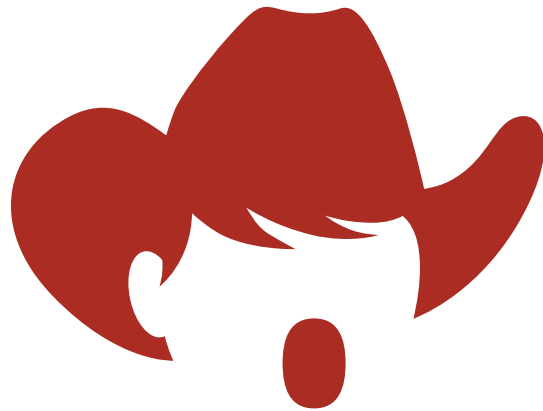


2020-2021



TUCSON ARIZONA
BOYS CHORUS

CHORUS HANDBOOK

MISSION STATEMENT

The Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus is dedicated to providing boys in the community an enriched educational experience through the study and performance of choral music. The Chorus endeavors to impart musical, social and leadership skills that build self-esteem and have a sustaining impact on its members. Representing and serving the community as an artistic and cultural resource are fundamental to the Chorus Mission.

INCLUSION POLICY

The Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus is open to boys and young men age six and older. The Chorus is committed to inclusion across race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national origin, and physical or developmental disability.

CONTENTS

About the Chorus	4
Organization	8
Objectives	9
Structure	11
Alumni Association	13
Financial Base	14
Fundraising	15
Rehearsals, Policies & Events	16
Other Events	19
Committee Descriptions	20
General Calendar	21
Chorus Map	22

ABOUT THE CHORUS

In 1939, Eduardo Caso, “the tenor of the American airwaves,” came to Tucson to rest and recuperate from the tuberculosis, which had interrupted his career. An Englishman, singer and teacher, he carried to the West the dream of a boys choir rooted in the European tradition, but uniquely American in sound and repertoire. As Arizona’s January sunshine restored his health, Caso gave back to Arizona, founding the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus (TABC).

The first TABC concert, on Christmas Eve of 1939, was comprised of just eight boys whose tonal output was fortified by two girls from a high school glee club. Backed by individual parents, Caso was able to lead his tiny group through the first years of recruitment and growth until the community caught his excitement and the increasing support of sponsors assured TABC’s continued existence.

In 1945, TABC was incorporated as The Tucson Arizona Boys Choir Society, Inc., and a nonprofit educational organization. As its fame spread, activities expanded to include national radio broadcasts, concert tours of Arizona and the Southwest, and early television appearances. After performing at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1950, the boys were hailed by one reporter as “the finest walking advertisement a city ever had,” and subsequent tours won hosts of admirers from coast to coast. Tucson’s “Ambassadors in Levis” were gaining momentum.

In the summer of 1955, Caso and 30 of his young “cowboys” swept through Europe winning ovations with every appearance. Their horizons expanded to Australia in 1960 with similar results. In 1963, the American ambassadors brought their music to all of America, singing at the White House tree-lighting ceremony.

The boys suffered the loss of their mentor in 1965 when Caso passed away suddenly, almost on the eve of a live appearance on NBC’s Bell Telephone Hour. Like true professionals, the boys decided, “the show must go on.” Led by University of Arizona doctoral student Jeffrey Haskell, they performed to rave reviews.

Refusing to lose its spark with the loss of Caso, TABC flourished during the next 10 years under Haskell. In 1975, through the generosity and hard work of many supporters, alumni and choristers, the Chorus relocated to its new building on East Pima Street.

After a decade as Director, Haskell resigned to pursue other interests. Dr. John S. Davis, a former boy soprano under the tutelage of Eduardo Caso in 1947-49, was named Director. With his Chorus background, coupled with a doctorate in composition from the University of Arizona, Dr. Davis continued TABC’s tradition of community representation and successful tours.

In 1980, Dr. Julian Ackerley was named Director, bringing to the organization extensive teaching experience at all levels, including three degrees in music with emphasis on music education, choral direction and voice performance. Under Dr. Ackerley’s leadership, the TABC has experienced a boom in membership and activities.

During the 1989-90 season, TABC celebrated its 50th Anniversary. During this historic year, TABC held an Alumni Reunion attended by more than 700 guests. That same year, the Chorus toured what was then the Soviet Union, Germany, Austria and Poland.

Notable activities continued through the 1990s. In 1991, the Chorus returned to sing at the White House, performing for President and Mrs. Bush and the entire nation on NBC's "Today Show." In April 1992, TABC was featured at the prestigious Music Educators National Conference in New Orleans, and the following year embarked on a sojourn "down under," performing in Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii.

In the early 1990s, the Chorus released a popular recording titled, "Holiday Treasures." In 1996, the group was featured at the NFL Experience as part of Super Bowl XXX. They also traveled to Spain, France and Italy on European Tour '96, including a performance in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Also in 1996, TABC was acknowledged for its long-term excellence by receiving Arizona's highest arts honor, The Governor's Arts Award for Arts in Education. In late November 1996, the Chorus traveled to New York to participate in the 70th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

In 1997, TABC was invited to create an all-classical CD for the Utah-based Sanctus label titled "Heaven Hath a Song." In 1998, with funding by Angel Charity for Children, Inc., the Chorus recorded the acclaimed CD entitled, "Inspiration: A collection of contemporary songs of enlightenment."

TABC celebrated its 60th anniversary during the 1999-2000 season. The year was marked by community-wide media coverage, including a television documentary and city, state and national proclamations. TABC entered the new millennium with confidence and enthusiasm. In a historic tour, 2001: Orient Odyssey, the Touring Chorus ventured to Thailand, Vietnam, China, South Korea and Taiwan. That same year, the Chorus was named as National Anchor Choir for the prestigious international singing festival, AmericaFest.

In 2004, the Chorus ventured to Africa, visiting 27 cities in South Africa from Johannesburg to Cape Town. A new recording was released prior to the tour entitled "Songs of the Saddle and South Africa" featuring the group's signature western repertoire as well as African selections.

The Chorus was expanded in the fall of 2005 when the High School Choir was established. This was a group of former Touring Chorus members of changed voices singing tenor and bass. The innovative male choir sang its own selections but also provided the lower voices combined with the treble boy voices on significant works performed at the Holiday and Classic Concerts. With the popularity of this new ensemble, it was expanded four years later. The High School Choir became the Tucson Arizona Young Men's Ensemble (TAYME) and now includes former choristers in high school through college age years.

In 2006, the Chorus performed at Festival Alfonso Ortiz Tirado, an esteemed music festival in Alamos, Mexico. The following year the group participated in two more choral festivals, The World Vision International Choral Festival in Seoul, South Korea and the Children of the World in Harmony Festival in Hong Kong, China.

In 2008, Dr. Ackerley was appointed as the National Boychoir Repertoire and Standards Chair for the American Choral Directors Association. For six years, he served as the national leader for advocacy of boy singers. More TABC international travel in 2008 included trips to Kazakhstan with a cultural exchange with Tucson's Sister City Almaty and to the Czech Republic to participate in the World Boys and Men's Choral Festival in Hradec Králové and Prague. In 2009, a new recording was released: "Choirboy Christmas" features sacred music recorded at historic Mission San Xavier Del Bac. In September, Dr. John S. Davis, former TABC Director, passed away after a lengthy illness. The Boys Chorus notably performed at his memorial service.

The Singing Goodwill Ambassadors continued representing Tucson with a 2010 trip to Japan, South Korea and Hawaii and a tour to China in 2011. A new recording entitled "Feel Good" was released in association with the China tour. Immediately after returning from China, TABC hosted its own International Boys and Men's Choral festival in Flagstaff and Tucson to great success.

In 2012, Dr. Ackerley was chosen the Choral Director of the Year by the Arizona Chapter of the American Directors Association. He was recognized with this award for his "excellence to the profession of choral music." A return trip to China in 2013 was more extensive than previous visits, encompassing 23 concerts in extraordinary concert halls in 33 days.

TABC received not one, but two prestigious invitations to perform at American Choral Directors Association Divisional Conferences in the spring of 2014. The ACDA Western conference was in Santa Barbara, California, and the Northwestern conference was in Seattle, Washington. That summer, the Chorus hosted the second International Boys and Men's Choral Festival at NAU and UA.

The 2014-2015 season celebrated the historic 75th Anniversary. Activities include the establishment of the Cadet Choir for 1st and 2nd graders, collaborations with the Arizona Opera Company, Tucson Symphony Orchestra and the University of Arizona and a tour to France, Switzerland and Germany.

The 2015-16 season saw the Chorus make its first ever appearance in famed Carnegie Hall, which was an historic opportunity. Collaborations that season included Arizona Opera and the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music.

In 2016-17, the choir traveled to Texas for a collaboration with the Texas Girls' Choir and performed at a Texas Ranger baseball game. They travelled to Mexico as well as guests of Esperanza Azteca. This season saw the inception of our first neighborhood choir, Northwest Voices, in collaboration with the town of Oro Valley. During the summer, the Chorus participated in the IBMCF festival with choirs from California and Hong Kong.

The 2017-18 season was exciting as we introduced our new logo and launched new neighborhood choirs in Vail and Sahuarita, performed with artist Michael Israel in our Masterpiece Musicale, and collaborated with many professional arts organizations including Arizona Opera, the Tucson Symphony, and True Concord. Tours included an exchange with Esperanza Azteca and the Chorus' fifth tour to China.

In the spring of 2019, the Touring Chorus performed John Rutter's Mass of the Children in collaboration with Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Oklahoma and Amarillo College in Amarillo, Texas. In the summer, the Touring Chorus and the Young Men's Ensemble were the anchor choirs for the International Boys and Men's Choral Festival in Flagstaff, Tucson, and Phoenix, Arizona followed by a performance tour to Hawaii.

Celebrating our 80th Anniversary in the 2019-20 season, the Chorus hosted alumni from across TABC's history at the 80th Anniversary Alumni Weekend in early November. Included in the weekend were performances at the University of Arizona Homecoming Football Game, and the historic Temple of Music and Art. The Chorus also earned the honor of performing for the third time in its history at the White House for the official lighting of the National Christmas Tree.

The strong traditions of the past and exciting opportunities of our modern society have paved the way for the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus' continued success as a world-renowned professional touring group and an organization benefiting Tucson youth.

ORGANIZATION

The two cooperating arms of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus include the Board of Directors and the Parent Association.

Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus

Parents of TABC choristers and members of the Board of Directors are automatically members of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, a non-profit 501c3 organization incorporated in the state of Arizona. Any person, firm or corporation interested in helping to further the mission of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus is encouraged to become a member.

Board of Directors

The policy-making body, the Board of Directors, is comprised of approximately 15 members of the community, not more than one-fourth of whom may be parents of current TABC members. The board conducts open, monthly meetings and parents are invited to attend. The President of the TABC Parent Association represents chorus parents on the Board. The Board is responsible for hiring the Director and approving staff selection. The Director is accountable to the Board.

Director and Staff

The Chorus Staff is headed by the Director who is responsible for both the business management of the Chorus and the musical programming and instruction. The director oversees the entire curriculum, provides leadership in building and maintaining the excellence of the Chorus program, directs the Touring Chorus, and supports the Assistant Conductor in the leadership of the other three choirs. The Director also coordinates the instruction of the Neighborhood Choirs and is responsible for the planning of annual Touring opportunities.

The Assistant Conductor's job is the musical training and direction of the TowneSinger, Training, Cadet Choruses, and one of the Neighborhood Choirs. The Assistant Conductor may also assist the Director with Touring Chorus activities. Accompanists work with the Director and Assistant Conductor at rehearsals and at various performances.

Parent Association

All parents of current choristers are members of the **TABC Parent Association**. The purpose of the Association is to support the goals of the Chorus through contributions of time and material. As a nonprofit, TABC relies heavily on volunteers and outside donors to help provide the high level of musical instruction the boys receive. Our families are core volunteers and are necessary to the sustainability of the Chorus program.

The Parent Association is led by a President and Committee Chairs. They meet regularly with the Director and staff to review business related to the Parent Association and committee work.

The President of the Parent Association also serves on the Board of Directors as a liaison between Chorus parents and the Board. The chorus leadership along with the Parent Association strive to maintain expectations for family involvement that will make the Chorus a meaningful part of their lives while supporting the work of the Chorus without placing an undue burden on any family.

Each family is asked to volunteer annually in the following two ways:

1. Membership on one of the three Chorus committees.
2. Work two shifts per chorister at the TABC Tree Lot between late November and late December.

The Parent Association has three committees, each of which meets a vital need of TABC. The volunteer functions of these committees are important to TABC's success and fundamental to its affordability to the families. **Each central choir family is required to serve on one committee.** A description of committee functions is included in the back of the Chorus handbook. The standing committees are:

Bonanza Book

Wardrobe/Concert Assistance

Event Logistics

Active participation in the Parent Association is an important way to show support and interest in your son's work and achievements. Involvement is key to the success of the overall program.

OBJECTIVES

TABC Operational Goals

The Director and Board of Directors work together to maintain an organizational structure and management plan that supports the TABC Mission in a manner that is relevant and responsive to boys, families, and the Tucson demographic environment of today and the future. This work is accomplished by consistently and systematically employing a variety of strategies to:

- Conduct all activities in a positive environment to facilitate coping with challenges and promoting confidence for sustained organizational success.
- Provide friendly, professional, and responsive service to all families through timely and accurate communication, knowledgeable office staff, and organized plans/policies for responding to queries.
- Message about TABC to a broad audience beyond traditional concert attendees to ensure consistent visibility of TABC in the Tucson community.
- Maintain clear, timely, accurate, and effective internal and external communication to facilitate volunteer, staff, and board work.
- Effectively recruit and retain choristers to maintain a census that promotes chorus health in terms of membership, volunteers, and finances.

- Effectively plan financially for short and long-term budget needs.
- Clearly maintain governance and legal records.
- Regularly and efficiently collect, manage, and report out information that can drive planning, decision making, and fundraising.
- Remain strategic and forward looking in all facets of calendaring/planning.
- Maintain an engaged Board of Directors whose expertise and work is significant and supportive of the financial and policymaking aspects of the chorus.
- Maintain a safe, secure environment where every individual's worth is valued.

TABC Artistic Goals

Presentation of a professional-level program of music and entertainment in the best tradition of boy choirs, with a quality of performance that brings pleasure to audiences and respect to TABC.

Maintenance of its longtime reputation as an organization benefiting both the community and the participants.

Continued expansion of the boys' role as Tucson's Singing Ambassadors, representing the city in the most positive light, both on tour and in the community.

TABC Goals for Boys

TABC's goals are carefully chosen to enhance each boy's life as well as TABC quality and reputation. The Chorus presents a well-rounded course of music education preparing boys for performance of choral repertoire. Specific areas of concentration are music theory, music history, ear training, development of tonal quality, sight reading, understanding of harmony, use of notation and music terminology, and concert and rehearsal behavior. Western trick-rodeo roping and choreography are also included in the instructional part of the TABC program.

Intrinsic to the program is personal development of a boy into a young man, with the poise and self-confidence necessary to be a part of a highly professional group. Each young man will have the opportunity to nurture social skills, to hone skills of cooperation and time management, and to develop individuality and self-discipline.

As many choristers as possible will be afforded the benefits of travel. Each year, the Touring Chorus gives a series of concerts in the United States or abroad. Choristers who have reached this level in the Chorus have numerous opportunities for travel, through which they learn about different cultures and share their musical achievements.

Through each chorister's success in marketing Bonanza Books and concert tickets, he learns not only how to sell merchandise, but how to sell himself by presenting himself and the group in the best light. He is rewarded by the personal benefits of salesmanship, including commissions earned by meeting or exceeding sales goals.

Chorister's Goals

Each chorister's own goals, supported by TABC, may include:

- Learning about singing and about music in general.
- The opportunity to develop music literacy and a high level of musicianship.
- Enjoying the friendship of the other choristers and developing a positive relationship with the directors.
- Learning salesmanship and earning premiums and commissions through Bonanza Book and concert ticket sales.
- Traveling and performing throughout the U.S.A. and abroad, seeing new places and meeting people.

A particular goal of most choristers in the Training Chorus is promotion to the TowneSingers and eventually to the highest level, the Touring Chorus. Each chorister has the opportunity to pursue this goal.

STRUCTURE

The Chorus delivers high quality music instruction through well-organized weekly after school rehearsals and multiple annual performance opportunities and collaborations with professional music organizations.

Interviews for the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus are held throughout the year by appointment and in the fall and spring at nearby schools. Boys between 6 and 12 years of age who have the desire to sing and to perform a variety of musical repertoire are encouraged to interview. Previous musical training is not a prerequisite.

The Chorus is comprised of both central and neighborhood choirs. There are five central choral groups: Cadet Choir, Training Chorus, TowneSingers, Touring Chorus, and the Young Men's Ensemble. Boys generally begin in the Cadet Choir or the Training Chorus. The 2020 neighborhood choral groups include: Northwest Voices located in the Oro Valley/Marana area and Vail Voices located at Mesquite Elementary in Vail.

Cadet Choir rehearses once a week, on Tuesdays (4:00-5:00pm). This choir gives 1st through 3rd grade boys the opportunity to learn about choral music in a relaxed, fun environment. The Cadet Choir joins the other choruses at two concerts each year--the Holiday Concert in December and the Pops Concert in May.

Training Chorus rehearses Wednesdays (4:15-6:00pm). They are prepared for advancement through regular rehearsals. The Training Chorus performs at the Holiday Concert and at the Pops Concert. The Training Chorus boys are also invited to sing with the other choirs at the Classic Concert in February.

TowneSingers rehearse Mondays and Wednesdays (4:15-5:45pm). They may perform at local concerts, particularly during the winter holidays. They also have a more significant role at the two major TABC concerts. The TowneSingers may also represent TABC in appearances while the Touring Chorus is on tour. In February, TowneSingers participate in the annual Tucson Rodeo Parade by riding and singing on the TABC float.

Select TowneSingers are chosen as **Alternates**. In addition to full participation in their own choir, Alternates rehearse with the Touring Chorus during the fall semester and are prepared to fill a sudden opening should the need arise. At the Director's discretion, Alternates may also perform in various Touring Chorus concerts. Selection as an Alternate does not guarantee future promotion to the Touring Chorus.

Touring Chorus rehearses Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (4:15-5:45pm). They sing locally in three major TABC concerts (Holiday Concert, Classic Concert and Pops Concert), make many winter holiday appearances throughout Arizona, and participate in numerous other events throughout the year. The Touring Chorus also travels on at least one major tour annually, presenting a professional concert program to a large number of audiences. Acceptance of promotion into the Touring Chorus should be viewed as a serious commitment of at least two or more years that will require dedication and hours of effort on the part of a boy and his family.

Tucson Arizona Young Men's Ensemble (TAYME) is made up of young men in high school and college, most of whom sang with the Chorus as a younger boy. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays (6-8pm). TAYME performs at the Holiday and Classic concerts. Over the past three years, TAYME has had an expanded role in the Chorus.

Neighborhood Choirs rehearse one time per week on Thursdays after school beginning at varying times dependent on the rehearsal location. Neighborhood choirs perform at the Holiday Concert and at the Pops Concert. The boys are also invited to sing with the other choirs at the Fall Festival and the Classic Concert in February.

Promotion Criteria

There is no standard rate at which a chorister advances, nor is there any predetermined period of time that a boy spends at any level. Most promotions are awarded in late summer (following summer music camp), or in the spring (after the end of regular rehearsals). Promotions are made at the discretion of the Director, as needed. Parents are welcome to make an appointment at any time to discuss their son's progress. Advancement is predicated on a variety of considerations, including those items now listed.

The chorister's performance as a vocalist and musician. Individual merit is determined by a chorister's onstage and offstage personality: his conscientiousness, initiative and willingness to follow directions. Roping ability, although important to the overall program, is not a factor in promotions.

The chorister's competence away from home. The ability to function well on tour is inferred primarily from the boy's adjustment to camp life. A chorister who aspires to advance to another chorus level is strongly advised to attend TABC summer camp.

The chorister's overall maturity and behavior. Choristers must demonstrate maturity and the ability to get along with others. All conduct must be exemplary when representing the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus. In all aspects of his life, a chorister should strive for behavior that

reflects well on his membership in the Chorus. Choristers are expected to show respect for parents, teachers, and TABC personnel, and to treat fellow choristers with courtesy and kindness.

Attendance / Academics / Appearance

Rehearsals are the backbone of all musical productions. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances (unless excused). Choristers with two unexcused absences in a term may be asked to leave the program. No unexcused absences from performances are permitted.

It is important that participation in the Chorus not detract from educational progress. Training Chorus and TowneSinger members must maintain at least a 2.0 average in school. To ensure that tours will not result in academic problems, those wishing to be promoted to or retained in Touring Chorus must maintain a 2.5 average, with no D, F or U grades in classes or conduct.

A boy's general appearance is important to the overall image of the Chorus. Cleanliness, dress and hairstyle must meet the standards of the Director and the audiences before which the group performs.

Participation & Graduation

Recognition will be given to Chorus members in good standing. It is assumed that boys are committing to a full season unless their voice changes or their family moves from the Tucson area.

A graduation dinner is held each spring/summer to honor Touring Chorus members in good standing who have fulfilled their obligations and are planning to leave the TABC. Graduates are chosen at the Director's discretion and have:

- 1) *toured for two or more years and have completed the 8th grade*
- 2) *toured for less than two years and desire to leave TABC due to extenuating circumstances, such as voice change or family move.*

Choristers so honored are expected to have represented TABC with dignity and to have contributed to its success and good reputation. At the annual graduation dinner, graduating choristers are individually honored for their participation and contribution. Current and past Chorus families, friends and special guests are invited to attend this special ceremony.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A boy who has sung in any group within TABC is an alumnus of the Chorus. Continuing interest in TABC is invited and encouraged. Members may be invited on occasion to participate in TABC concerts or other functions. The **Alumni Chorus** convenes once a week for four weeks in the spring to rehearse for their performance in the Pops Concert (minimum age: 15). Other Alumni events may include Holiday Caroling in December and various fundraising activities.

Alumni are invited to join the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus Alumni Association (TABCAA), an organization designed to recognize the chorus alumni and keep the tradition alive for generations to come. The one-time membership fee is \$19.39* in honor of the inaugural year of the Chorus. Membership in the TABCAA includes:

- Monthly newsletter
- Networking opportunities
- Invitation to VIP events
- Special pricing on concerts and events
- Inclusion in the 80th anniversary commemorative book about the history of the chorus,
- Membership pin (wear to events for additional benefits)

*Purchase of a legacy brick in the TABC Commemorative Brick Walkway also comes with membership in the TABCAA.

FINANCIAL BASE

TABC is a nonprofit agency, entirely dependent on tuition payments, concert admissions and fees, donations, and fund-raising activities. Prompt payment of tuition and return of receipts from Bonanza Books and concert tickets are essential.

Standard Tuition

Each boy must pay a standard tuition fee as determined by his level in the Chorus. Tuition may be paid in full or in monthly installments, with payments due on the 15th of each month September through May. Arrangements are made with the office for all payments. Late payments or returned checks will incur a nominal fee.

Bonanza Book

Bonanza Books are a longstanding tradition in the chorus that keep tuition at lower rates. They are discount coupon books that include a raffle ticket produced by a parent committee and sold by Chorus members for \$10.00 each. Sales quotas are as follows:

- Training - 30 books
- TowneSingers - 45 books
- Touring Chorus - 60 books

Payment for the respective quotas is required above the tuition payment. Books are distributed in the spring; choristers have until early December to complete sales. Specific information regarding bonuses, commissions, awards and all procedures related to Bonanza Books is included in a handout when the books are distributed. Each chorister's Bonanza Book account must be cleared prior to the Holiday Concert. Bonanza Books have the participation of more than 90 merchants. The Bonanza Book program has been a successful part of the TABC program for more than 50 years. A family may choose to pay off the Bonanza Books in lieu of selling the books if that better meets the needs of their family.

Financial Aid

Applications for financial aid for tuition and summer music camp are available upon request. Chorister Assistance is awarded on an annual basis based on financial need. Inquire at the TABC office for applications and deadlines.

Concert Admissions

Like all professional groups, TABC receives a fee for tour and local performances. For the two major Tucson concerts, families are encouraged to assist with concert promotion and ticket sales. Families are asked to purchase/sell \$75 worth of tickets for the Holiday and Pops Concert. After selling \$75 worth, families receive complimentary tickets in the amount of \$15 for each \$75 sold. An important financial aspect of performances is the concurrent sale of recordings and souvenirs. Parents and relatives may consider these items throughout the year as gift-giving occasions arise.

FUNDRAISING

TABC is a large and complex operation with significant organizational expenses. Aside from tuition, which partially supports the program, income from fundraising is vital to maintaining the buildings, grounds and chorus van; paying staff salaries; purchasing wardrobe, music and supplies; and subsidizing tour expenses and advertising. Monies raised also provide tuition and camp financial assistance.

Methods of Fundraising

- 1) Concessions sold at concerts.
- 2) Bonanza Books are produced by a parent committee and then sold by choristers. These books are considered an additional part of the chorister's tuition.
- 3) Numerous paid concerts generate funds and involve volunteer efforts by TABC parents.
- 4) TABC's Christmas Tree Lot is a Tucson tradition started in the early 1950s and is a major fundraising tool for the Chorus. It is the largest tree lot in Tucson, selling 800 trees from 3' to 27' tall. The lot also offers flame retardant, delivery and special orders. The tree lot is staffed by Chorus volunteers under the supervision of a general lot manager. **Touring, TowneSinger, and Training families are required to work two four-hour Tree Lot shifts per chorister. Cadet and Neighborhood Choirs are not required to participate, but may choose to do so. The shift requirement can be filled among multiple family members. (The choristers help at the tree lot but do not count toward the family shift requirement.) If you are unable to meet the work requirement there is an option to pay to have your shifts covered. Due to insurance requirements, only children over eight years of age**

are permitted to work at the tree lot. This shift requirement is in addition to service on one regular committee.

- 5) The Musicale Regale is a high-profile dinner fundraiser held each fall to introduce individuals and corporations to the Chorus. TABC parents are most welcome, but there are no expectations or requirements to attend.

From time to time, other various fundraising efforts may require the assistance of TABC families. Parents are urged to be alert to fundraising ideas and to bring them to the officers of the Parent Association for consideration.

Donations

TABC is fortunate to have a large number of generous patrons and to have been the beneficiary of several bequests. Donations are sought throughout the year through patron mailings, telephone solicitations, grant proposals, and personal contacts.

REHEARSALS, POLICIES, AND EVENTS

Rehearsal Schedule:

Cadet Chorus: Tuesday afternoons 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Training Chorus: Wednesday afternoons 4:15-6:00 p.m.

TowneSingers: Monday and Wednesday afternoons 4:15-5:45 p.m.

Touring Chorus: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons 4:15- 5:45 p.m. Numerous other special rehearsals as needed.

Alternates: During the fall season, Alternates practice with both the Touring and TowneSingers, resulting in four rehearsals per week.

Young Men's Ensemble: Thursday evenings 6-8 p.m.

Neighborhood Choirs: These Choirs are usually held in local schools on Thursday afternoons. Due the current school closures in fall of 2020, the rehearsal start date of Vail Voices and Northwest Voices is delayed until further notice.

Prior to the Holiday and Spring concerts, special rehearsals are required for all choristers. **Blocking Rehearsal** is usually held the Wednesday prior to the major concerts. A full concert rehearsal is usually held Friday prior to the concerts. On the morning of the concerts, a rehearsal is held at the concert venue. Attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory.

Throughout the year, each family will be notified of Chorus events, rehearsal changes, meetings, concerts, etc., using notices to the boys. Your son should be made aware of the importance of your attention to these announcements.

Excused Absences

Parents are encouraged to contact their son's school prior to any necessary absence for rehearsal or performance. Traditionally, choristers are granted excused absences for all days missed due to rehearsals, performances and tours.

Drop Off & Pick Up for Rehearsals

Please enter the TABC parking lot from Pima Street and continue behind the building (see Chorus map in back of handbook). Choristers should enter rehearsals through the REAR doors. If you wish to park in front, go around the building and circle to the front. Please do not tie up traffic on Pima by turning left immediately after entering the lot. When you exit, please EXIT out the east drive onto McKinley Street. Proceed through the lot with great caution. Choristers are expected to be picked up within ten minutes after rehearsal.

Behavior in the Building

The Chorus building is part of the investment in this program. Please encourage your sons to treat it with respect, as they would their own home. We especially ask that you remind your sons of proper bathroom behavior. Choristers do not need to be in the front lobby of the building other than to go from the rehearsal rooms to use the bathrooms. It is important that we keep the lobby quiet so that rehearsals are not disturbed and business can be properly conducted. Parents, siblings and friends are welcome to wait in the TABC lobby during rehearsals, but they should avoid noisy activities that might disrupt rehearsals.

Discipline Policy

TABC offers an extraordinary opportunity for young men to acquire gentlemanly behavioral skills in a positive and structured environment. The Chorus has certain standards of conduct for its members and educates the boys in the development of making appropriate behavior decisions.

In addition to overall expectations of suitable conduct, specific guidelines include:

- Each chorister is expected to show respect for others and for all personal property.
- Provocative physical or verbal exchanges are unacceptable.
- Inappropriate language is forbidden at all times.
- Property damage is the financial responsibility of the chorister.
- Gum and sunflower seeds are prohibited from Chorus activities.

Disciplinary Action

Choristers who display minor inappropriate behavior will be re-directed by the Director, or another designated adult, at the time of the infraction.

Consistent misbehavior or any major distraction during rehearsal will result in the chorister being excused. The chorister will make a phone call to his parent requesting immediate pickup. He will then wait quietly in the lobby until he is picked up, and explain to his parents why he was excused. Before being readmitted to Chorus activities, a parent must call the Director who excused their son to discuss the boy's conduct.

Major and/or consistent self-discipline problems will result in a behavioral contract. This document is the outcome of a parent/chorister/Director conference and is signed by all parties. It is a mutual understanding that the chorister is now on his final opportunity and can only continue as an outstanding chorister in every way. Any future inappropriate behavior, regardless of severity, will result in the immediate termination of his association with the Chorus.

Grievance Procedure

The Board of Directors has a Grievance Committee comprised of the Vice President and two Board Members who are not parents of current choristers. This three-member committee serves as an objective panel to review academic and discipline issues resulting in the termination of a boy's association with the Chorus.

If a parent believes that their son's termination from Chorus is unwarranted, they may request a review hearing through the Director. The Director will then convene the committee at a mutually convenient time. Both parent and chorister present their case to the committee in either written form or in person. The committee will carefully review all pertinent information and render a final decision.

Wardrobe

Cadet Chorus – Boys will need a blue Chorus polo shirt, black dress pants, a black belt, black shoes, and black socks. Boys may also purchase a rope for roping.

Training Chorus - Boys will need a blue Chorus polo shirt, black dress pants, a black belt, black shoes, and black socks. These will be needed for all appearances, the first generally being Fall Festival. Boys also need to purchase a rope for roping rehearsals.

TowneSingers - Boys need the same wardrobe as Training Chorus. However, due to earlier performances, they may need these items prior to Fall Festival.

Alternates & Touring Chorus - Boys need the same wardrobe as Training Chorus. Additionally, boys need two red TABC polo shirts and one red TABC sweatshirt. For tour, they also need an official TABC backpack. Other costumes are provided by the Chorus.

TAYME – Young men need black dress pants, black long-sleeved dress shirt, black belt, black shoes, and black socks. TABC will provide a maroon tie for performances.

Neighborhood Choirs—Boys will need a blue Chorus polo shirt, black dress pants, a black belt, black shoes, and black socks.

Chaperone Guidelines

The Boys Chorus has earned a special reputation as a professional youth organization that is highly sought after in a variety of performance settings. This is due in large part to the adherence of boys and families to professional, flexible, positive, and safe conduct in all situations. In order to facilitate these very important interactions in a way that is positive for our choristers and represents TABC in the most professional light, TABC has guidelines in place for our parent

chaperones. Guidelines will be distributed to parents prior to all events. Thank you for helping TABC continue to be considered a professional level performance ensemble and a safe place for our choristers.

Social Media Guidelines

Social Media is a significant part of today's culture and can play an important role in promoting TABC. Please ensure that all postings regarding TABC support the mission of the Chorus and represent its programs and principles in the most positive light.

OTHER EVENTS

Fall Festival

This is an all-Chorus event to showcase each choir for family and friends and to award Bonanza Book prizes. There are several prizes available to the boys, including top-seller and over-quota awards.

Spring/Summer Tour

Each year, members of the Touring Chorus travel on a tour that will range from two to four weeks in length. Domestic and international tours tend to alternate every other year. Domestic tours are most commonly in the spring, while international tours tend to fall during the summer months. Tours involve an additional tour assessment that families are responsible for paying. International tours have different requirements than domestic tours due to the increased expense and distance. The boys are accompanied by several adults and travel by chartered bus and/or plane. Tour highlights include: performing numerous formal and informal concerts, sightseeing, and meeting and staying with people in a cultural exchange.

Choristers are expected to keep up with their school studies while on domestic tours by taking schoolwork with them. Information packets are prepared by the Chorus for boys and their parents to distribute to teachers. International tours require schoolwork to be done prior to or after completion of the tour. In any situation, it is important that each chorister maintain his academic performance.

Summer Music Camp

Camp is an exciting opportunity for choristers to gain musical knowledge, develop new friendships and have a fun camp experience. Participation is optional for Training and TowneSingers but mandatory for Alternates and Touring choristers.

Camp tuition is separate from regular tuition. Costs vary according to duration and facility. Camp scholarship applications are available in the Chorus Office.

When at camp, no food items of any kind are permitted in the tents. A Snack Bar opens every

evening after dinner: Snacks will be purchased and eaten in the Dining Hall only. There is a no-cash policy at camp: Choristers use prepaid snack cards to purchase items. Roping practice is one of the many activities at camp. Each boy must have his own rope.

TABC Photos

Photographs are an important way that we continue to document TABC history. During the fall semester, individual and group photos of the Touring Choristers are taken, as well as group photographs for TowneSingers and Training Chorus. These are printed in the TABC Concert Program and are available for purchase.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Bonanza Book

Members coordinate with the office to solicit businesses for coupon book, assists in the formatting of the actual book and prepares for distribution to choristers to sell. (January – April)

Event Logistics

Members of the committee may be asked to assist in the following areas – tree lot setup, organization and teardown of tree lot and unloading of trees. (*This is NOT the tree lot shift work required for each family.*) Moving of risers to a performance site. Set up special events such as the Holiday Fair, Musicale, Camp, Wagon for Rodeo Parade, and other on-site events.

(Events occur at different times through-out the year. Efforts are made to evenly distribute needed tasks through all members of the committee.)

Wardrobe

Members help with fittings/adjustments for boys during specific rehearsals. Includes laundering, mending, and transportation of wardrobe. Committee members also help backstage and with concessions during major concerts.

GENERAL CALENDAR

- June or July** Touring Chorus Annual Tour (if international)
Day Camp
Summer Music Camp
MIP Summer Chorus Activities
- August** Tuition Deposit payment due on the 15th
Annual Graduation Ceremony
Touring Chorus rehearsals begin
School Visits
- September** Cadet, Training, TowneSingers, Neighborhood
Choir rehearsals begin
Fall School visits and Bring a Buddy Day
Neighborhood Choir Fun Day
Open House Wednesdays for New Choristers
- October** Fall Festival & Bonanza Book awards
TAYME rehearsals begin
- November** Musicale Regale Fundraiser
Christmas Tree Lot opens
- December** Christmas Tree Lot continues through late Dec.
Holiday Concert (entire Chorus)
Numerous performances by Touring
Bonanza Book Payment Final Deadline
- January** Regular rehearsals resume
Touring Chorus Winter Retreat
Winter School Visits and Bring a Buddy Day
- February** Classic Concert (Touring Chorus and Young Men's Ensemble)
Tucson Rodeo Parade (TowneSingers)
- March** Touring Chorus Annual Tour (if domestic)
- April** TABC Fun Day

May Pops Concert (entire Chorus)
Bonanza Book sales begin

CHORUS MAP

In the interest of safety, please follow the drop off and pick up routes indicated below.

