



How to Join HYOC & Frequently Asked Questions

INTRODUCTION AND PHILOSOPHY

The Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus is a non-profit tax-exempt organization. Each choir represents a different level of vocal ability. Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus members range from Kindergarten to twelfth graders. The Chorus is a music performance and education program for children and youth, emphasizing the development of musical skills and understanding. The mission of the organization is to provide quality music education with the goal of attaining the highest level of artistic excellence in choral music performance. The organization endeavors to enrich the lives of youth from all religious, racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds. The program strives to foster the personal and social growth of its members and to promote their sense of self-esteem, discipline, accomplishment and pride.

The Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus is a special learning environment designed to provide a rich and rewarding musical experience for each child. Children study and perform a variety of music from simple unison folk songs to more challenging romantic and contemporary literature. Masterpieces of music from all styles and periods form the foundation for musical learning and serve as the basis for the curriculum. Concepts about music (melody, rhythm, harmony, timbre, dynamics, form, style and performance practice) and musical skills (singing, theory, sight-reading, etc.) are taught throughout the rehearsals. Musical concepts are taught through singing, listening and analysis. Singing is a powerfully personal means of musical expression. We hope this experience will form the foundation of a life-long relationship with music for the singers and their families.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus (HYOC) formerly the Honolulu Children's Opera Chorus began in 1961 when 300 children responded to a request from the Hawai'i Opera Theater to audition for 16 roles in La Boheme. Parents and music directors recognized that there was significant interest among young children to perform traditional choral music. Originally, HYOC existed to provide children performers for opera productions; but over time, HYOC grew in stature and developed its own repertoire. Today there are over 200 members ranging in age from 5 - 18. Its musical repertoire encompasses Western European, Sacred, Secular, traditional Hawaiian, as well as other ethnic music.

HYOC accepts children with vocal potential and a genuine desire to sing in a choral group. We expect dedication to music, as well as, a commitment to the choral ensemble and organization. We do not discriminate for gender, race, physical or religious reasons.

GOALS

- To foster the personal and social growth of choir members and promote their sense of self-worth, self-esteem, accomplishment and pride
- To expose children to the values and beliefs of other cultures and societies
- To attain the highest level of excellence in public and recorded performances
- To maintain Chorus membership that is open to children of ALL racial, cultural, religious and economic backgrounds
- To contribute to the cultural life of Honolulu, O'ahu, Hawaii, the nation and the world
- To increase the quality of singing in area schools by providing an organization which can excel beyond the experience in average school choirs

When Is Enrollment Held?

Enrollment periods are held the first several Saturday mornings in the first month of each new semester. The Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus has two semesters. The fall semester runs from August through December. The spring semester runs from January through late May or early June. Enrollment and participation is by grade group.

HYOC believes that everyone can learn to sing. As a music education organization we will teach your child how to sing, the principles of music theory, and proper singing practices through the environment of choral music. HYOC looks for a child that wants to sing and be a part of a choral organization. We will do the rest. Once a child is accepted into the organization the child does not need to re-audition. Children will continue to be members of the organization for as long as they choose to return and participate moving through the organization until they graduate from High School. A child's advancement in the organization is based solely on the discretion of the Music Directors.

New members and their parent or guardians will be required to sign a "Membership Agreement Form" which outlines the responsibilities of the member and the member's parent or guardian. The form will be counter-signed and kept on file by the General Manager.

Membership dues cover: newsletters, bulletins and professional music education through weekly choral rehearsals, music theory, and development of vocal technique. Musical training will also include workshops and choral performances. Music and music folders are provided.

Membership Costs

- Bambini, Stellite & Angeli: \$455.00 annual / \$227.50 per semester
- Coro through Gioventu: \$760.00 annual / \$380.00 per semester
- Kuhookahi: \$900.00 annual / \$450.00 per semester

- Piano: \$275.00 annual / \$137.50 per semester
- Class Voice: \$275.00 annual / \$137.50 per semester
- Activity Fees by Ensemble: Range \$25.00, \$50.00, \$240 - \$300 (includes music retreat costs grades 4-12)
- Formal Uniform Rental: Range \$35.00 - \$50.00

Which Ensemble Enroll?

ALL ensembles that allow for enrollment except the *Kuho'okahi* ensemble (the select / touring ensemble) is a "by invitation only" ensemble.

Enrollment Process

- Please complete the online Enrollment Application from the link provided on our website (no password required) PRIOR to your arrival.
- Please arrive at the rehearsal location on the posted "enrollment" dates a half hour prior to the start of the ensemble, which is grade appropriate for your child. If you have any questions as to which ensemble they might be considered for please call our office.
- There are enrollment fees, name-tags & Handbooks to be distributed prior to your child's participation in the days enrollment rehearsal.

Each of these ensembles: (*Bambini, Stelline, Coro, Cantilena & Gioventu*) are considered "entry level ensembles" which means that they are designed to include participants with no previous musical or singing experience as beginners to the choral experience. These ensembles are designed for students moving through the organization who have previous experience and those of the similar age groups who have no previous experience or are new to the organization.

A \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee is required with each application. Once the applicant is accepted, the deposit is applied to the membership dues. This fee essentially allows you 2 weeks to "try us out". If after 2 weeks your family decides to join then the fee will be applied to the tuition and you'll pay the balance. If after 2 weeks your family decides NOT to enroll then there is no further financial obligation to the organization. You may pay this fee either by using the payment link for credit card use or by check or cash on the enrollment days at the registration table.

Every new prospective member is asked to sit through and participate in a complete rehearsal. Our observation process for prospective students is active participation. New students will share music and be hosted by a current member, and participate fully in a class on their first day on enrollment days.

During the rehearsal or directly after the rehearsal, the Ensemble Director takes the children out for a brief, very informal, one-on-one musical / vocal evaluation assessment. We primarily check for vocal range, pitch matching ability and tone. This helps us to place the child within the ensemble best suited for his or her age /

grade group. As a general rule, most children are accepted into the organization unless there is a severe problem.

Resignation

We expect each singer who has made a commitment to sing for the entire season to live up to that commitment. If, however, an extremely unusual circumstance occurs which would prohibit a singer from honoring that commitment, a personal conference between the Director and the parents will be required before submitting a letter of resignation. If a student resigns, the parent is still responsible for the entire tuition fees and other costs incurred by the student's participation with the organization.

Observation outside of enrollment days: As a general policy, rehearsals are open to observation, which means that we encourage adults, parents and anyone interested to come and observe the rehearsal process. We ask that if you choose to observe the rehearsal that you do so by first acknowledging yourself to the general manager expressing your interest to observe the rehearsal. Please choose an unobtrusive place to be quietly seated. We ask that you respect the rehearsal process and refrain from talking and anything else which might be deemed distracting to the rehearsal process (cell phone and pagers must be silenced). Young children are asked to remain outside of the rehearsal room as they have difficulty maintaining a quiet and respectful attitude, which may cause a distraction to the rehearsal. The only exception to this policy is for the *Bambini, Stelline & Angeli* Ensembles. Observation is allowed for the first month of the new semester after which point the rehearsals are closed. We have found that for the K - 2 age group parents and observers other than their directors are too much of a distraction to the children and adversely affect the rehearsal process. We ask that you respect our concern for a healthy rehearsal environment for our members but being considerate observers.