



# St Paul's Choir School

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

S U M M E R - F A L L 2 0 2 1 • N E W S L E T T E R

## OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 AT 11 AM

THE ST PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL will have its **Tenth Annual Open House** on Saturday, September 11 at 11 a.m. We will meet in the Engle Street Parking Lot at St Paul's, and **masks and social distancing are required**. Grades K through 12 are welcome; there will be refreshments and more.



### BECOMING A CHORISTER

- Children may join at any time;
- Families may visit us for a rehearsal or service; email us at [englewoodchoirschool@gmail.com](mailto:englewoodchoirschool@gmail.com) to arrange an informal audition and interview;
- No prior training or experience is expected or required;
- The program is offered at no cost to participating families who show commitment to the choir schedule;
- Children of any religious affiliation, or no affiliation, are welcome;
- Perfect attendance at rehearsals and all regularly scheduled services and concerts is mandatory and expected.

### 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, ages five through high school. We are a unique after-school program that offers professional choral training, voice and piano 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 come from Englewood and surrounding towns, representing a wide range of cultural communities, and from all 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.

## SCHEDULE, FALL 2021

Choristers may arrive any time after 3:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Monday, September 13. Individually wrapped snacks and bottles of water will be provided. We will gather masked and socially distanced in the Parish Hall. Choirs will begin rehearsal at 4:30 p.m., and piano, theory, and voice lessons will take place throughout the afternoon with Mr. Carlo Sityo, Ms. Giulia Utz, and Mr. Andrew Zhang. Choir School is in session every Monday and Wednesday unless schools are closed. Trumpet lessons are also available.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2020-2021 YEAR

### MONDAYS AND PARTNERSHIPS

We met via Zoom on Mondays from March 2020 through June 2021. We used these times to check in, talk about special topics, and occasionally welcome guests. We have welcomed Joel Thompson (composer of *The Seven Last Words of the Unarmed*), former Abyssinian Baptist Church Music Minister Jim Davis, Harlem artist Tash Neal, Pastor Mack Brandon, and pianist and composer Dionne McClain-Freeney. We entered into a partnership with the chorister program at St. Paul and Incarnation in Jersey City and Grace Church in Newark. Choristers from these programs were also able to take piano and voice lessons through our Choir School. We are excited to partner with these talented young choristers and to work with Gail Blache-Gill at St Paul and Incarnation and Daniel Romero at Grace Church



### TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

#### GATHERINGS

Some of our choristers continued to meet in small, distanced groups in the Parish Hall on Tuesday (advanced) and Wednesday (probationers) using hand chimes to perform. Four new choristers arrived this year in addition to our four new choristers from last spring! We learned to compose melodies and have begun to consider the harmonic implications in them—the Advanced Choristers have begun learning college-level music theory, such as secondary dominant chords! We also learned how to sing *Happy Birthday* using *sofège* syllables (do, re, mi, etc.). Many thanks to the Cove Point Foundation for providing funding for the purchase of hand chimes!



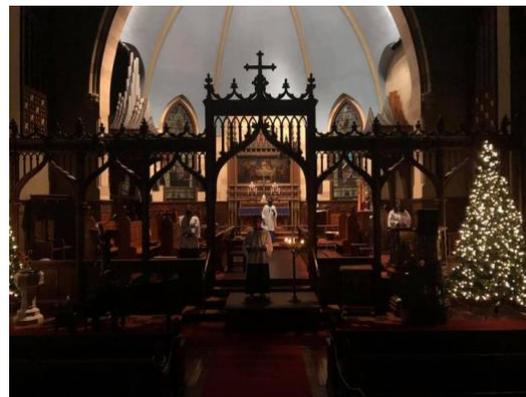
### SINGING FOR SERVICES AND THE COMMUNITY

A few of the Advanced Choristers were able to play in public for the first time this fall. In October, we traveled to play for our oldest parishioner's 103rd birthday and walked down Palisade Avenue for ice cream. The choristers rang hand chimes for our annual All Souls' Service of Remembrance on

November 1. Some of the choristers were able to gather together to record pieces for Advent and Christmas services and events. Even though we were masked and socially distant, the choristers were grateful to be singing again! We also welcomed several of our chorister graduates home from college.

We recorded all of the “O” Antiphons for the end of Advent (right, top), and several carols and anthems for Christmas. We recorded Moses Hogan’s *I Am His Child* for broadcast at St. Luke’s in Darien, CT for their annual Martin Luther King Sunday service and Englewood’s annual Martin Luther King service at Ebenezer Baptist Church (right, below). Our chorister Dorian recorded *Precious Lord* for the Absalom Jones Service for the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. We recorded an Evensong for Easter Day and recorded for the Diocese of Newark’s Annual Hegg Awards Service in June. Three of our trebles sang for the Feast of Pentecost on May 23.

In addition, our choristers Dorian, Lyric, Maggie, and our graduate Michael have sung for regular Sunday morning services. Our chorister Dorian recorded “Jesus Christ is risen today” for the Episcopal Diocese of Newark’s Easter video. Be sure to check out our recordings on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaulschoirschoolenglewood](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulschoirschoolenglewood) and Instagram [@stpaulsings4nj](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsings4nj).



## FUNDING AND GIFTS

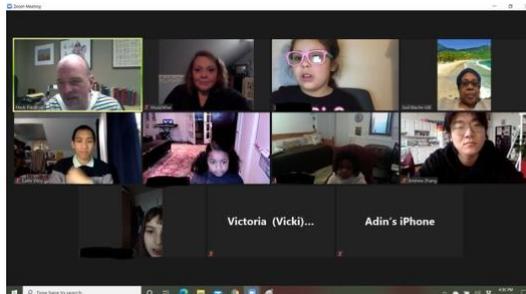
In January, we received a generous gift from the Ina J. Samuels-Martínez Foundation allowing us to secure our funding for staffing this year. Ms. Samuels-Martínez was a longtime parishioner at St. Paul’s, and we are truly grateful for this wonderful gift honoring her important legacy of love and leadership in our community.



During Covid-19 we have helped connect families to emergency community resources such as meals, utility assistance, and internet connectivity. We continue to

help ensure our students have access to the academic support and career-focused guidance needed now and well after this crisis is over. We strive to give children the skills, agency, and confidence to pursue and achieve their goals.

“Out-of-school time” describes both after-school hours and summer months—those critical times when students need the most guidance. It is estimated that children lost more than 35% of in-person, direct instruction during the last school year. Since March 2020 we have met year-round, offering academic support, tutoring, mentoring, and professional music education. We also continue to be in touch with our graduates, offering them mentoring and support. We continue to create a



supportive culture of responsibility and character building that translates to our 100% high school graduation rate and creates opportunities for college.

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Continuing this school year, Mr. Carlo Sitoy ([csitoy115@gmail.com](mailto:csitoy115@gmail.com)) will serve as our theory instructor and intern; Ms. Giulia Utz ([divagiulia@optonline.net](mailto:divagiulia@optonline.net)) will teach voice, and Mr. Andrew Zhang



The Day of Pentecost, 2021

([andrewzhangmusic@gmail.com](mailto:andrewzhangmusic@gmail.com)) will teach piano. Our general email is [englewoodchoirschool@gmail.com](mailto:englewoodchoirschool@gmail.com). Ms. Kai Alston and Ms. Coralius Noble assist in numerous ways helping the choristers with fellowship, community and more. Our Sunday Sextons, Mr. Gary Mason and Mr. George Gill, assist us in numerous ways from driving the church van and picking up choristers on Sundays, to mentoring. We are also grateful for the many parishioners who provide snacks for the choristers every week, and for parent volunteers who help with travel, hemming cassocks, and so much more. **We are grateful for you all—thank you!**

## CHALLENGES AHEAD: *How Can I Help?*

Since our first day in 2012, St Paul's Choir School has worked wonders with a small budget and minimal resources. We have managed to change lives and accomplish great things—one of our choristers earned his bachelor's degree, and seven of our graduates are attending schools around the country, including William Paterson University, Farleigh Dickinson University, Calvin College, St. Peter's University, and the United States Military Academy at West Point. Thanks to our supporters and benefactors to date, we have been able to build a sustainable and increasingly healthy program.

Will you consider contributing to our future? 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; earmark your check to 'St Paul's Choir School.'**

## WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS!

**Businesses:** Lexus of Englewood; One River School of Art and Design; Owens Group Insurance of Englewood Cliffs, NJ; ShopRite of Englewood; Tapestry; Tea Fields of Englewood

**Organizations and Churches:** ACTS/VIM Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark; Alleluia Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark; American Guild of Organists, Northern New Jersey Chapter; The Right Reverend Mark M. Beckwith, Tenth Bishop of Newark; Christ Church, Christiana Hundred, Wilmington, DE; Christ Church, New Brunswick, NJ; Christ Church, Pompton Lakes, NJ; The Episcopal Diocese of Newark; The Gertrude Butts Foundation; The Cove Point Foundation; Christ Church Outreach Grants Committee, Short Hills, NJ; Community Chest of Englewood, NJ; Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Ridgewood, NJ; St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, Ridgewood, NJ; St Luke's Episcopal Church, Darien, CT; St Peter's Episcopal Church, Perth Amboy, NJ; Ina Samuels-Martínez Foundation

**Individuals:** Pamela Abner; Dr Marian & Dr Sam Acquah; George and Connie Allport; Kaileen Alston; Christopher & Adrienne Anderson; Franklin & Yvonne Atekepe; Khoren & Lucie Bandazian; Elizabeth Basile; Dr Thelma and William Baxter; Andrea Bills Evering; Dawn Diaz; Adrienne Feinbloom; Dr Albert Griffith; Robert & Maral Hajjar; Ormand & Myrna Harrison; The Reverend Audrey Hasselbrook; The Estate of Nickalous Hodges; Gladys Hunter; Jasmine Jaswal; Susan Johnson; Suji Kim; Margaret King; Stefany Koslow and Marc Goldstein; In Memory of Janet Cook Krache; Martha E. Krache; Beverley Lannaman; Drs Jean & Katharine Le Mée; Nancy Lynn; Dr Susan Martin-Márquez; Azim and Lola Mayadas; Max and Allison McDaniel; Sharon McGrady; Jaime McLain; Rafael and Ina Martínez; Caren & Kevin McKelvy; David Morris and Evelyn Krache Morris; Donald C. Morris; Coralius Noble; Gloria & Jon Norton; The Reverend Deacon Joanne C. O'Neill; William Payne, Jr; Jean-Pierre Rowe; José and Alicia Sánchez; In Memory of Ethel Mary Sands by the O'Connell Family; The Reverend Robert L. Shearer; Emily Smith; Karol Steadman; Helen Thompson; Mark A. Trautman & Dr Ben. Sifuentes-Jáuregui; Ruth A. Vernon; Cynthia A. Westbrook; In Memory of Father Joseph A. Wysocki; Helen Yeisley; Lydia Zapico; Felicia Zekauskas