

CANTABILE youth singers OF SILICON VALLEY

Silicon Valley's premier youth choir and music education program,
enrolling K-12 students from both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.



"Angels in street clothes..."
San Francisco Classical Voice

"A blast of clean mountain air..."
San Jose Mercury News

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the meaning of *Cantabile*?

Pronounced “kahn / TAH / bee / lay ,” it is an Italian word which can be literally translated as “singable” or “song-like.” However, in a musical context, it refers to a smooth, flowing, and melodious style. This is exactly how Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley sound as they perform exciting music from many different cultures, time periods and styles.

Are all students required to audition?

This depends on the child’s age. There is no audition or interview for ages 4-7. For ages 7-12, there is an informal interview to determine the child’s ability to match pitch (sing back a given note). Ages 12-18 are expected to have some vocal skills and experience, which is determined by a formal audition and a simple written music theory test. Interviews and auditions are by appointment only and the Audition/Interview Form (page 9) must be completed in advance.

To schedule an appointment for ages 8-12, visit:

<http://cantabile.org/P3-Int-Auditions>

To schedule an appointment for ages 12-18, email info@cantabile.org.

What happens during an audition or interview?

In an interview (for ages 7-12), the director will meet with the student and parent(s) to explain Cantabile’s teaching approach and to verify that the student is able to match pitch (sing back a given note). The student is also welcome to give a brief performance, although this is not required for this age group. For ages 12-18, however, a prepared performance is expected. This can be an art song, a folk song (in any language), a pop song, or a musical theatre show tune. The audition is held privately with the director, Cantabile’s accompanist (when possible), the student and parent(s). The student must provide a copy of the sheet music for the piece or song being performed. The student is asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to his/her appointment in order to complete a very brief and simple music theory test, demonstrating the ability to recognize notes, time signatures, durations, accidentals, key signatures, dynamic and tempo markings and intervals.

All interviews and auditions are designed to be a positive experience. The student will receive encouragement and be placed in the choir that is the best match for his or her musical skills. Cantabile’s goal is always to place the student in the most advanced choir based on his or her proficiency level.

Which is the best choir for my child?

For the majority of children, their age group and school grade will determine the most appropriate choir. However, there are certain “cusp” ages that could belong to two different choir levels. These are frequently ages 7, 9 and 12, which can be placed in the appropriate choir determined by an interview or audition.

Does Cantabile offer scholarships?

Yes. Partial and full scholarships are available based on financial need. A copy of the first page of the parents' latest filed federal income tax returns will be required.

In addition, a 25% scholarship is awarded to students whose parents can serve as the permanent Choir Volunteer for the entire semester (Prep 1, 2 and 3) or for the entire season (Intermediate, Ensemble and Vocalise). No income documentation is required for this scholarship.

Where are the classes held?

Most classes (rehearsals) are held at Foothills Congregational Church, 461 Orange Avenue in Los Altos. One or two rehearsals may be moved to another location with sufficient advance notice. In addition, Cantabile is adding new Prep 1 and Prep 2 classes at 815 Portola Road in Portola Valley this season. Please visit <http://cantabile.org> or email info@cantabile.org for more information about the new location.

How may I enroll my child?

You may complete your child's registration online at:
<http://cantabile.org/registration>

Prior to September 1, a minimum of \$250 reservation deposit per child (refundable) will guarantee a spot in the appropriate choir. After September 1, the entire tuition is due and payable with each registration.

Note: We strongly recommend the reservation deposit as most of our choirs were wait-listed last season, and we were unable to accommodate quite a few late registrations.

Are Prep 1 and Prep 2 students required to attend the demo class?

No. The demo class is not a requirement, and is designed for children and families who may wish to know more about Cantabile and its curriculum before enrolling. If you know that you want to enroll your child in Prep 1 or Prep 2 based on his or her age, you may simply register online at <http://cantabile.org/registration> and pay the appropriate tuition or reservation deposit. Your child may then attend the first day of formal classes.

What if my child has to miss classes due to illness or conflict with other activities?

Occasional conflicts and illnesses are expected. However, if the student misses too many classes consecutively, he or she may be excluded from participating in concerts and/or recitals. No refunds or credits of any kind can be offered for missed classes.

Where are the performances/concerts?

The performance and concert venues may vary from year to year. In the recent past, Cantabile has held a large Holiday Concert (featuring Intermediate, Ensemble and Vocalise) at Saint Joseph's Cathedral Basilica in San Jose. An all-choir concert (excluding Prep 1) has been held at the United Methodist Church in Campbell in May, with a separate concert featuring only Ensemble and Vocalise at the same location. There is also a small recital for Prep 1, 2 and 3 on the last day of each semester at the usual class location (Foothills Congregational Church).

Please note that Ensemble and Vocalise—Cantabile's touring and performing choirs—perform in multiple additional venues throughout the Bay Area at the discretion of Cantabile's Artistic Director.

Where and when are the concert tours?

Each summer, members of Cantabile's Ensemble and Vocalise choirs tour nationally or internationally, and participate in various festivals. In the last two years, Cantabile Youth Singers completed a concert tour to Estonia, Finland and Russia and performed a full program at Carnegie Hall. In the summer of 2011, select members of Cantabile Youth Singers will depart for England on a concert tour, where they will also participate in the Somerset International Festival.

Which teaching method(s) does Cantabile use?

For Prep and Intermediate choirs, Cantabile uses a combination of Kodály and Orff methods. For Ensemble and Vocalise, Cantabile also uses the traditional conservatory approach, including in-depth vocal technique and music theory instruction.

What are the credentials and qualifications of your teachers?

Cantabile's artistic staff is comprised of highly-credentialed and qualified music instructors, led by world-renowned choral and orchestral conductor Maestra Elena Sharkova, who has been Artistic Director of Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley since 2004. Maestra Sharkova oversees all educational and performance aspects of the program, in addition to directing Cantabile's advanced touring choirs: Ensemble and Vocalise. She is recognized nationally and internationally as an inspirational and effective conductor, master teacher, adjudicator of music competitions and festivals, and keynote speaker at professional conferences. She has conducted professional, university, youth and community choirs and orchestras in 17 countries – North America, Western and Eastern Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, the Baltics, Middle East and Asia.

You may read about our instructors at:

<http://cantabile.org/ArtisticStaff.html>

What is Cantabile's policy with regard to tuition refunds?

All payments are fully refundable, less a \$25 administrative fee, before the first day of classes.

Fall tuition payments (Prep 1, Prep 2 and Prep 3): Spring tuition payments (Prep 1, Prep 2 and Prep 3):

100% refunded on or before September 1
50% refunded on or before September 30
30% refunded on or before October 31
No refund on or after November 1

100% refunded on or before January 1
50% refunded on or before January 31
30% refunded on or before February 28/29
No refund on or after March 1

Annual tuition payments (Intermediate, Ensemble and Vocalise):

100% refunded on or before September 1
50% refunded on or before October 31
30% refunded on or before November 30
No refund on or after December 1

When are classes held?

Los Altos Preparatory 1 (ages 4-5).....Thursdays 4:10-5:00 pm
Los Altos Preparatory 1 (ages 4-5 WAIT-LISTED).....Wednesdays 4:10-5:00 pm
Portola Valley preparatory 1 (ages 4-5).....Fridays 3:10-4:00 pm
Los Altos Preparatory 2 (ages 6-8).....Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 pm
OR Thursdays 5:00-6:00 pm
Portola Valley Preparatory 2 (ages 6-8).....Fridays 4:00-5:00 pm
Los Altos Preparatory 3 (ages 8 -9).....Wednesdays 5:05-6:15 pm
Los Altos Intermediate (ages 9-10).....Thursdays 5:00-7:10 pm
Los Altos Intermediate Honor (ages 10-11).....Thursdays 5:30-7:40 pm
Note: Both Intermediate groups overlap and work together from 5:30-7:00
(Los Altos Ensemble (ages 12-15).....Mondays 4:30-7:15
(Los Altos Vocalise (ages 15-18).....Mondays 5:45-8:30
Note: Ensemble and Vocalise overlap and work together from 5:45-7:15

Are uniforms required?

Yes. However, uniforms are only worn to concerts and performances. No uniform is required for normal weekly classes or even the dress rehearsal (last practice before a concert or performance). Note: The cost of uniform is not included in the tuition.

Where can we purchase Cantabile Uniforms?

Uniforms for Prep and Intermediate choirs, and for boys in Ensemble or Vocalise can be purchased at Merry Mart in Santa Clara and can be ordered online at:
http://www.merrymartuniforms.com/Cantabile_Youth_Singers/

Girls in Ensemble or Vocalise must purchase their uniforms at Capezio Dance/Theatre Shop at 309 South B Street, San Mateo, CA 94401, (650) 340-7066, or at 982 El Monte Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040, (650) 965-7066.

INTERVIEW/AUDITION INFORMATION

Note: Prep 3 and above must complete the Interview/Audition Form (included on page 9) and bring it to the appointment along with their sheet music (if any).

Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley enrolls new students each year. Auditions and interviews are scheduled in June, August, and January.

Preparatory Choirs, Levels 1 and 2 (ages 4-8)

No audition or interview is required for Prep 1 and 2, and no prior training is necessary. Demo classes will be held in August for families wishing to see a brief sample of the class activities and meet the faculty. The only requirements are regular and punctual attendance, a desire to learn, and the ability to pay attention and follow instructions during practices.

In Prep 1 and 2, young singers learn the fundamentals of singing in a group, including beginning note reading, vocal production and performance. Students participate in age-appropriate music activities—based on Kodály and Orff methods—designed to challenge their singing and listening skills and prepare them for promotion into the higher levels.

Preparatory 3 Choir (ages 8-9)

A brief interview is required. No prior training is necessary. The only requirements are regular and punctual attendance, a desire to learn, and the ability pay attention and follow instructions during practices. Students are also expected to be able to "match pitch" (hear and sing back a note). A brief and informal interview with the Prep 3 choir conductor will assess the student's vocal skills and prior musical background (if any).

In Prep 3, young singers improve their note-reading skills, learn to recognize and reproduce rhythmic patterns and gain the skills required to join the dynamic and energetic Intermediate choir. The Prep 3 curriculum is also based on a combination of Kodály and Orff methods.

Intermediate/Honors Choir (ages 9-11)

A brief interview is required. No prior training is necessary. The only requirements are regular and punctual attendance, a desire to learn, and the ability to pay attention and follow instructions during practices. The students are also expected to be able to "match pitch" (hear and sing back a note). A brief and informal interview with the Intermediate choir conductor will assess the student's vocal skills and prior musical background (if any).

Advanced Choirs - Ensemble and Vocalise (ages 12-18)

An audition is required for membership in the advanced choirs. Some vocal/choral experience and music reading skills are expected.

The audition for both Vocalise and Ensemble choirs allows the director to check vocal potential, harmonic, rhythmic and listening skills and will determine placement between Ensemble and Vocalise (Cantabile's highly selective premier choir.)

Vocalise membership requires significant vocal training and independence as well as readiness for a high-level musical ensemble with challenging repertoire and a variety of styles.

The audition will take 10 to 15 minutes and will be conducted privately with the director, chorister, and parent(s). This allows the director to meet and welcome the singer, evaluate his/her current vocal ability, knowledge of basic music terms, and prior musical background.

The audition is designed to be a **positive** experience and the singer is always encouraged.

Prior to the audition, singers are asked to complete a short music theory test designed to assess the student's current background in music reading.

The audition consists of the following:

- a) Vocal exercises demonstrated by the director and repeated by the student: these will determine vocal range for part placement.
- b) The student is asked to perform a prepared solo piece (can be art song, folk song or Broadway/musical theatre). Please bring your sheet music for the accompanist. Singers don't have to sing from memory, but are expected to present an expressive and confident performance.
- c) Check for pitch and rhythmic accuracy through a set of tonal memory patterns (each exercise consists of 4-5 pitches that are played first – the singer is asked to sing them back).
- d) An eight-measure melodic sight-singing example.
A melody written in treble clef will be given to the singer prior to audition. Depending on the training, singers may wish to write in *solfege* syllables or note names to help sight-singing during the audition. The starting pitch will be given.

CANTABILE YOUTH SINGERS - INTERVIEW/AUDITION/EVALUATION FORM

Singer's Name: _____ Date of appointment: _____

AGE _____ GRADE and SCHOOL at time of enrollment: _____

With which other choirs have you sung? Number of years?

1. _____ # years _____
2. _____ # years _____

What part do you usually sing in a choir? (circle) Soprano Soprano Two Alto Don't know

What instrument(s) do you play? _____

of years played: _____ lessons per month: _____ play in band/orchestra? _____

Are you taking private voice lessons? Frequency _____ Genre: musical, pop, classical (circle)

Teacher's Name: _____

Plays, musicals, dance groups, other productions in the past? Where? _____

Do you plan to participate in school/community choir/orchestra/theatre? _____

Do you plan to be involved in sports? What season? _____ Frequency of practices? _____

Evaluate your strengths/challenges:

- a) Do you read music notation (circle)? Very Well Somewhat Not at all
- b) Your knowledge of musical terms (circle): Good Needs work None
- c) Do you speak/study a foreign language, which? _____ How Long _____

Your audition/evaluation piece (required for age 12+): Title _____

Composer _____

Please do not write below this line

Conductor's Evaluation:

Choir recommendation for Fall 2011: P 3 / Intermediate / Honor / Ensemble / Vocalise

Range:	Voice Part							
INTONATION:	perfect pitch	good	sharp	flat	inconsistent			
SIGHT READING:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
RHYTHMIC READING:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
REP. PIECE:	_____							
VOCAL QUALITIES:	small +	+	+	+	+	+	large	
	Breathy						Pure	
	Dark						Bright	
	Forced						Free	
	Straight						Vibrato	
	Beauty	1	2	3	4	5		
	Agility	1	2	3	4	5		