



Allegro Choir Audition Information

About Allegro: Allegro is an exciting and upbeat choir program formed to enrich, inspire, and transform the lives of children by learning, sharing, and performing beautiful music. Drawn from across the Kansas City metro area, the singers represent over fifty public and private schools as well as home schooled singers. Since its creation in 2000, the choir program has blossomed from one choir of 38 to 160 singers in four ensembles: Poco Allegro (Grades 3-5), Vivo Allegro (Grades 5-7), Allegro Con Moto (Grades 6-12), and Allegro Con Brio (Grades 8-12). The organization sponsors an annual benefit concert for a selected children's charity. Past benefit concerts include: Harvester's Food Bank, Sri Lanka Tsunami Victims, the New Orleans Children's Choir devastated by Katrina, the Tweens and Teens program for Children's Mercy Hospital as well as providing music for the children of the Medvidata Children's Choir in Cesky Krumlov. The choirs also perform regularly at retirement homes, hospitals, and other functions as community outreach.

Christy Elsner, a native Kansan, is the founder and Artistic Director of the Allegro Community Children's Choir. Mrs. Elsner is an active clinician in the region for children's, youth, and treble choirs and frequently gives workshops on her innovative rehearsals and unusual teaching tools. In accordance with Allegro's emphasis on community service, she logged over 40 hours of volunteer service in the last year working with church and public school choirs. She is the current SWACDA Children's Choir R & S Chair. For seven years, she served on the Kansas Choral Directors Association's Board as the Repertoire & Standards Children's Choir Co-chair and helped develop and organize the successful KCDA Children's Honor Choir. She was the 1995 recipient of the Kansas Choral Directors Association's Award for Outstanding Young Conductor. Her professional memberships include MENC, ACME, Chorister's Guild, Chorus America, and the American Choral Directors Association. Christy and her husband, Sean, stay busy with their children: Chandler, Chase, and Carlee.

Choir Information:

Wondering which Allegro Choir is for your singer? Please read below for descriptions of our 4 choirs.

Poco Allegro (Grades 3-5):

Poco is an energetic, introductory choir that offers a weekly "mini voice lesson" in beginning choral techniques including beautiful head tone, solfege, pure vowels, proper breath support, independent singing, and self-confidence. Concepts are taught in a structured, yet fun and nurturing atmosphere.

Rehearsal/Performance Schedule: Poco rehearses from 5:00-5:55 on Monday nights during the school year currently at Atonement Lutheran Church located at 9948 Metcalf in Overland Park. Two retreats as well as two Sunday afternoon rehearsals are scheduled each year. Additional rehearsals or sectionals may be scheduled as needed for special events. Poco performs 3 major Concerts, one Kansas City Day Tour, as well as several Community Performances each year. A mandatory Parent/Singer meeting is held the beginning of August.

Music/Vocal/Behavior/Expectations: Poco requires a year-long commitment. Poco choir members learn approximately 10 pieces of music during the concert season. The music selections are of the highest quality and may include classical, folk, multicultural, sacred, and foreign language songs. Singers in Poco must be able to focus for an hour and be able to work well with others! Singers must be able to match pitch. Members are expected to attend weekly rehearsals and all concerts. Singers are expected to spend 15-30 minutes each week on assigned music. Poco is a great way to introduce your singer to the art of performing and singing.

Cost: Tuition is \$425 for Poco members. In addition, there is a \$20.00 Annual Supply Fee. Ladies Uniform is a full length dress which will be ordered in August and costs approximately \$80.00. Ladies will also need black hose and black dress shoes with a flat heel. Gentlemen's Uniform is banded collar shirt (no bow tie), a black vest and black pants which will be ordered in August and costs approximately \$80.00. Gentlemen will also need black socks and black dress shoes. The only additional costs are Concert Tickets (\$10-\$15 each) and Day Tour which costs approximately \$50.

Poco Payment Amounts

\$200.00	Tuition Deposit: Due by May 15 with Registration Packet
\$170.00	Tuition Payment & Supply Fee: Due June 30
\$TBD	Uniform Payment: Due at August Parent/Singer Meeting
\$75.00	Final Tuition Payment: Due October 1
\$50.00	Day Tour: (Estimated Cost)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$25 Commitment & Deposit: Due August 31• Final Payment: Due February 1

Vivo Allegro (Grades 5-7):

Vivo is a more advanced choir that builds on beginning choral techniques including beautiful head tone, pure vowels, part singing, proper breath support, independent singing, and self-confidence. Concepts are taught in a structured, yet fun and nurturing atmosphere.

Rehearsal/Performance Schedule: Vivo rehearses from 5:00-6:15 on Monday nights during the school year currently at Atonement Lutheran Church located at 9948 Metcalf in Overland Park. Two retreats as well as two Sunday afternoon rehearsals are scheduled each year. Additional rehearsals or sectionals may be scheduled as needed for special events. Vivo performs 3 major Concerts, one Kansas City Day Tour, as well as several Community Performances each year. A mandatory Parent/Singer meeting is held the beginning of August.

Music/Vocal/Behavior/Expectations: Vivo requires a year-long commitment. Vivo choir members learn approximately 15 pieces of music during the concert season. The music selections are of the highest quality and may include classical, folk, multicultural, sacred, and foreign language songs. Singers in Vivo must be able to focus for 75 minutes and be able to work well with others! Singers must be able to match pitch. Members are expected to attend weekly rehearsals and all concerts. Singers are expected to spend 30-45 minutes each week on assigned music. Vivo is a great way to help your young singer build further confidence and greater knowledge of choral techniques.

Cost: Tuition is \$425 for Vivo members. In addition, there is a \$20.00 Annual Supply Fee. Ladies Uniform is a full length dress which will be ordered in August and costs approximately \$80.00. Ladies will also need black hose and black dress shoes with a flat heel. Gentlemen's Uniform is banded collar shirt (no bow tie), a black vest and black pants which will be ordered in August and costs approximately \$80.00. Gentlemen will also need black socks and black dress shoes. The only additional costs are Concert Tickets (\$10-\$15 each) and Day Tour which is optional and costs approximately \$75.00.

Vivo Payment Amounts

\$200.00	Tuition Deposit: Due by May 15 with Registration Packet
\$170.00	Tuition Payment & Supply Fee: Due June 30
\$TBD	Uniform Payment: Due at August Parent/Singer Meeting
\$75.00	Final Tuition Payment: Due October 1
\$75.00	Day Tour: (estimated Cost)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50 Commitment & Deposit: Due August 31• Final Payment: Due February 1

Allegro Con Moto (Grades 6 and up):

Allegro Con Moto is an outstanding choir full of Kansas City's finest young singers. Singers experience intense, exhilarating weekly rehearsals focusing on age-appropriate vocal techniques taught through a variety of challenging music. Singers make friends from all over the Kansas City metro.

Rehearsal/Performance Schedule: Moto rehearses from 6:00 to 7:30 on Monday nights during the school year. Two retreats as well as two Sunday afternoon rehearsals are scheduled each year. Small Group Lessons are held twice each year. Tour Rehearsals will be scheduled each Spring. Additional rehearsals or

sectionals may be scheduled as needed for special events such as a performance with the Kansas City Symphony. Moto performs 3 major Concerts, one Regional Tour, as well as several Community Performances each year. Moto will tour nationally once every 3-4 years.

Music/Vocal/Behavior/Expectations: Moto requires a year-long commitment. Moto choir members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances and participate in tour. Singers will learn approximately 20 pieces of music during the concert season. The music is of the highest caliber and includes classical, multicultural, sacred, folk, and foreign languages selections. Singers in Moto must be able to focus for an extended amount of time and be able to work well with others! Singers must be able to match pitch and be secure with their notes if singing harmony. Singers are expected to spend 60 minutes each week marking their music, practicing, learning notes, and memorizing music outside of rehearsal time.

Cost: Tuition will be \$550.00 for Moto members. In addition, there is a \$20.00 Annual Supply Fee. Ladies Uniform is a full length dress which will be ordered in August and costs approximately \$80.00. Ladies will also need black hose and black dress shoes with a flat heel. Gentlemen's Uniform is banded collar shirt (no bow tie), a black vest and black pants which will be ordered in August and costs approximately \$80.00. Gentlemen will also need black socks and black dress shoes. The only additional costs are Concert Tickets (\$10-\$15 each) and Tour. Costs for Tour vary from year to year depending on tour location. Tour payments will be divided into 3-4 Installments.

Moto Payment Amounts

\$200.00	Tuition Deposit: Due by May 15 with Registration Packet
\$170.00	Tuition Payment & Supply Fee: Due June 30
\$TBD	Uniform Payment: Due at August Parent/Singer Meeting
\$200.00	Final Tuition Payment: Due October 1
\$TBD	Tour - 3-4 installments – \$100 Deposit & Commitment due August 31

Allegro con Brio (Grades 8-12):

Allegro Con Brio is the premier touring choir in the region. Brio is open to singers with at least one year of experience in Allegro Con Moto.

Financial Assistance:

We want the choirs to be accessible to every interested singer regardless of financial circumstances. Partial Scholarship assistance may be available for singers demonstrating financial need. The scholarship application is due to the Allegro office by June 1. Singers will be notified of the results of application by June 25. Installment Payment Plans may also be available. See our website – Choir Forms tab – for the Scholarship and Installment Payment Plan applications with more information.

We also offer simple, effective options to help reduce choir membership expenses such as:

1. We encourage all members to download the Donation Sponsor Packet from our website, www.allegrocc.org. The Donation Sponsor Packet is a great way to offset the costs by finding business/private donors.
2. Hyvee and Price Chopper grocery store coupon books are also available at all times! Singers receive \$3.50 account credit for every coupon book purchased.
3. Other fundraisers such as gift certificates to Panera Bread, Johnson Farms Flower Gift Certificates and more are offered throughout the year.
4. Singers receive 70% of all fundraiser income they generate in the form of credit to their Allegro account. This credit can be applied to any Allegro invoice. The remaining 30% of fundraiser income is deposited into Allegro's General Fund to benefit all choir members.

Need More Information??

We encourage you to take a peek at our website. The Allegro Handbook is available and contains lots of information about our organization! Our website address is www.allegrocc.org. Questions?? Please contact Shari Davis at (913) 645-2794 or shari@allegrocc.org.

Audition Requirements:

1. Any young person that loves to sing and is currently in 2nd through 11th grade may audition.
2. A Teacher Recommendation form must be completed and signed. The form is available on our website: www.allegrocc.org. Bring the form to your audition or mail it prior to your audition to:

Allegro
c/o Shari Davis
14045 Meadow Lane
Leawood, KS 66224

3. Bring a parent to the audition to attend a brief presentation, meet the staff and complete registration paperwork. An Allegro staff member will be available to answer questions and provide additional information.

What to Expect During the Audition:

1. The Audition process will take 40-50 minutes. Please arrive 10-15 minutes before your assigned audition time to check in, complete paperwork and have your photo taken.
2. Singers will:
 - a. Take a theory placement test (Singers eligible for Vivo or Moto Choirs only)
 - b. Sing simple vocal warm-ups and exercises in an ensemble setting.
 - c. Sing My Country Tis of Thee (Key of G) and Happy Birthday (Key of E or E-flat) in an ensemble and as a solo.
 - d. Sight read simple melodies (Singers eligible for Vivo or Moto Choirs only)
 - e. Listening and harmony exercises
 - f. Prepare and sing Star Spangled Banner unaccompanied in the key of B or C (Singers eligible for Vivo or Moto Choirs only)

Ready to Schedule an Audition??

Auditions are *by Appointment only* and will be held on the following dates:

April 19, 2010: Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS 66212

April 20, 2010: Evangel Temple, 1414 E. 103rd St., Kansas City, MO 64131

If you would like to schedule an audition, please contact Shari Davis at (913) 645-2794 or shari@allegrocc.org.