



MUSIC COMMITTEE GUIDELINES PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION

Sometimes young vocalists have difficulty in matching pitches both in solo singing and in ensemble singing. These difficulties can come from a number of sources: some children have a perception problem; some have physical hearing problems, and others have voices, which are pitched lower than the norm for their age. Concentration can also be a factor.

The Music Committee is committed to providing opportunity for all who come to choir to develop the ability to match pitch alone and in the group. To this end, our choir leaders will give attention, as time allows in the course of rehearsals and in pre-rehearsal exercise, to all singers who need help. In addition, support and instruction will be provided on a one-on-one basis to youngsters who experience difficulties.

In most instances, boys and girls can learn to perceive pitch, compensate for hearing problems, or discover and develop the high register of their voices. The amount of time that the process requires varies from child to child as they build skills and learn to concentrate.

Yet, the concern we have for individual members can be balanced with devotion to overall wellbeing of the choirs, which is lessened if any singers cannot match pitch.

To bring the goals of nurturing each individual into balance with the goals of fulfilling the potential of the choirs, the Music Committee recommends the following:

PRIMARY CHOIR: All members participate in all rehearsal activities and performances. Individuals with pitch problems will receive initial instruction to make them aware of difficulties and how to deal with them.

JUNIOR CHOIR: All members will participate in all rehearsal activities, the retreat and Sunday morning services. Those with pitch problems will be given help in rehearsals and privately during rehearsal time. Members who have significant problems by the time of the Spring Concert may be asked to be still during selected pieces, or wait for another season to participate in the concert.

CHORISTERS AND CHAPEL CHOIR: All members participate in all rehearsal activities and the retreat. Singers with problems will receive instruction in the course of rehearsal as time allows. Singers who have pitch problems will be asked to refrain from all public singing until we have been able to help them with pitch problems.