

Fall 2019

**Join the new era of the Follen Youth Choir! Get registered or try it out first!**

I'm really looking forward to seeing and singing with lots of Follen's young people in the coming year, in a new and beautiful music space!

Below you'll find the practical nuts and bolts for choirs – the main thing to know is that we're going to be exploring many different types of music and activities, celebrating many musical cultures, doing treasured familiar songs, and experiencing the full joy of singing together. We want you to be part of it!

Of special note is an incredible opportunity to work with Vocal Activist extraordinaire Melanie DeMore, alongside singing colleagues from Roxbury's Hamilton-Garrett Music & Arts Academy and Charles Street AME Church, Dorchester's Boston Arts Academy, and the First Parish Concord Youth and Gospel Choirs. This residency and collaboration is a pivotal and inspiring happening that will bring the people (especially the youth) of Follen so much closer to living our anti-racist and inclusive intentions. It requires some time and energy on your part, but the rewards will be great - big, bold, collective music making driven by powerful rhythms, deep history, and growing friendship. Mark your calendars and get ready!

**Choir Orientation**

**Monday, September 16, 6:15-7:15pm, Sacred Heart  
(with pizza so RSVP to [musicdirector@follen.org](mailto:musicdirector@follen.org))**

**Monday Rehearsal Schedule**

**4:00-4:45 Children's Choir (Grades 1-5)**

**4:45-5:15 Limbo (for both Children's and Youth Choir members, a time for casual musical activity)**

**5:15-6:15 Youth Choir (grades 6-12)**

**We start Monday, September 16**, and will meet every week except on school holidays and during vacations. See attached draft calendar. Due to ongoing construction (sigh, but we're almost done!), our September rehearsals will take place in Sacred Heart.

The choir sings in worship service about once a month (calendar will be available at orientation or upon request by sending me an email).

**Operetta:**

To play a lead role in our June musical (grade 8-12), you need to participate in choir for the entire year. People who wish to be in the show's chorus are encouraged to be in choir the full year but may join in January. Those taking part in choir in the fall will help in making some key decisions about the operetta, so plan to join in the democratic process for Follen's beloved tradition!

**Other Special Happenings:**

Youth Choir members are encouraged to come sing as part of the Youth Climate Strike at the State House in Boston on Friday, September 20 – transportation departing Follen at 3:15, singing 4:00-5:00, return to Follen at 6:00.

We're also going to organize group attendance at a choral or cappella concert, as well as our various members' school shows and concerts this year. In addition, the Youth Choir will fulfill part of our Music Friendships Initiative by choosing a day to sing at nursing homes and community centers in December, to bring some beauty and joy to people who aren't always reached by celebratory music of the season. But then there's just being together in friendship, song, fun, and spirit! Please invite your friends to join the choirs – they can reach out to me to talk about joining, register online, or just show up for orientation!

Love to you all, see you in September,

Vivian Montgomery, Director of Music