

Dear Sing for Joy! families,

Welcome!

I am looking forward to singing with each of your children this year! I am sorry for the delay in getting this to you. I am struggling a little bit trying to conceive the class for possible scenarios for the year. But in any case, I will be here letting you know the basic structure of the class and requirements for the class.

Basic structure of the class:

The goal of the class is twofold:

1. to acquire fluency in singing through LOTS of singing, which will consist of Christmas carols in the first semester and folk song and rounds in the second semester.
2. to introduce fundamental concepts and skills in sight singing and rhythmic expression using the Ward method

The class will start with an athletic 15-20 minutes of Ward method training. This will include lessons and drills in vocal training, intonation, a creative musical activity, notation, and dictation. We will then learn and sing songs/rounds. We will conclude with a quick Ward method recap, time permitting.

What to bring to class:

Your child should come prepared with a writing utensil. I will give each student a folder with their name for handouts for the class. The handouts will mostly consist of lyrics of songs/rounds that the children will need to memorize between classes. Please make sure that their handouts stay in their folders and come to class each week.

Weekly requirements:

The children will receive assignments mostly consisting of memorization of lyrics. Additionally, I may possibly be able to manage a daily video of a 10 minute Ward exercise. The Ward method is designed to be done daily and in person. Obviously, our CCS setting challenges that requirement in the best of circumstances so please bear with me as I determine how it is best to deliver the information. I will be trying to balance my visceral objection to on-line learning and the desire to help the children become proficient in the material. I will be communicating with you in the first couple of weeks of school about this element. These are all the homework requirements.

In-class requirements:

Those of CCS in general: timely arrival and courteous behavior to the teacher and their peers. It is especially important that the students understand that each child is coming to the class with different levels of ability. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT NO ONE MAKE NEGATIVE COMMENTS, JOKE, OR LAUGH AT A FELLOW STUDENT'S

SINGING. Because the voice comes from the inner depths of the body, singing is an intimately personal expression of the person. To laugh, joke or criticize a person's voice can be deeply and enduringly hurtful and often leads to a person resolving to never sing again and worse. My goal is to help each student find their voice through a joyful, encouraging environment combined with acquired skill and practice. No matter how nurturing I am as the teacher, the damage done by a thoughtless comment from a peer could be very hard to repair. Please be sure to discuss this with your child before they attend the first class.

Parent assignment:

Would each of you please let me know if your child uses a nick-name instead of the their full name, which is what I have on the roster. I am making folders for the children and would like to label them with the students name they are accustomed to using.

Blessings to you all and looking forward to singing with your children next week!

Sofia