



MOUNT ROYAL'S ARTIO CHOIR HANDBOOK 2021-2022

Your reference for participating in Mount Royal's Artio Choir

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY CONSERVATORY

4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
Calgary, AB T3E 6K6
Phone: 403.440.6111

[MOUNT ROYAL CONSERVATORY PROGRAM REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Artistic Director of Mount Royal Choral Programs &
Artio Director: Jean- Louis Bleau
Email: jbleau@mtroyal.ca

Arietta & Arioso Director: Elizabeth Paynter
Email: epaynter@mtroyal.ca

MOUNT ROYAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION OF CALGARY

Website: mountroyalchoirs.com
General Manager: Claudia Istvanffy
Email: choirs@mtroyal.ca

WHAT IS THE MOUNT ROYAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION OF CALGARY (MRCA) AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

MRCA is the member/parent support organization of the Mount Royal Choirs: Ariel, Arietta, Arioso & Artio, and fulfills the vital role of funding the enrichment component of the Mount Royal Conservatory's choral program. The Conservatory provides the core component through choir tuition which includes weekly rehearsals and one concert per year. It is MRCA that provides for additional performances, workshops, camps, uniforms, music binders and bags, transportation when required, scholarships, bursaries, and significant contribution to expenses of touring. Artio chorister/ children's choir parent support of MRCA and its activities is essential to the success of the program and directly benefits each and every chorister. Support MRCA through volunteering and fundraising.

Mount Royal Choral Association is a charitable non-profit society

Mount Royal Choral Association of Calgary
Registered Charity No. 89002 3062 RR0001

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THE MOUNT ROYAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION IS SUPPORTED BY



THE MOUNT ROYAL CHOIRS ARE:

ARIETTA, ARIOSO

Choir Directors: Elizabeth Paynter (Arietta & Arioso)

Grade 1 – Grade 9

Mount Royal Conservatory's Children's Choirs instill a lifelong love for music, while building strong musical and vocal foundations for future musical study. The children's groups learn age appropriate music and perform on Calgary's finest stages throughout the year.

REHEARSAL: Wednesday Evenings
Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts

ARTIO

Choir Director: Jean- Louis Bleau

Email: jbleau@mtroyal.ca

Ages 15+

Artio specializes in choral music that is distinct, demanding, diverse and innovative. They explore a variety of genres from early music through to innovative creations being crafted by today's composers. Artio re-imagines and re-invents music of the past and embraces the avant-garde music of tomorrow as they continually seek to push the boundaries of choral music and performance.

Mount Royal Artio presents a final choral music performance each year that fuses music with innovative ideas and other art forms — “choral theatre” performances that highlight the season and gives audiences exciting new performance presentations that draw upon the talent and imagination of Artio members.

REHEARSAL: To be determined
Nickel Theatre, Mount Royal University Main Campus, West Entrance

REGISTRATION

Students must be registered in order to participate in the choir program.

There are three steps to registration with the choir program:

- 1. Register and pay tuition through the Mount Royal University Conservatory**
- 2. Complete MRCA registration forms and submit music deposit to Mount Royal Choral Association**
- 3. Attend the Parent Orientation Meeting in January 2022. Exact date and time to be determined.**

Step 1: Register and pay tuition through the Mount Royal University Conservatory

Registration fees are paid through the **Mount Royal University Conservatory**. The registration fee includes the Conservatory Instruction Fee which covers the “core” components of the program, the MRU Instructional Equipment Fee, and the Mount Royal Choral Association Society Fee.

Fees can be paid on an instalment Payment Plan.

For further information regarding registration, or to register by phone, please contact the

Conservatory office at 403.440.6821.

[Mount Royal Conservatory online registration](#)

Step 2: Complete MRCA registration forms and submit music deposit cheques to Mount Royal Choral Association

Forms can be accessed online from the [Mount Royal Choirs Resources Webpage](#), or paper forms can be picked up at rehearsal sign in desk. Completed forms and post-dated cheques can be handed in at rehearsal sign in tables.

Required Registration Forms include:

- MRCA Chorister Registration Form
- Mount Royal Conservatory Release Form

Post Dated Deposit Cheques include:

- \$50.00 Artio Deposit towards Music

Please make cheques payable to the Mount Royal Choral Association, post dated to **June 30, 2022**. The cheque will be returned or destroyed (your choice) on or after June 1, 2020 upon return of uniform and all music binder and bag in good condition, and completion of volunteer requirements.

Step 3: Attend the MRCA Annual General Meeting

Date: January 2022

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES - MRCA HARMONY FUND

One of the principal goals of MRCA is to ensure that all children and youth are able to participate in the choral programs at the Mount Royal University Conservatory. In keeping with this objective, families (or individuals) experiencing financial constraints, may request assistance through the MRCA Harmony Fund. The **MRCA Scholarship and Bursary Application Form** is available online through the [Mount Royal Choirs Resources Webpage](#). **Deadline for the Scholarships and Bursaries Application submission is still to be determined for the 2021-2022 season.**

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance in all choir activities is essential (rehearsals, performances, workshops, etc.). Each chorister becomes a valued member of his/her ensemble through his/her attendance. Regular attendance ensures good tone, balance, and blend, as well as a unified level of musicianship and positive morale within each choir. All events are integral to building good group dynamics in the choirs, as well as the musical skills of each student. And “teamwork” is what choirs and later life activities are all about!

Mount Royal Artio’s Calendar is provided to you in September. Please mark event and deadline dates on your calendar and schedule around them—you expected to attend all events listed.

Despite the essential nature of every chorister’s attendance, we realize there are times when an absence is unavoidable. An excused absence can include the following:

School function (e.g. school concert, exam),
Health,
Family Emergency / Crisis.

Choristers are expected to let the Choir Director know of any anticipated absences as soon as possible.

SIGN IN

Choristers are asked to sign in at the beginning of rehearsal and at all performances.

PUNCTUALITY

Aim to arrive 10 – 15 minutes before the rehearsal start time.

PARKING

If interested, Evening Permit Parking Passes can be purchased. They are valid Monday to Friday after 4pm or later and all-day Saturday. Parking passes can be purchased at the Conservatory reception desk. People with these parking passes can only park in Permit Parking Lots. Please visit this website if you would like to know where the Permit Lots are located. [Campus Parking Map](#)

MUSIC

Artio singers will be issued sheet music. It is the chorister's responsibility to care for the music while in their possession. Please keep the music in a binder or folder and bring to each rehearsal.

Music deposit cheques will be forfeited if music is damaged or not returned at the end of the season.

ARTIO PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS

A performance uniform is required for Artio members and is to be purchased by the member. A separate uniform is often planned for the year end performance. Appearance should be professional and subdued, and not draw attention to an individual member.

Uniforms are to be business casual or formal (like formal wedding attire), with a blue, black, grey, and white colour palette. Solid colours are preferred, please avoid wearing prints.

Tops:

- Dress shirt or blouse, optional cardigan or blazer
- Tops should be modest and sleeves must go past the elbow

Bottoms:

- Dress pants or knee length (or longer) skirt
- Dark socks or opaque tights
- No skin should be visible, especially at the ankles or through open-toed shoes

Shoes:

- Dress shoes or flats
- Shoes should be comfortable for standing in place for the duration of the performance

Grooming:

- Members should be well groomed and presentable (hair should not obscure the face)
- Members may not wear strongly scented products (perfume, cologne, etc) to any Artio function
- Makeup, jewelry, and flair should be appropriate for the performance

We are delighted that Fishman's is our official uniform sponsor for the Mount Royal Children's Choirs 2019-20. Please consider supporting Fishman's for your families drycleaning needs.

Check out fishmans.ca to locate a convenient location.

COMMUNICATION

In order to keep you informed about choir activities, emails are distributed throughout the season.

Please be sure to read the emails prior to each rehearsal or performance so that you prepared and necessary deadlines are met.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

MRCA is the chorister/parent support organization of the Mount Royal Choirs and relies upon volunteers. Artio chorister/ parent involvement is an integral part of the choral program. There are a numerous volunteer positions available throughout the year.

Volunteer roles include:

MRCA Board members

Artio Board members

Social Media volunteer

Rehearsal sign in volunteer

Music volunteers

Casino volunteers

Fundraising volunteers

Year-end party volunteers

Tour and camp chaperones – parent volunteer required

Miscellaneous positions for duties that arise in the season

There will be an AGLC casino scheduled for the 2021-2022 season.

FUNDRAISING

MRCA oversees all activities of the choirs and provides the needed funding for important enrichment activities (concerts & performances, camps, tours, workshops, uniforms, scholarships, etc.) beyond what the general tuition fee covers. MRCA is a registered charitable organization.

Fundraising is a necessary part of any non-profit organization. All choir families are expected to participate in fundraising activities. MRCA currently considering these fundraisers for the 2021-2022 season.

- 1) Purdy's Chocolate (fall)
- 2) Grocery Raffle (spring)

A 'guilt-free' opt out of fundraising option is available for one single payment of \$150.00

If this is a preferable option for your family, payment can be made through the MRCA General Manager.

ARTIO may plan and organize additional fundraisers.

CASINO

Applications for casino fundraising events are submitted to AGLC. Casino's are assigned every 18 - 22 months. With the closure of casinos due to the Covid pandemic restrictions, schedule for upcoming casino dates is yet to be determined. We anticipate our next casino will take place in the 2021-2022 season.

DONATIONS

As a registered charitable organization, Mount Royal Choral Association of Calgary gratefully accepts donations. Tax deductible receipts are provided.

Many companies have a policy of supporting local organizations, and will match donated funds; thus every \$1 donated becomes \$2 in the hands of your child's choir organization. Please inquire at your place of employment and apply for these funds if it is appropriate for you to do so.

If you have an idea for additional fundraising, we would love to hear from you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The MRCA Board of Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting in October. We encourage parents who are interested in any of the positions below or know somebody who might be, or can volunteer in any other way to stand for election. Your support and involvement are essential to the success of the choral program!

The MRCA Board comprises the following:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Gaming Coordinator
- Fund Development
- Members at Large

The MRCA Board meets once per month and each meeting lasts approximately two hours.

A description of each of these positions are included in the Volunteer Handbook.