



**Wesley-Knox United Church**

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**Wesley-Knox Community Choirs**

**Wesley-Knox  
Children's  
and Youth  
Community  
Choirs**

**Handbook**

**Primary Choir  
Junior Boys' Choir  
Junior Girls' Choir  
Mysterium**

**Karen Schuessler  
Mallory Brennan  
directors**



2017

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## A Note to Choir Parents...

There is no requirement that a chorister or choir parent be a member of Wesley-Knox United Church. We do ask choir parents to help the church underwrite the cost of this program by choosing one of three suggested levels of support: **\$90, \$70 or \$50 per child per year**. Please note that no child will be refused participation in the program because of inability to make a donation. Also note that donations are tax-deductible. Tax receipts will be provided upon request.

## Information on the Web

A special **Music Calendar** showing rehearsal and performance dates, times and locations for all choirs may be found on the Wesley-Knox website.

**[www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com)**

We try to keep this calendar up-to-date. To view, open the Home page and scroll down. **Link to the calendar is at the bottom of the right sidebar.**

### White

- Achieved by everyone in second year of choir

### Blue

- Sings melody and words in tune
- Watches conductor carefully when singing

### Red

- Can follow printed music with finger
- Can sing descants confidently without confusion

### Green

- Takes low singer's breaths
- Can sing alto parts confidently without confusion

### Gold

- Shows responsibility and leadership in the choir
- Can sight sing parts in four-part music

## Contact Information

### Wesley-Knox United Church

Website: [www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com)

Church Office: 519.673.4803, [wesleyknox@bellnet.ca](mailto:wesleyknox@bellnet.ca)

### Choir Attendance Line

519.673.4803, ext 203, [jrchoir@gmail.com](mailto:jrchoir@gmail.com)

### Choir Administrator

Mary Bee Haworth: 226.237.4337, [beehivemusic@sympatico.ca](mailto:beehivemusic@sympatico.ca)

Note: text preferred

### Director of Primary Choir

Mallory Brennan: 226.234.1767, [mbrenn7@uwo.ca](mailto:mbrenn7@uwo.ca)

### Director of Junior Choirs and Mysterium

#### Wesley-Knox Director of Music

Karen Schuessler: 519.673.4803, ext 202, [kasch500@rogers.com](mailto:kasch500@rogers.com)

home: 519.473.1668

# The Four Choirs

**Directed by Mallory Brennan**

## Primary Choir

- for children in Grades 1–3
- rehearses every Thursday 5–6 pm
- performs in church six or seven times each year
- performance attire: white t-shirt, black pants, choir robe (supplied)

**Directed by Karen Schuessler**

## Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' choirs

- for boys and girls in Grades 4–8
- rehearse every Thursday, Boys 4:45–5:30 pm, Girls 5:15–6 pm
- perform five to eight times each year
- performance attire **when wearing choir robes** (supplied): white t-shirt (lettering is OK), black pants, black socks, black shoes; **when wearing teal choir t-shirts** (supplied): white t-shirt (short sleeve only, lettering is OK), black socks, black shoes

## Mysterium

- for enthusiastic, music-loving teens in Grades 9–12 and beyond
- rehearses every Thursday 6–7 pm
- performs five to eight times each year, various venues

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## Junior Choirs Levels of Achievement

In performance, members of the **Junior Boys and Girls' choirs and Mysterium** wear a medallion on a ribbon over their gowns or T-shirts. Colour of the ribbon indicates years of experience and level of achievement and is awarded at the discretion of the conductor. **Ribbon colour does not indicate a member's value to the choir.** Achieving a blue ribbon indicates that a child has enough ability to enjoy choral singing for the rest of his or her life.

**There are Five Levels of Achievement:**

# Welcome and Introduction

Thank you for choosing to be part of our Wesley-Knox Children's and Youth Community Choir program, a unique and vibrant musical experience in the heart of Old South London. Your child or young person's participation in this program will add much to the life of our church and help deepen our Sunday worship experiences. We do look forward to having you with us for this choral season!

We hope that this handbook will help you understand our program and also help provide a smooth start to the year. Please read it carefully and do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions.

## The Choir Program and its Philosophy

The **Primary Choir** offers a lively, interactive music program that teaches the basic elements of music through movement, vocal play, singing games, simple rhythm instruments and excellent choral repertoire.

The **Junior** and **Mysterium** choirs further develop vocal techniques and the ability to read music and sing in parts. We feel these vocal experiences can lay the foundation for future music learning and a lifelong love of music. Further, singing several Sundays each year allows choristers to become an integral part of a worship service and to develop confidence and performance skills.

### Why do we do this? Why do we teach music at all?

Not because we expect you to major in music  
Not because we expect you to sing or play all of your life  
Not so you can relax  
Not so you can have fun  
But, so you will be more fully human  
So you will experience beauty  
So you will be sensitive  
So you will be closer to the infinite beyond this world  
So you will have something to cling to  
So you will have more love, compassion, gentleness and goodness  
In short, so you will have more life  
For of what value will it be to make a prosperous living  
unless you know how to live? —Anonymous

## Chorister Expectations

1. Consistent attendance: Attendance at all rehearsals, Singing Sundays and other performances is important. **Parents, please let us know if your child is unable to attend a rehearsal or performance.** E-mail [jrchoir@gmail.com](mailto:jrchoir@gmail.com), call 519.673.4803, ext 203, or text Mary Bee at 226.237.4337.
2. Leave cellphones, electronic gadgets and toys at home.
3. Hands off other people.
4. The sanctuary and its balcony are always off-limits unless the chorister(s) is/are accompanied by a director.
5. Remember to pick up after yourself.
6. Include everyone in what you are doing and have fun!

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## Parent Participation and Support

Rehearsals can be intense and much is accomplished in a very short time. To keep the choral experience positive and running smoothly, Mallory and Karen need support from all parents.

- Parents are asked to check their e-mail for messages from Karen, Mallory and Mary Bee. A choir newsletter will keep e-mails to a minimum.
  - Parents are expected to sign up and serve on one of these committees:
1. **Robes:** Assist with robing children and putting away robes and ribbons, basic robe upkeep
  2. **Worship Support:** Assist with lining up, demeanor, handing out and gathering up hymns and bulletin sheets, spotting signs of illness, etc.
  3. **Social:** Plan activities, organizing and setting up food, cleaning up afterwards
  4. **Chocolate Sales:** Sell Rheo Thompson chocolates during choir time on Thursdays as an ongoing fundraiser
  5. **Ticket Sales:** Coordinate and/or sell tickets for basketball or hockey games at which your child's choir sings O Canada

## Facebook

Our Facebook page is **Wesley-Knox Choirs**. This page is primarily used to share photos of our choirs and news about upcoming events in our choir program. This Facebook page is public which means that anyone can view it, even if they otherwise do not use Facebook! The link for this page is:

[www.facebook.com/WKChoirs](http://www.facebook.com/WKChoirs)

This page can be easily accessed from the Wesley-Knox website Home page. Go to [www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com) and click on the link in the left sidebar.

## Photographs and Videos Policy

As part of Wesley-Knox's Community Choir Program, photographs and videos may be taken for use on the church website, the church's Facebook pages and in church publications and presentations. Some parents and guardians may have concerns about these photos and videos. Please note that we have several policies in place. We never include any personal information (last names, ages, etc) or "tag" individuals in photos and videos. We also try to avoid posting individual shots of choristers, and instead, post group shots of choristers together. **You will have an opportunity to give or withhold permission for your child to be included in these photographs and videos** when you complete the required registration form. Also, please note that, while most parents and guardians do not object to their child being in photographs and videos, some do. **Please respect their wishes** by not posting your personal choir photographs and videos on your personal Facebook and other social media sites.

## A Note about Wesley-Knox...

Wesley-Knox is an open, diverse and inclusive faith community. We try hard to be a welcoming, caring church. About one half of our members come from Old South London, the rest from all over London and beyond. **We are not a church that has all the answers.** Some of us are settled in our faith, others are seekers. But, wherever we are on our faith journeys, we try to be respectful of one another as we come together to proclaim and celebrate the love of God through worship and through service.

To learn more about Wesley-Knox, please see our **Welcome to Wesley-Knox**, brochure or visit us on the web at [www.wesleyknox.com](http://www.wesleyknox.com).