



St Paul's Choir School

MAKING MUSIC • BUILDING COMMUNITY • CHANGING LIVES
113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ 07631 • 201.568.3276 • stpauls-choirschool.org

EASTERTIDE 2020 • NEWSLETTER

Choir School in Quarantine

We hope this finds you safe and healthy! Our last day of Choir School in person was Wednesday, March 11. Since then, all choir rehearsals and lessons are continuing online via Zoom. Every Monday and Wednesday at 4:30 the choir school gathers together for a virtual meeting and check-in. Lessons in music theory, voice, piano, and trumpet are continuing as well. I have asked the choristers to provide pictures and videos of their singing and playing instruments, and we have expanded our weekly newsletter—you can see the current edition on our website, www.stpauls-choirschool.org. If you know a child who would like to join any of our virtual meetings, please email Mr. Trautman at mtrautman@stpaulsenglewood.org for Zoom credentials.



St Paul's Choir School, Zoom meeting



Choristers after Ash Wednesday Evensong

About the St Paul's Choir School

The St Paul's Choir School program is based on the idea that all children are able to sing, given encouragement and instruction. We offer tuition-free music education and performance opportunities for girls and boys, grades K-12. We are a unique after-school program that offers professional choral training, voice, piano, and instrumental lessons, music theory, leadership development, and mentoring to children and teenagers. Each chorister receives individualized attention in a dynamic, creative, structured, and hands-on setting from caring teachers who are accomplished professionals in their areas of instruction. Our choristers represent a wide range of cultural communities, and faith traditions. *Everyone is welcome!*

THE MISSION OF THE ST PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL: Making Music, Building Community, Changing Lives

The St Paul's Choir School is a Musical and Educational Outreach of St Paul's Episcopal Church in Englewood, New Jersey.

We seek to—

- ✓ Provide solid musical instruction in a friendly and fun environment of mutual respect and achievement;
- ✓ Create opportunities for children to grow in musical and spiritual strengths that nurture their growth;
- ✓ Provide children of diverse abilities and backgrounds with a program of music appreciation and choral performance that seeks to fulfill each child's musical potential.



Choristers home from college, winter 2019

Highlights This School Year

We began our eighth year last September, with many new faces and some returning ones as well. The choristers sang for five services and events last fall, including the annual Blessing of the Animals and the annual Englewood Christmas Tree-Lighting Ceremony. We joined the adult choir, area singers, and chamber orchestra for our annual presentation of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* in December. High School choristers also joined the adult choirs to sing Choral Evensong in October, November, and February.

Four of our choristers attended the First Generation Scholars' Day at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. This was an in-person opportunity to see what it's like to be a college student. They got tours of the campus, lunch, classroom observations, and ended the day attending a basketball game at the university.

Five of our graduates are currently in college. Two of our high graduates entered college this fall at Monmouth University and William Paterson University; others attend William Paterson University, St Peter's University, and Calvin College. Three of our seniors are college-bound in the fall of 2020.

Spring 2020

Highlights this spring have included our Seventh Annual Epiphany Evensong, and this year we again welcomed the choristers from Grace Church, Newark and their Director of Music, Tyrone Whiting.

We sang at St. Luke's in Darien, CT for their morning service in January. We had the opportunity to work with our friend Mr. David Pulliam and we got to see the St John's Bible. This bible is currently on loan to the church, and it was entirely handwritten and decorated by the monks at St John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN in 2011. There are only three copies of it in existence. Afterward, we had a delicious lunch nearby. Thanks to Ms. Garcia, Ms. Martin, and Mr. McDaniel for coming with us, and to the McDaniels' helping with the driving! Thanks especially to St. Luke's for their invitation and a generous gift of \$500 for our chorister program.

In late January, two of our choristers—along with treble choristers from Grace Church in Newark—had a wonderful day singing, playing, and learning at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. And thanks to Ms. Garcia, Ms. Martin, and Mr. McDaniel for coming with us! We sang under the leadership of Mr. Bryan Zaros from the Cathedral and Mr. Vince Edwards from Grace Church in Providence RI.

PICTURES (from the top): Choir School Open House; Epiphany Evensong, Choristers and parents with the St. John's Bible; Lunch in CT; Trebles from St. Paul's and Grace Church after the Treble Festival at Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC



Choir School Now

We began online instruction via Zoom in late March. The choristers meet Monday and Wednesday afternoons with Mr. Trautman and Ms. Giulia, and we are often joined by Mr. Rejy and Mr. Zhang. These meetings are opportunities for us to check in with each other, remain in community, and learn something new! Short, informal assignments are given on a weekly basis. We have also had some of our choristers home from college join us. Mr. Zhang has been teaching piano class, and Ms. Giulia has been giving voice lessons. Mr. Rejy has been helping with music theory assignments. Check out our Instagram account: www.instagram.com/stpaulsings4nj and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stpaulschoirschoolenglewood.

Other ways we have been keeping in touch is by sharing pictures while making music. It's great to be able to see each other face-to-face (even if everyone needs a haircut!). The staff spends a lot of time encouraging the students to make music and engage with music at home—singing, playing an instrument, listening to music, and more. Through the generosity of many donors we have been able to make sure every child has access to a keyboard instrument at least.

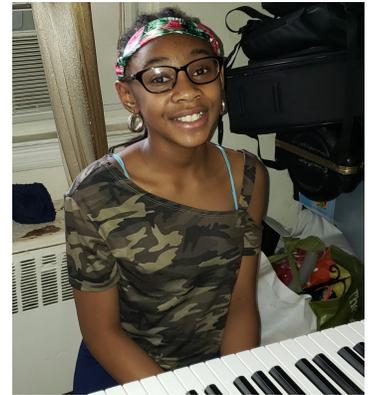
Year of Engagement with Englewood

Kaileen Alston, St Paul's Director of Christian Education has been working hard to keep in touch with chorister parents as well. During this Covid-19 crisis, St. Paul's Church has been actively partnering with Bergen Family Center, Center for Food Action, Community Chest of Englewood, Englewood Public Schools, Englewood Parks and Recreation, Metro Community Church, and a host of other partners to address issues of food security, wellness, and more. St Paul's has just received a grant from the ACTS/VIM fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark that will go toward a "Year of Engagement with Englewood (YEE)" initiative. During 2020-2021, St. Paul's in Englewood will lead or participate in several events that provide food, education, spiritual engagement, and dignity to the people of our area. We plan to deliver new resources, connect people with resources that already exist, and empower members of our entire community regardless of religious affiliation.

We plan to offer Youth Mental Health First Aid training this October to adults in eastern Bergen County. These trainings will equip adults who live in and/or teach, coach, and otherwise lead youth to recognize and respond appropriately to signs and symptoms of mental health distress. We will offer this in two four-hour sessions to accommodate people with work, family, and other obligations. Participants will receive a certification from the National Council for Behavioral Health that is good for three years. Accordingly, scores of young people will also benefit because the adults who minister to, teach and otherwise lead them will be better equipped to recognize and act when young people are in mental and emotional distress. More information will follow soon.

This Summer

All choristers and their families—like their peers throughout the world—are suffering the loss of structure afforded by weekly classes. We are working to design programs to address the many needs our choristers will have so that they will be adequately prepared for school when and how it resumes this fall. We hope to offer a one-week course for children who will enter grades 3 through 8



PICTURES (from the top):
Choristers at home making music;
Our chorister Vicky with her
acceptance letter for Bergen Tech



The Martin brothers recording *Tenebrae* for broadcast by the Episcopal Diocese of Newark during Holy Week

Come and be a part of the team!

With your help, we have worked wonders with a small budget and minimal resources. Your support thus far has empowered our program to continue as a lifeline to our choristers now quarantined at home. Your support is vital to their future and the continuance of the good work we have already begun. Checks in any amount are always welcome, and all gifts are tax-deductible. [You can send your gift to St Paul's Church, 113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ 07631; please write in the memo line ST PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL.](#)

Donors Since 2012

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Thank You!

Thank you for your support of the St Paul's Choir School. Your gifts and extraordinary support continue to make a difference in the lives of our children and our community, and we are grateful indeed. Feel free to contact me at any time to find out more about how you can be a part of this important outreach.

—Mark A. Trautman, Director of Music

in the fall of 2020. The week will explore music, poetry, arts, and theatre arts using the new Justice Choir Songbook, “The Justice Choir is a template to encourage more group singing for social justice. Designed around our Justice Choir Songbook, our goal is a grassroots movement to engage in the empathetic, collaborative, and collective power of singing together to create change.”

If we can offer this program live, we hope to provide dinner to singers and families from 5-6 p.m. The program will continue with short, twenty minute sessions including vocal training/singing, and with electives in visual art, theatre, and handbells led by experienced professionals from their respective fields.



First Generation Scholars at Rutgers