

Island Flora Girls' Choir

We are starting on September 11th – Join Us!



WHO?

- Island Flora Girls' Choir is a brand new ensemble for girls ages 11 – 17 (Grades 7 – 11, with some exceptions of course!)
- Its director is international award-winning Fiona Blackburn, whose previous choir – British Columbia Girls Choir – took top honours at the most prestigious choral competition in Wales! And, she is known to be a great teacher, knowledgeable and lots of fun!
- Stefanie Unger is the choir's awesome pianist.
- Island Flora Girls' Choir is supported under the auspices of Island Bel Canto Singers – the premiere women's choir in the Central Island.

WHAT?

- Island Flora Girls' Choir is an ensemble dedicated to providing:
 - girls and young women a place to share their hopes, dreams and voices with each other and the wider community,
 - excellent vocal instruction with an experienced music educator,
 - interesting and up-lifting repertoire that is age-appropriate and fun! For example: music from musicals; folksongs from different lands; pieces written to beautiful poetry; even some classical pieces!
 - concert experiences for large, friendly audiences,
 - camaraderie with like-minded girls who love to sing.

WHEN?

- **REHEARSALS:** are on Mondays, starting on Sept 11th from 4:45 – 6:15
 - You may come and try a Monday rehearsal before you decide to join.
 - You are also welcome to our **'Bring a Friend' Day: fun, games, songs, lunch, mini-concert!**
 - Saturday, September 16th 10:00 – 1:30 @ Christ Community Church. Mini presentation for parents at the end of the day!
 - No fee for this event.
- **CONCERTS:** are already planned! Island Flora will sing at Island Bel Canto's concerts for its first season:
 - **Northern Lights: luminous music for treble voices, piano & organ**
 - December 1st @ St. Andrew's United Church, Nanaimo – 7:30
 - December 2nd @ Knox United Church, Parksville – 2:00
 - **Community Carolfest:**
 - December 6th @ St. Andrew's United Church, Nanaimo – 7:00
 - **One Voice: this is the sound of all of us!**
 - March 9th @ Knox United Church, Parksville. Two women's & two girls' choirs join as one voice to celebrate International Women's Day. A daylong workshop and public concert.
 - You will meet the singers of the British Columbia Girls Choir, who are excited to come over from Metro Vancouver for the weekend!
 - **Kindred Spirits: the music of Canadian composers, poets & singers**
 - May 4th @ Christ Community Church, Nanaimo – 7:30

WHERE?

- Our rehearsal space is at Christ Community Church @ the corner of Northfield & Bowen Roads in Nanaimo.
- This year, we will perform in Nanaimo and Parksville.
- We will see where our following season takes us – a mini tour? a festival? More collaboration with the British Columbia Girls Choir?

WHY?

- Because girls just love to sing and choir is the place to share our hopes, dreams and voices!

FAQS

Does my singer need previous vocal training in order to join?

No, she does not need any previous, formal vocal training to belong to our choir. We will provide your singer with all the information and training she needs to become a confident singer.

Does my singer need to audition for your choir?

Yes, although we call it a ‘vocal assessment’. We will make sure that your singer’s voice is healthy and has the potential to grow. Auditions take about 10 minutes. Parents may watch the audition, if this will help the singer feel more comfortable. The main attribute we are looking for is the ability to match pitch. We will set up the audition schedule for early September – stay tuned.

How do we enroll?

Depending on the time of year, we can arrange for your daughter to observe or participate in a free trial rehearsal. She can get a real feel for what weekly rehearsals are like; then you can determine if our choir is a good fit for your family. The best times to join are in September at the start of our fall term, or in January at the start of our winter/spring term. The ‘Bring a Friend’ event on Sat., Sept. 16th is a great opportunity to try the choir experience.

My singer is quite shy.

The nurturing atmosphere of our rehearsals will support shy girls, as they are encouraged to fulfill their potential. Singing in a group is the perfect way for girls who want to perform, but are not ready to step forward in a more soloistic role.

My daughter wants to sing solos. Will she have this opportunity?

While choir is a team activity in which each singer learns the important skills of cooperation, group accountability and leadership, there are opportunities for girls to sing in small ensembles and perform solos.

What costs are involved?

We are keeping our program fees as reasonable as possible in order to cover:

- Purchase of music and music folder (we loan these to your singers).
- Rehearsal venue and concert hall rental.
- Artistic fees for the director and pianist.

What do you get for the program fee?

- 42 hours of vocal and musical instruction with a renowned singer and educator (that's less than \$10/hour!) and supported by a talented pianist.
- at least five performance opportunities to sing amazing repertoire – music from around the world to famous choral pieces to cool arrangements of pop and musical theatre songs.
- fun rehearsals with lots of laughter and making new friends.

Other costs to be aware of:

- Concert tickets, performance gown, possible costs of travel if we do a mini-tour in future years (ex: to visit BC Girls Choir in Metro Vancouver).

Payment options for program fees:

- one full payment of \$400 for the whole season (Sept – May)
- two equal payments of \$200 in September and January
- for those requiring financial aid for our program fees, we can discuss a bursary program.

Parent Volunteers are always needed!

- We require one non-staff adult to be on hand as a rehearsal chaperone for every rehearsal. It is a good security practice to have a dedicated adult present, in the event of any unexpected issue.
- A schedule will be drawn up for parents to choose their chaperone dates.

Island Flora Girls' Choir is excited to launch its own webpage this summer.

<https://islandbelcanto.ca/new-girls-choir/>

or call Fiona at 604-329-4845