



# St Paul's Choir School

MAKING MUSIC • BUILDING COMMUNITY • CHANGING LIVES  
113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ 07631 • 201.568.3276 • [stpauls-choirschool.org](http://stpauls-choirschool.org)

SPRING - SUMMER 2019 • NEWSLETTER

## THANKFUL FOR SEVEN YEARS!

THE ST PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL finished its seventh year on the Day of Pentecost, June 9. The choristers have had an amazing year singing services and concerts throughout the tri-state area. Take a moment to read the pages of this newsletter and check out what we have been working on and what we are looking forward to! With your generous support and encouragement we continue to sing, grow, and learn as we serve the greater Englewood community and beyond. Check us out at, [stpauls-choirschool.org](http://stpauls-choirschool.org), to find out more about what we do, to see and hear us, and to find out what you can do to help us continue our success in mentoring and encouraging our young singers.



## 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.



*Primary girls ready for Easter!*

## HIGHLIGHTS, 2018-2019

### PRIMARY CHORISTER PROGRAM

We introduced a primary choir for the first time this year. The children sang one Sunday per month with the Middle and High School choristers and four of the primaries take piano lessons. The choristers' sessions are from 4-5 p.m. and consist of voice and theory training with Ms Giulia, theory and choral training with Mr Trautman, and piano with Mr Zhang. Ms Carolina also assists with the choristers. In addition to Sundays, the choristers joined the Middle-High choristers for Blessing of the Animals, Christmas Eve Jazz Mass, Ash Wednesday Evensong, Good Friday noonday, and the Great Vigil of Easter Jazz Mass.

All choristers receive instruction using the RSCMA *Voice for Life* materials. Two of the choristers are working on the (beginning) White Level, and one has advanced to the Light Blue Level. Lessons are designed carefully to introduce and reinforce reading, motor skills, logic, spatial awareness, self-confidence, and problem solving.

Several of the primaries will continue to take piano with Mr. Zhang this summer, thanks to the kind support of our gracious donors.

### MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Middle-High School Choristers continued to work on *Voice for Life* levels as well as private voice and piano lessons. The choristers traveled to sing throughout the region, and they also sang two concerts with professional orchestra: Handel's *Messiah* in December and our Ninth Annual Spring Concert in May, featuring music of Handel and Vivaldi.

### CONCERTS AND MORE

The Middle-High Choristers sang on the concert series of the Community of St John Baptist in Mendham in November in a varied program that included music in English, German, Hebrew, and Latin. We were honored to be invited to the Church of the Intercession in New York City to open the parish's century-old holiday tradition: a performance of holiday music, followed by a candlelight reading of Clement Clarke Moore's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and a lantern procession and wreath-laying ceremony at Clement Moore's mausoleum at Trinity Church. Several of our treble choristers joined their peers from around the area for the annual Diocesan Treble Festival at the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine in New York City, this year under the direction of Dr James Litton, Director Emeritus of the American Boychoir School. Some of our choristers also joined the St Paul's and Incarnation Choir and Orchestra under the direction of Gail Blache-Gill for a performance of Théodore Dubois' Cantata *The Seven Last Words* in April.

**PHOTOS:** Primary choristers and their work; Primary choristers receive their cassocks; Concert at the Convent in Mendham; Choristers at Intercession, NYC; Choristers at St Paul and Incarnation, Jersey City





*PHOTOS: Sixth Annual Epiphany Evensong; Middle-High Choristers in Short Hills*

## CHORAL EVENSONG

Choral Evensong lies at the heart of the Anglican musical tradition. The Middle and High School Choristers sang Evensong several times this year, occasionally with the adult choir. We celebrated our Sixth Annual Epiphany Evensong with members of the Grace Church in Newark choristers and their director, Mr Tyrone Whiting. In March we traveled to sing Evensong at Christ Church in Short Hills—it was a joy to offer this in thanksgiving for the generous support of our chorister program.

Some of our senior choristers traveled to St Luke’s, Darien, Connecticut to sing with their choirs in a “Maritime Evensong” in May under the direction of Mr David Pulliam. St Luke’s has also been a generous supporter of our program.

## CHORAL FESTIVALS THIS YEAR

We also participated in two choral festivals this year! The [St Paul’s Choral Festival](#) on May 4 drew singers from Trinity, Hartford, CT; St Luke’s, Darien, CT; Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, MA; St John’s, Somerville, NJ, St Paul’s and Incarnation, Jersey City; Choir School of Asbury Park; and adults and choristers from St Paul’s, with Mr David Pulliam and St Luke’s organist Mr William Roslak. We were able to complete our fundraising goal toward a scholarship for the RSCM Newport Course in memory of Gordon Appleton. Choristers from around the state joined at Christ Church in Short Hills in June for the [Sixth Annual RSCM NJ Choral Festival](#) under the direction of Ms Gail-Blache Gill and accompanied by Christ Church’s Director Music, Dr Andrew Moore and our own Mr Andrew Zhang.

## CONSECRATION OF THE XI BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF NEWARK

Additional highlights of the year included participation in the Consecration of the Right Reverend Carlye Hughes, XI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. Bishop Hughes is the first African-American female bishop of the Diocese of Newark. The choristers sang during communion under the direction of Ms. Deborah Mello from Christ Church, Newton. The next day, we joined with choristers from Grace Church in Newark and St Peter’s, Morristown to sing Evensong for the Seating of the Bishop in Trinity and St Philip’s Cathedral.



## Academic News

One of the built-in incentives in our program is a small stipend, based on leadership and performance, which is paid to each chorister monthly, emphasizing the seriousness of the commitment to the choir. All of our choristers earned honor roll and/or some form of higher achievement this past year, and thanks to the gift of a generous parishioner, each chorister who earned honor roll received an extra \$10. Every chorister this year achieved honor roll, and earned other academic and athletic achievements.



## College Preparation

We were fortunate to welcome Ms Jakora Holman, Director of Planning and Operations for Student Access and Equity of the Rutgers Educational Opportunity Fund this spring. It was a great gathering of students and parents, and an opportunity to receive valuable information about going to college. The Educational Opportunity Fund in New Jersey was established in 1968 as the state sought to address inequalities in higher education for minorities and other disadvantaged groups. More than 12,000 students at more than 50 colleges and universities have participated in the program. While the initial focus was on racial and ethnic disparities, the program now concentrates on those students with an economic need.



## GRADUATION, 2019

Three of our choristers graduated from high school this spring—they will be headed to William Paterson University, Monmouth University, and Bergen Community College. Our first three graduates continue to work toward undergraduate degrees at William Paterson, St Peter's University, and Calvin College. We are grateful to St Paul's Parishioners who have given graciously to a scholarship fund to help our most recent graduates this fall, and to members of the parish who continue to mentor and assist our graduates!



**PHOTOS: (top)** Primaries display art and awards; Choristers sang for the Englewood MLK Celebration and later for the induction of the new Bergen NAACP President in February; One of our excellent athletes in the news; **(bottom)** Graduation, 2019 (l-r): Cedric, now in college and Devin; Veronica and Alonzo; Mr Trautman with our first three head choristers after the Spring Concert: Veronica, Caitlyn, and Michael





## Summer Camp, 2019

Choristers will participate in the Diocese of New Jersey Summer Choir Camp in Cape May in July. The choristers stay at Holiday House of the Girl's Friendly Society of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and rehearse and sing Evensong at the Church of the Advent. Two of our choristers will attend the RSCM Massachusetts Course, this year led by Mr Richard Webster, Director of Music at Trinity, Boston MA, and held at the famous Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts. Five of our choristers will attend the RSCM Rhode Island Course in Newport under the direction of Mr Scott Hanoian, Director of Music at Christ Church, Grosse Point, MI and Music Director and Conductor of the University Musical Society Choral Union.

## Grateful to Staff and Volunteers!

We were delighted to welcome Mr Andrew Zhang as our new piano instructor this year. Ms Giulia Utz continues as our voice instructor, and is also present with us when we sing Sunday mornings at St Paul's. Ms Carolina Restrepo continues as intern while she finishes her music education degree at Montclair State University, helping with activities, handbells, and *Voice for Life*. Ms Jessica Jackson continues as a mentor to the choristers, engaging them in activities such as cooking. Ms Kai Alston and Ms Coralius Noble prepare breakfast for the choristers on the Sundays when they sing at St Paul's. 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 bring 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!*

## Building Our Future

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. Thanks to our supporters and benefactors to date, we have been able to build a sustainable and increasingly healthy program. In the year ahead, we have several challenges for funding and expanding our programs, and we can't do it without your help. 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.'](#)

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Sponsor one chorister for one year, \$1,000; Piano lessons for choristers, \$140 per month; Cape May Choir Camp Scholarships, \$450 each; RSCM Choir Scholarships at \$625 each; RSCM Train Travel at \$125 each.

## Thanks to our Supporters!

A complete list of donors may be found at [www.stpauls-choirschool.org/list-of-donors.html](http://www.stpauls-choirschool.org/list-of-donors.html)

## 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



**PHOTOS:** RSCM, Newport Course, Summer 2018

**EIGHTH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE • MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 2 PM AT ST PAUL'S IN ENGLEWOOD**