

LYRICO YOUTH CHOIRS

CHORISTER HANDBOOK 2026/2027

Welcome to the Lyrico Youth Choirs Association!

This organization has been in existence since 1984, and currently operates an auditioned Junior Choir and Senior Choir for students residing in Strathcona County and surrounding areas. This year we have also launched a non-auditioned adult choir for anyone 18+ called Friends of Lyrico.

The choirs exist to enrich the musical experience of gifted amateur singers and are funded in part by membership fees, fundraising, and contributions from both local and provincial arts funding organizations. This handbook is designed to prepare singers and their parents for the coming year of music-making, and to answer some frequently asked questions.

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Lyrico Youth Choirs (formerly Elk Island Regional Honor Choirs Association) is to promote excellence in musical education by establishing and maintaining a choir or choirs composed of gifted and interested children selected from students residing in Strathcona County and surrounding areas in the province of Alberta.

THE CHOIRS

All of the choristers are auditioned and consist of some of the finest young singers in this area. There is some overlap between the choirs to accommodate singers of varying maturity and experience level. If you have any questions about your child's transition between choirs, please discuss this with your child's musical director.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Singers in Grades 2-5

MONDAY Rehearsals
5:00 pm - 6:15 pm
PINE STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park, AB

SENIOR CHOIR

Singers in Grades 6-12

MONDAY Rehearsals
6:15 pm - 7:30 pm
PINE STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park, AB

FRIENDS OF LYRICO

Adults 18+

WEDNESDAY Rehearsals
6:30pm - 7:30pm
SHERWOOD PARK UNITED CHURCH (no affiliation)
20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park, AB
(If you would like to join this choir, contact us at manager.lyricoyouthchoirs@gmail.com)

LYRICO YOUTH CHOIRS 2026-2027 CHOIR YEAR – First Half of the Season				
EVENT	**DATE & TIME**	**LOCATION**	**DESCRIPTION**	**EXTRA REQUIREMENTS**
CHOIR REGISTRATION & AUDITION DAY	Sunday, September 13, 2026 1:00 – 2:30 pm	Sherwood Park United Church 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park (enter through doors near parking lot)	New chorister auditions and returning chorister registrations	Payment of registration fees and complete registration forms
JUNIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGINS	Monday, September 14, 2026 5:00 – 6:10 pm	Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park, AB in the music room		
SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGINS	Monday, September 14, 2026 6:15 – 7:30 pm	Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park, AB in the music room		
REGISTRATION FEES ARE DUE IN FULL	September 30, 2026			
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Monday, October 5, 2026 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park, AB in the library	Attendance is required by at least one parent per family.	
SENIOR CHOIR WORKSHOP – Senior Choir	Sunday, October 18, 2026	Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park AB in the Fellowship Hall	Food will be provided	Senior Choir only
FALL BOTTLE DRIVE	Monday, October 19, 2026 5:30pm - 6:30pm	Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park, AB	Bottle truck will be in parking lot for convenient bottle drop off.	
NIGHT OF MOTOWN	Sunday, November 22, 2026	Winspear Centre, 4 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton, AB	Details to follow	Both Choirs

FUNDRAISING Purdys Chocolates & Growing Smiles Christmas wreaths & arrangements	**Growing Smiles** order deadline Nov. 18 at 12pm and **Purdys** order deadline Nov. 26 at 10pm	Online ordering links can be found on the "What's Happening" page of our website at www.lyricoyouthchoirs.com	Distribution of **Growing Smiles** arrangements will be Saturday, December 5th from 12-1pm and **Purdys Chocolates** on December 12 from 12-1pm	Distribution location: #28, 2336 Aspen Trail, Sh Pk T8H 0J1
COLLECTING ITEMS FOR COUNTY CLOTHES-LINE	Thursday, November 26, 2026 and at Winter Concert	During regular rehearsal times and prior to start of Winter Concert	Items – winter coats/jackets, mitts, hats, gloves, scarves and socks	
GIFT OF MUSIC CONCERT	Thursday November 26, 2026 at 7:00 pm	Festival Place 100 Festival Way	Doors open at 6:30 pm Chorister call times: Junior Choir 4:15pm, Senior Choir 5pm	50-50 tickets will be sold prior to the concert
WINTERFEST 2026 PERFORMANCE (formerly Festival of Trees)	Saturday, November 28, 2026 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Festival Place 100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park AB	Chorister call time TBA Performance 12:15pm - 1pm	Both Choirs
CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR CHOIR	November 30, 2026 5:30pm - 7:00pm	Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park, AB in the music room	Distribution of Christmas wreaths/arrangements will be Saturday, December 5th from 12-1pm and Purdys Chocolates on December 12 from 12-1pm	Distribution location: #28, 2336 Aspen Trail, Sh Pk T8H 0J1
LYRICO YOUTH CHOIRS 2026-2027 CHOIR YEAR – Second Half of the Season				
EVENT	**DATE & TIME**	**LOCATION**	**DESCRIPTION**	**EXTRA REQUIREMENTS**
AUDITIONS AND REGISTRATIONS	Sunday, January 3, 2027 1:00 – 2:30 pm	Please contact choir manager to schedule an audition		
FIRST DAY OF REHEARSALS IN 2025	Monday, January 4, 2027	Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park, AB in the music room		
NEW YEAR BOTTLE DRIVE	Monday, January 4, 2027 5:30pm – 6:30 pm	Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park	Bottle truck will be in parking lot for convenient bottle drop off.	

CAMP NAKAMUN SENIOR CHOIR RETREAT	Tuesday & Wednesday Feb. 16/17, 2027 (overnight)	Camp Nakamun Busby, Alberta	Retreat at the camp for music workshops and recreational activities.	Lyrico Youth Choirs subsidizes the cost. Approximate remaining cost per chorister is $135.00.
THE IMAGINE CONCERT	Wednesday, March 17, 2027	Festival Place 100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park AB	Doors open at 6:30 pm Chorister call times: Junior Choir 4:15pm, Senior Choir 5pm	Bake sale and 50-50 tickets will be sold prior to the concert
EASTER BOTTLE DRIVE	Monday, April 5, 2027 5:30pm - 6:30pm	Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, Sherwood Park	Bottle truck will be in parking lot for convenient bottle drop off.	
ROADSIDE CLEANUP	Saturday, May 1, 2027	Strathcona County area highways	Time TBD	Parent volunteers needed, children must be 9 years+
JUNIOR & SENIOR CHOIR EXTRA REHEARSAL	Sunday, May 30, 2027	Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park AB		
THE SOUNDS OF SPRING CONCERT	Monday, May 31, 2027	Festival Place 100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park AB	Doors open at 6:30 pm Chorister call times: Junior Choir 4:15pm, Senior Choir 5pm	Raffle booklets for $1000 draw and 50-50 tickets will be sold prior to the concert

Important Dates
Rehearsals (Mondays unless posted otherwise)

Rehearsals for the Junior and Senior Choirs are being held at
Pine Street Elementary School, 133 Pine Street, **Sherwood Park** in the music room

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME & LOCATION FOR WEEKLY REHEARSALS

Sunday, September 13th – 1 until 2:30 pm – **Registration & Audition Day**
Location: Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park (no affiliation)

Rehearsal Times: Junior Choir 5pm - 6:15pm, **Senior Choir** 6:00pm - 7:30pm

2026

September 14 / 21 / **September 28th, 2026 Senior Choir 5:45 - 7:30 pm**
October 5 / 19 / 26 / **October 18th, 2026 Senior Choir Workshop 1:00-5:00pm**
November 2 / 16 / 23 / **November 30th, 2026 Junior & Senior Christmas Party 5:30pm - 7pm**

2027

January 4 / 11 / 18 / 25
February 1 / 8 / 22 / **Camp Nakamun 4:00pm Feb 16th - 6pm Feb 17th (Senior Choir only)**
March 1 / 8 / 15
April 5 / 12 / 19 / 26
May 3 / 10 / 17 / **Sunday May 30th, 2027 @ Sherwood Park United Church, 1 - 2:30 pm**

AGM – October 5th, 2026 @ Pine Street Elementary School Library, 6 - 7:30 pm
Attendance is REQUIRED by at least one parent per family.

Concerts

The Gift of Music Concert	Thursday, November 26, 2026 at 7:00 pm - Festival Place
The Imagine Concert	Wednesday, March 17, 2027 at 7:00 pm - Festival Place
The Sounds of Spring Concert	Monday, May 31, 2027 at 7:00 pm – Festival Place

Performances

A Night of Motown	Nov 22, 7:30pm	Location: Winspear Centre
Winterfest	Nov 28, 12:15pm - 1:00pm	Location: Festival Place
Celebrate the Season	December, date & time TBD	Location: Edmonton Legislature

Fundraisers

Bottle Drives - October 19th, January 4th & April 5th
1 Raffle Draw for $1,000 – May Concert
3 50/50 Draws – all 3 concerts
Purdys Chocolates – orders due Nov. 26, 10pm
Growing Smiles - orders due by Nov. 18, 12pm
Roadside Clean-up - May 1, 2027

NEW! Friends of Lyrico Adult Community Choir - Every other Wednesday from 6-7pm, $50/month Sept - May. Rehearsals held at Sherwood Park United Church (no affiliation) beginning September 16th. If you are interested in joining, please email us for the details (manager.lyricoyouthchoirs@gmail.com).

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Fee Information and Payment Policy

Registration fees are established by the Volunteer Executive and are reviewed annually. Registration fees represent less than half the full cost of a singer's participation in the choir. Additional funding is provided through operating grants and occasional special funding (concert ticket sales, casino, silent auction, raffle tickets, sponsorships, 50/50 tickets, etc.)

Our registration form can be found on the Lyrico website (www.lyricoyouthchoirs.com), or a paper copy can be obtained. The full registration fee is due no later than September 30, 2026, unless a two month payment plan has been arranged. Any fees received after September 30 may be subject to a $25 late penalty fee. Payment options include cash, cheque or e-transfer. Cheques should be made out to the Lyrico Youth Choirs Association.

Instructions for E-transfers

E-transfers should be sent to: lyricoyouthchoirs@gmail.com

IMPORTANT: Be sure to include your chorister's name in the information section so our bookkeeper knows whose account to apply the funds to.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances, please contact the Choir Manager. Failure to contact the Choir Manager on or before September 30th may result in the temporary suspension or expulsion of the Choir member from the Choir.

A $25.00 NSF charge will apply to any dishonored cheques. Lyrico Youth Choirs reserves the right to insist upon full fee payment in the event any cheque is returned.

JUNIOR CHOIR

$500.00 (paid deposit will be applied & balance due Sept 30)

- Included in the annual fee is a digital copy of our yearly choir photo.

SENIOR CHOIR

$550.00 (paid deposit will be applied & balance due Sept 30)

Music Deposit $50.00 (postdated cheque dated June 1, 2027)

- Included in the annual fee is a digital copy of our yearly choir photo and a partial subsidy for the overnight trip to Camp Nakamun.
- Costs for special trips and/or retreats are not included in annual fees unless specified.

You will be informed of any additional activity or retreat costs once they have been confirmed.

COMMUNICATION

The Directors, Manager and a Volunteer Executive operate the Choirs. Please direct all questions and concerns that arise during the year to the following:

Choir Directors

Brittany Huynh - britney.tt.huynh@gmail.com JUNIOR CHOIR
Kim Dennis - kimdennis@hotmail.com SENIOR CHOIR

Choir Accompanists

Rose Mellor JUNIOR CHOIR
Rose Mellor SENIOR CHOIR

Choir Manager – please contact choir manager with any questions or concerns

Meaghan Clark - manager.lyricoyouthchoirs@gmail.com

Bookkeeper / Business Administrator

Pamela White - lyricoyouthchoirs@gmail.com

Lyrico Youth Choirs Website: www.lyricoyouthchoirs.com

Please check our website. All important dates and general information can be found there.

Lyrico Youth Choirs Social Media pages:

https://www.facebook.com/lyricoyouthchoirs
https://www.instagram.com/lyricoyouthchoirs
Be sure to "like" & "follow" our Facebook and Instagram pages as they are a great source of updated choir information.

Email: Be sure to check your emails regularly for news from your Choir Director or the Choir Manager. Important dates and information will be sent to the email address you provide on your registration form.

Mail: The mailing address for the choir is:
PO Box 57131 RPO Eastgate, Sherwood Park, AB, T8A 5L7

The Wittenberg Scholarship

The Wittenberg family set up The Wittenberg Scholarship in honour of their daughter, Stephanie, who was killed in a tragic car accident. Stephanie was a member of our choir who loved music and singing. In her memory, the scholarship is used to fully or partially offset the cost of registration for families who may have difficulty paying. Thank you to the family for sharing Stephanie's love for music through this annual scholarship in her name. Please contact the Choir Manager for more scholarship information. Applications for funding are reviewed by the Board. **The cut-off date is September 30 of each year.** A Board member will contact you directly with the decision.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

All choir membership refunds are pro-rated over a period of 9 months (September – May). Reimbursement of remaining fees will take effect the 1st day of the following month after cancellation notification was given (please refer to below scenarios). All refunds are subject to a $50 processing fee. **There will be no refunds beyond September 30.** (Note: Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

Attendance Policy

- **It is very important that choir members attend regularly, since a choral rehearsal teaches not only the music, but blends the sounds of the singers over time.** Singers or parents are expected to notify their director in advance for any planned absences from rehearsals or performances. In the event of an unplanned absence (illness or emergency) singers or parents must notify their director as soon as possible

- **If any member misses more than two rehearsals without proper notification, their membership will be reviewed**. We realize that singers are talented and often very busy people. Arrangements can be discussed with the Directors to accommodate sports or other arts activities that might otherwise prevent someone from being part of the choir or from attending regular rehearsals.

Behavior Policy

- Disruptive or rude behavior will not be tolerated.
- **FIRST offence**- a verbal warning will be given.
- **SECOND offence**- the parents will be notified.
- **THIRD offence**- membership will be reviewed, with the chance of the choir member being suspended or expelled from the choir.

EXPECTATIONS

Choristers:

As a choir member I understand that:

- ☐ I am an ambassador for Lyrico Youth Choirs and am expected to show pride in the choir.
- ☐ I will accept my placement in the choir and make every effort to participate in all rehearsals and performances.
- ☐ I will notify the Director in advance for any planned absences from rehearsals or performances. In the event of an unplanned absence (illness or emergency), I will notify the director as soon as possible.
- ☐ I will show respect for my fellow choir members, the Director, Accompanist, Manager, and Supervisors.
- ☐ I will exercise self-disciplined behavior at all times during rehearsals and performances.
- ☐ I will adhere to the choir attendance policy and always give my best effort.
- ☐ **I will make my parents aware of all Choir newsletters and/or other printed information received at rehearsal or from the website (www.lyricoyouthchoirs.com)**
- ☐ Failure to comply with the above expectations could jeopardize my participation in the choir.
- ☐ **All choristers are to treat their choir folder and its contents with respect. All items given to the choristers are expected to be returned in excellent condition.**

Parents:

As a parent of a choir member I understand that:

- ❖ I am responsible to ensure that my child has transportation to and from all rehearsals, performances and festivals, paying due attention to drop-off and pick-up times.
- ❖ I am responsible for notifying the Director in advance for any planned absences for my child. In the event of an unplanned absence (illness or emergency), I will notify the director as soon as possible.
- ❖ I am to attend the Annual General Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2026.
- ❖ **I am to check the website (www.lyricoyouthchoirs.com) on a regular basis for updated choir information and read all choir emails and newsletters received by my child.**
- ❖ I will ensure that my child understands the commitment she/he is making and the importance of self-disciplined behavior at all times during rehearsals and performances.
- ❖ I recognize that Lyrico Youth Choirs is run by volunteers and that the success of the same is based upon the participation and cooperation of all members. I will consider being available to volunteer to help ensure my child has the best choral experience possible.
- ❖ I undertake to pay the Choir membership fees established by the Lyrico Youth Choirs in accordance with the payment policy.

Lyrico Youth Choirs:

As the Lyrico Youth Choirs:

- ✔ We will provide training and instruction in both the theoretical and practical principles of music, with particular emphasis on choral music and its performance. To this end, we will provide highly qualified Directors and Accompanists.
- ✔ We will work to operate a viable and efficient volunteer organization in support of the artistic and educational goals of the choirs.
- ✔ We will update our website; provide newsletters and/or other electronic or printed announcements to ensure adequate communication between Lyrico Youth Choirs and Choir families.
- ✔ We will manage the Choir's financial affairs prudently and diligently. Such management to include; fundraising, applying for government funding grants, as available, and the timely collection of fees.

DRESS CODE

Choristers are required to follow a dress code for all performances. The Directors will inform choristers and parents of specifics prior to each concert. Please read over the following carefully.

CASUAL

Lyrico Youth Choirs will provide a choir t-shirt to all registered choristers which is to be returned at the end of the season or can be purchased for a small price. The choir t-shirt, together with black pants, comprises the casual dress code for all choirs at functions such as school tours.

FORMAL

Certain choir performances during the season will require formal attire. Some items may be provided by the Association and some are to be provided by the chorister. For example, choristers may be asked to wear their own, all-black, dress attire.

If you are unsure, please check with your child's Choir Director for further instruction.

FUNDRAISERS

Registration fees do not cover all costs of the Lyrico Youth Choirs, therefore Lyrico Youth Choirs must rely on **grants** and **special funding** that is applied for throughout the choir year.

Fundraising is another way for Lyrico Youth Choirs to meet the costs of providing high-quality musical programming. Family participation in fundraising helps support the Junior and Senior Choirs while keeping registration fees from carrying the full cost of the program. Please watch choir emails and the website for ordering links, deadlines and pickup details.

Fundraising opportunities this year will include:

- Growing Smiles - poinsettias, holiday wreaths and greenery
- Purdys Chocolates - holiday chocolate fundraiser
- Bottle Drives - fall, winter and spring
- 50/50 Draws - at all three Lyrico concerts
- $1,000 Raffle - draw at the May concert
- Roadside Clean-up - planned for May 1, 2027

Please watch for more information about these fundraisers as the choir year unfolds. **We rely heavily on the success of each fundraiser when setting the budget for the season. Please support each fundraising campaign to ensure its success.** Thank you so much.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Where do I find information or forms I may need?

All information and forms are posted on our website at www.lyricoyouthchoirs.com. You can also contact Choir Manager Meaghan Clark at manager.lyricoyouthchoirs@gmail.com. Be sure to follow our Facebook and Instagram pages for current information.

Can anybody sing in the choirs?

Both levels of choir are auditioned. Your child must audition for the Director before being allowed to sing with Lyrico Youth Choirs.

Why do I need to give a postdated cheque dated June 1st of the following year for a music deposit fee for SENIOR choir?

We pay a steep fee for all music, and any music we lose must be replaced. Over the past several years there has been an increase of non-returned music, causing us to impose the music deposit fee. Failure to return all of your music will result in your cheque being cashed. **This applies to senior choir only**

How is the Choir Association funded?

We are funded through operating grants from various government agencies, concert ticket revenue, fundraising revenue, chorister registration fees, as well as casino funds (every three years).

Will the choirs visit schools or take part in day trips?

Some years, Lyrico choirs visit schools in the area or take part in other day trips. No school tour or day trip is currently planned for the 2026-2027 season, but this may change. Families will be kept updated if an opportunity is added during the year.

Who gets to volunteer? What are the Volunteer opportunities?

This Association depends on volunteers to make it a success. We hope that you will consider volunteering on a regular or as-needed basis, depending on your interests and availability. Please take the time to fill in the back portion of the registration form. All members are invited to volunteer.

Where will the Choir Concerts be located?

Lyrico's three main season concerts, The Gift of Music, The Imagine Concert and The Sounds of Spring, are held at Festival Place, 100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park. Other performances and special events may take place at different venues. Please check the Important Dates section of this handbook, choir emails and the website for current details.

What factors determine where the concerts are held?

Lyrico's main season concerts are currently held at Festival Place. Other performances may be held at different venues depending on the event, availability, acoustics, audience size, accessibility and parking. Families will be given the location and arrival details for each performance in advance.