



CHOIR

2018

Information Package

WHAT IS THE CCOC?

The **Canadian Children's Opera Company** is a world-class ensemble that introduces the magic of opera to children and youth through professional musical and dramatic education and the performance of established and newly commissioned operatic and choral performance.



The servants' chorus from Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* at the Musikverein in Vienna, Austria. Photo: Christina Okumura

- The CCOC is an important part of the arts scene in Toronto, with ties to many other major arts organizations, from the Canadian Opera Company and Toronto Symphony Orchestra to the (Canadian) Tenors. The creative sector is a major economic force in Toronto and Ontario.
- As an educator, the CCOC is a recognized leader with a unique program that combines serious musical and dramatic training. Arts education is a critical tool in helping “at risk” youth, and teaches valuable life skills for all children and youth entering the modern world.
- Between its membership, performances, school visits, recordings, and outreach programs, the CCOC touches tens of thousands of people each year.
- The CCOC actively encourages diversity in its membership, with a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds.

JOIN THE YAMAHA CCOC CHOIR!

For the first time in their history, the CCOC is starting a satellite choir outside of the city of Toronto at the Yamaha Music School at 196 Enterprise Blvd, Markham.

The choir will be comprised of children grades 2-4 or 4-7 depending on the age range of the students.

The CCOC Yamaha Choir will provide world class training in both music and drama through singing and opera performance.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Joining the choir will be through audition only. Speak to the Yamaha Music School office staff to sign-up. The chorus is open to all boys and girls who can sing on pitch. Yamahamusicsschool.ca for more information.

WHAT SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THE AUDITION?

Be prepared to song any song of your choosing. You can sing O Canada if you'd like.

WILL I DO PERFORMANCES?

Yes, the Yamaha CCOC Choir will join the other 6 CCOC choirs in the 2018/1019 season including:

- Main-stage opera production of The Snow Queen by John Greer.
 - complete staging, choreography, sets, props, lighting, costumes, and chamber orchestra
 - Up to twenty professional guest artists who work with the choristers, including coaches, directors, designers, stage managers, soloists, and orchestra musicians
 - 7-8 performances at Harbourfront Theatre in Toronto
- Winter concert
- Junior Divisions spring excerpts
- Operathon concert at the Christmas Market in the Distillery District

Other Experiences:

- Sports anthem singing – home game of Toronto Argonauts, Marlies or Blue Jays
- Recording Projects (every 5-6 years)
- Performances at gala fundraisers



HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The Yamaha CCOC Chorus course will be \$995 and run from October to June 30.

WHEN ARE REHEARSALS?

The rehearsals will be at the Yamaha Music School Wednesday evenings from 5-630pm.

TESTIMONIALS

Arts Professionals

*I absolutely loved my time as a chorister in the CCOC! I have many fond memories of concerts and productions I sang in... Doctor Canon's Cure, The Saint Matthew Passion, Tosca, Wozzeck, to name but a few. Rare experiences for a child so young. **Little did I know that those experiences would pave the way for a life in music!** Thank you CCOC!*

[Karina Gauvin](#)

Opera Singer

*The CCOC is a real **national treasure**... this company gives young people an opportunity to be a part of a wonderful musical tradition. I am very proud of what a bright musical light they are in the cultural fabric of this great country. Keep making music!!!*

[Richard Margison](#), O.C.

Opera Singer

Artistic Director, Highlands Opera Studio

*The Canadian Children's Opera Company is a wonderful ensemble of young singers that have delighted audiences from the Canadian Opera Company mainstage time and time again. **The professionalism and commitment to their craft, as well as their exceptional talent, belies their young years.** Beyond the CCOC's role as a children's chorus, the organization itself plays an essential role when it comes to arts education. For many of the young people involved in the CCOC, the chorus is how they make their first connection to opera, musical theatre and the performing arts in general. It is **a vital contribution to fostering the arts in our community.**"*

[Alexander Neef](#)

General Director

Canadian Children's Opera Company



Members of the Ruby and Intermediate Chorus in performance. Photos: Ken Hall

Choristers

*I love opera because it is the wonderful, bizarre result of a head-on collision between music, drama, and **passion**.*

Katie, age 17

*Because I really, really, really like singing and having fun with new songs I learn. **Music makes my heart happy.***

Eli, age 7

***I love opera!** Not only is it really fun to sing it also gives you opportunities to learn a lot of different languages!!! These past three years, I have learned languages such as Mandarin, different African languages, Norwegian, Italian, Russian, Latin, Hungarian, and so much more!!!*

Emily, age 13

*My daughter has had **incredible performance opportunities** as part of CCOC that we never could have imagined before joining. I'm still in awe when I think about how well equipped CCOC made her to perform in the highest quality professional productions and the range and quality of the repertoire she learned. **I can't imagine a better experience** for any child interested in music and acting.*

Steven Bernstein (Principal Chorus Parent)

