



BRANDON CONSERVATORY CHORALE

## Brandon Conservatory Chorale Handbook

2023-2024

### WELCOME FROM THE BCC BOARD

Welcome to the Brandon Conservatory Chorale! We hope that all choristers will enjoy the benefit of the fine musical instruction that has been a tradition since the inception of the Chorale in 1981. We also hope that this will be the beginning of a lifetime of participation in, and enjoyment of, choral music. We trust that you will find your experience with the Brandon Conservatory Chorale to be positive and rewarding. We need help from all adults if we are to provide the extras that make the Chorale special. We look forward to working with you.

### BACKGROUND

Dr. Elizabeth Grant began the Brandon Conservatory Chorale in 1981 for a project for her Master of Music degree. The original Chorale was composed of fourteen youngsters. Over the years, it has grown to over 100 choristers, and it has been subdivided into four choirs, while the overall Chorale has been maintained. The choirs are:

<b>Apprentice Choir</b>	Grades K – 3
<b>Concert Choir</b>	Grades 4 & up
<b>Chamber Choir</b>	Advanced singers to age 19 yrs.
<b>Bel Canto</b>	Community Choir for adults

Currently, Marla Fontaine directs the three BCC Youth Choirs and Deanna Ginn directs the Bel Canto Community Choir.

### ECKHARDT-GRAMATTÉ CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

The Brandon Conservatory Chorale is a program of the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music at Brandon University, which has been offering high-quality community music instruction for over 100 years. For regular inquiries about your account, please contact the Music Office at 204-727-9631. Conservatory Director Dianna Neufeld can be reached at 204-727-7366. Her office is room 0-10 in the Queen Elizabeth II Music Building on Brandon University campus.

As Conservatory students, BCC members are welcome to access BU library resources and attend School of Music Pro Series concerts free of charge. BCC students are encouraged to participate in other Conservatory programs including private lessons: contact the Conservatory Director for more information.

Conservatory Scholarships and Special Awards are available on an annual basis, based on student achievement and financial need. Applications are typically due May 1, and can be found on the Conservatory website: [www.brandonu.ca/e-gre/](http://www.brandonu.ca/e-gre/)

## IMPORTANT DATES

Please consult the BCC web-site [www.brandonu.ca/bcc](http://www.brandonu.ca/bcc) for performances and other events.

## REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are held in the R.D. Bell Hall (room 1-57) in the Queen Elizabeth II Music Building at Brandon University.

	<u>Rehearsal Day &amp; Time (2022-2023)</u>	
<b>Apprentice Choir</b>	Tuesday	4:45-5:45 PM
<b>Concert Choir</b>	Tuesday	5:25-6:55 PM
<b>Chamber Choir</b>	Tuesday	6:35-8:20 PM
<b>Bel Canto</b>	Wednesday	7:30-8:45 PM

When Choir practices fall on a recognized holiday, notification will be sent if there will be a practice on the day. Practices are *not* usually held during the Christmas school break *nor* the school spring break. Special rehearsals of the entire Chorale will be called before concerts and performances. You will be notified of these extra sessions in an email and on the website.

## ABSENCES

A commitment to attend all rehearsals and concerts is necessary for the success of the chorister and the choir as a whole. It is imperative that your conductor be notified in advance of any absences due to illness, inclement weather, etc. Please also share any conflicts with as much notice as possible. Absences can be reported to Marla Fontaine at 204-570-1928 or [marlafontaine@hotmail.com](mailto:marlafontaine@hotmail.com).

## SHEET MUSIC & SUPPLIES

Each chorister needs a sturdy black one-inch (1") three-ring **binder**, marked clearly on the inside with their name, in which to keep the music that is issued by the Chorale. As well, the chorister needs to bring a **pencil with eraser and a water bottle** to each practice.

Choristers should have a **suitable carrying bag** to assist in keeping their music in one place and in good condition. The BCC has a limited supply of new and used “**Brandon Conservatory Chorale Music Bags**,” and they can be purchased from the Uniform Committee. **The chorister’s name on their bag is essential.** Singers are expected to keep their music in good condition. ***Chorister families are required to pay for lost or damaged music. This can be over \$100.00 if the binder is lost.***

## UNIFORMS

Please ensure that the choristers have the complete uniform for any performances or concerts. The uniforms for BCC choirs are as follows:

### **Apprentice and Concert Choir Uniform for all Performances**

- ***BCC Choir T-shirt*** (black with purple logo)
- Black dress pants/skirt (knee-length or longer) – no jeans/seats/yoga pants
- Black socks/tights
- Black dress shoes (no heels)

### **Chamber Choir Performance Uniform – new this year**

- Black dress shirt with long or  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length sleeves or a modest black pantsuit or dress (knee-length or longer)
- Black dress pants/skirt (knee-length or longer)
- Black socks/tights
- Black dress shoes (flat; no heels; no runners)
- ***Informal performances (schools, malls, sporting events, etc.): BCC T-shirt and black bottoms, as described above for Apprentice and Concert Choirs***

### **Bel Canto**

- Black long-sleeved dress shirt with black dress pants/skirt or black long-sleeved dress
- Black shoes
- scarf/tie [borrowed from BCC]

The ***BCC choir T-shirt*** is purchased from the Uniform Committee. The chorister’s family is to provide the other parts of their choir uniform (pants, socks, shoes). Hand-me-downs and thrift stores are a wonderful resource! For families in financial need, support is available.

## THE ROLE OF PARENTS/ADULTS

Being a member of the Brandon Conservatory Chorale requires a high degree of commitment, dedication, and discipline both from the chorister and from the family. Chorale family members are encouraged to assist the choir by serving as a volunteer or on a committee.