) 341-2370	horton@flinthillsyc.org
Financial Director	Emily Trent	finance@flinthillsyc.org

Accompanists	Heather McCornack & Annah Clark
KSU Student Interns	Pyper Paddock, Natalie Denton, Trigg Galle, and Corbin Montenegro

Board of Directors

President/Secretary	Brandi Miller
Vice President/Treasurer	Emily Trent
Past President	Seth Stone
Parent Ambassadors	Amanda Campanella, Kelli Potter, and Camilla Roberts
Community Advisor	Diane Born
At Large	Jeff Kohlmeier

Website:

www.flinthillsyc.org

APPENDIX #2: CONCERT ATTIRE / UNIFORMS

Students will be issued FHYC-owned formal apparel each year as part of their annual tuition. All issued apparel (with the exception of t-shirts) will be returned to the choir upon departure from the organization, if in good condition, to assist with keeping costs stable. The choir will be sure to maintain adequate sizes for each member and provide a different shirt/polo at semester if the currently issued item no longer fits.

CONCERT ATTIRE for BLUESTEM CHORALE & KONZA CHOIR:

1. White tux shirt
2. black bow tie/cummerbund

And

A) black pants and belt, black socks, and black shoes

OR

B) Black skirt (below the knee), black hose, and black closed-toed shoes/flats

CONCERT ATTIRE for FRONTIER SINGERS

1. White shirt
2. black bow tie/cummerbund
3. Tuxedo jacket

And

A) black pants and belt, black socks, and black shoes

CONCERT ATTIRE for PRAIRIE FIRE

1. Choir issued black formal dress

And

A) Black close-toed flats

OR

B) Black formal shirt with bowtie, black pants, and black dress shoes

CASUAL DRESS:

FHYC t-shirts will be given out each year for less formal performances. They are to be worn with black pants, belt and black shoes. For ladies, slacks or skirts are acceptable.

REPLACE OR PURCHASE:

Students are responsible for replacing any lost or damaged apparel during the course of the performance year. They may also choose to purchase their attire at the end of the current year if they wish to keep the items.

Bow tie - \$8

Cummerbund - \$10

Tuxedo shirt - \$25

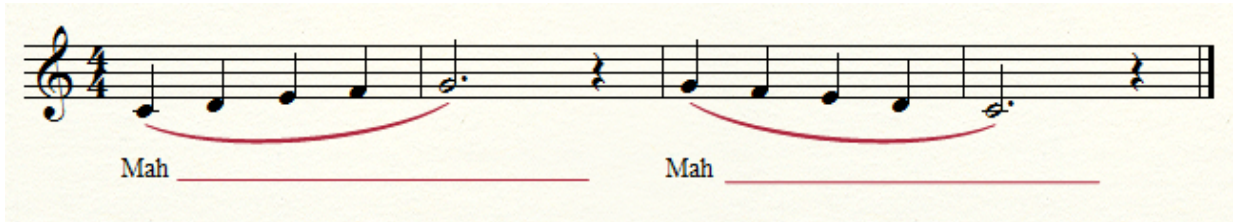
Tuxedo jacket - \$62

Black formal dress - \$64

APPENDIX #3:

AUDITION PROCEDURES

1. Spoken Introduction: The singer clearly states his/her name, age, and grade in school.
2. The student will sing ascending and descending five-tone scale passages to test range. Scales will be sung on the syllable, “mah”.



3. The student will sing the following exercise, which is composed of three different melodic patterns. If familiar, solfege can be used. Otherwise, the student may sing “Lah lah lah.” The piano will play all three throughout the exercise to see if students are comfortable holding a harmony.



4. Prepared Song – *America* (see page 2).
5. The student will sing *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* in a round with the director.

AMERICA

Voice

My coun-try tis of thee, sweet land of li - ber-ty, of thee I sing.

Land where my fath - ers died, land of the pil - grims' pride, from ev' ry moun - tain side

let free - dom ring.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'. It is written for voice in 3/4 time and the key of B-flat major (one flat). The score consists of three staves. The first staff contains the first line of the song: 'My coun-try tis of thee, sweet land of li - ber-ty, of thee I sing.' The second staff contains the second line: 'Land where my fath - ers died, land of the pil - grims' pride, from ev' ry moun - tain side'. The third staff contains the third line: 'let free - dom ring.' The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or bars.

Students auditioning for Frontier Singers may sing “My Country Tis of Thee” in the key of their choice based on vocal comfort.

Acceptance of this contract MUST be made at the time of registration via the online form.

MUSICIAN/PARENT CONTRACT

1. We, the parents and the musician, have reviewed and accept the policies and information in the FHYC Handbook. We understand that the handbook may be revised on occasion as deemed necessary by the Directors and that it is our responsibility to make sure we have current information.
2. Maintaining the high standard of FHYC requires commitment and conscientious participation by all musicians and parents. I, the musician, will learn my music and be prepared for all rehearsals and concerts. We, the parents, will make every effort to have our students(s) attend ALL rehearsals. We understand the Attendance Policy as described in the handbook.
3. As parents, we understand the necessary fees and expenses that are involved with FHYC. We will arrange a payment schedule with the FHYC Treasurer and make every effort to make payments in a timely manner. We understand the non-refundable policies as described in the handbook, and that failure to maintain an agreed-upon payment schedule may result in our musician being withheld from performances until the balance is resolved.
4. I, the musician, will be responsible for wearing the proper concert attire and will take extra care in the use of the choir owned uniform items. We, the parents, understand that if choir owned uniform items are lost or damaged, we will be responsible for the cost of replacing the item.
5. We, the parents, know that volunteers are what help keep FHYC functioning. We will do our best to volunteer to help with an event or with fundraising at least one time this year.
6. I, the musician, will demonstrate exemplary behavior and my best manners at all FHYC events. We, the parents, will do our best to uphold and maintain the integrity and high standards set by FHYC and model positive attitudes, words, and actions for choir members and the community.
7. Participating in any activity is an acceptance of some risk of injury. I agree that my/my child's safety is primarily dependent upon taking proper care of oneself. Despite precautions, accidents and injuries may occur and injury and/or loss or damage to personal property may occur as a result of participating in FHYC; therefore, I assume all risks related to participating in FHYC. I also hereby acknowledge that the FHYC directors, board, employees, and volunteer workers assume no liability whatsoever for personal injuries or property damage that may arise out of my/my child's participation in the FHYC.

The Flint Hills Youth Choirs requests permission for musician's photographs and/or video shots to appear in promotional materials. The choir website will not list names of musicians.

The following can be selected by a parent/guardian at the time of registration:

Yes, I grant permission for my musician's photograph/video to appear in promotional materials.
No, I prefer that my musician's photograph/video shots not be used in promotional materials.