

Katy Cello Choir

2023–2024 Season
Handbook

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www.katycellochoir.org

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About the Katy Cello Choir

2023–2024 Season

Established in 2018, the Katy Cello Choir (KCC) is a performing ensemble for student cellists in the Katy area. The KCC's mission is to give young cellists the opportunity to learn from professional educators and cellists, gain performing experience, and share the beauty of cello, all in a nurturing environment.

2023–2024 will mark the KCC's fifth season, in which it will present three free concerts throughout the 2023–2024 school year. Repertoire will include challenging arrangements of masterworks from the classical music canon. Previous concerts have featured works by Beethoven, Dvorak, Grieg, Mahler, and Mozart, among many others. Additionally, students will receive coachings from renown performers and teachers.

Rehearsals and concerts will take place on Thursdays from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Katy, Texas.

The KCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Website

The Katy Cello Choir's URL is www.katycellochoir.org. A rehearsal and concert calendar, KCC contact information, KCC information, audition application, the most up-to-date version of this handbook, and more can all be found there.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2023–2024 season will be \$500.00, and is due in full by August 15, 2023. Tuition can be paid either by check or online at www.katycellochoir.org/tuitionpayment. Because tuition is used to pay for facilities, guest clinicians, guest performers, administrative fees, etc, there will be no refunds given, except in cases of medical leave, or other case-by-case basis. Financial aid is available.

Attendance Policy

Each member of the KCC plays a vital role in the success of the entire group. Because of this, all students must adhere to the following attendance policy:

- Students are expected to attend every rehearsal and perform in every concert.
- Each student is allowed to miss up to two rehearsals per concert cycle (a concert cycle is made up of approximately eight rehearsals and one concert). Students should inform the KCC via email of any absences or schedule conflicts as early as possible.
- Arriving late or leaving early may be counted as an absence.
- Any student missing more than two rehearsals in a concert cycle may be asked to not attend the remaining rehearsals or perform in the concert at the end of that cycle.
- Any student who is unable to perform in a concert due to a schedule conflict may be asked to not attend the remaining rehearsals for that concert cycle.

Calendar

The 2023–2024 season calendar is subject to change. Please visit www.katycellochoir.org/calendar for the most up-to-date calendar.

September 2023

07 Fall Rehearsal #1
14 Fall Rehearsal #2
21 Fall Rehearsal #3
28 Fall Rehearsal #4

October 2023

05 Guest Artist Clinic #1
12 Fall Rehearsal #5
19 Fall Rehearsal #6
26 Fall Rehearsal #7

November 2023

02 Fall Concert
09 Winter Rehearsal #1
16 Winter Rehearsal #2
23 No Rehearsal - Thanksgiving
30 Winter Rehearsal #3

December 2023

07 Winter Rehearsal #4
14 Winter Rehearsal #5
21 No Rehearsal - Winter Break
28 No Rehearsal - Winter Break

January 2024

04 Winter Rehearsal #6
11 Guest Artist Clinic #2
18 Winter Rehearsal #7
25 Winter Rehearsal #8

February 2024

01 Winter Concert
08 No Rehearsal - TMEA
15 Spring Rehearsal #1
22 Spring Rehearsal #2
29 Spring Rehearsal #3

March 2024

07 Spring Rehearsal #4
14 No Rehearsal - Spring Break
21 Spring Rehearsal #5
28 No Rehearsal - Good Friday

April 2024

04 Spring Rehearsal #6
11 Guest Artist Clinic #3
18 Spring Rehearsal #7
25 Spring Rehearsal #8

May 2024

02 Spring Concert

Rehearsal Policy

All KCC rehearsals will take place on Thursdays from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at St. Peter's United Methodist Church, 20775 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, TX, 77450. For rehearsal dates, please check the previous page or the calendar on the website (<https://www.katycellochoir.org/calendar>). Rehearsals will include a 10 minute break in the middle. In order to ensure that rehearsals are as efficient and productive as possible, students must adhere to the following rehearsal policy:

- Students should arrive at least 15 minutes before rehearsal begins to tune and warm up and be ready to rehearse by the scheduled rehearsal time.
- Each student must bring their own cello, bow, music stand, pencil, and mute. Students must also bring their supplied music and music folder.
- Food and drinks, except bottled water, are prohibited during rehearsal.
- Phones are prohibited during rehearsal. If a student needs their phone during rehearsal for emergency purposes, this must be communicated to the director ahead of time by the student's parents.
- Students must practice KCC music outside of rehearsal.
- Although questions about KCC pieces are always welcome in rehearsal, students should seek help from their private teachers, if applicable.
- Students should listen to recordings of KCC repertoire before rehearsal.
- Because seating in the rehearsal space is limited, family members are not encouraged to attend rehearsals.
- Students are not allowed to leave rehearsal early without notifying KCC in advance.
- Students must treat other students, any guests, and the director with respect.
- Students must respect other students' instruments, as well as the rehearsal and performance facilities.

Cancellation of Rehearsal

Rehearsals may need to be canceled in cases of inclement weather, natural disasters, or other emergencies. Students will be notified of rehearsal cancellation at least 24 hours in advance via email whenever possible. Cancellation information will also appear on the KCC website.

Sheet Music Policy

- Students will receive sheet music and folders in rehearsal.
- Students participating in outreach concerts will receive additional sheet music in a binder.
- Sheet music will not be e-mailed to students.
- Students may only mark in their music using pencils.
- Students must return music, folders, and binders after each concert.
- Students must keep concert music in the folders provided by the KCC.
- Students must keep outreach music in the binders provided by the KCC.
- Students must notify the director by email if music is lost or damaged so that it can be replaced at the next rehearsal.

School Orchestra Participation Policy

- Students are required to participate in school orchestra programs, if possible.
- The KCC should not be viewed as a substitute for a school orchestra program.
- Participation in the KCC does not grant eligibility for TMEA All-Region, All-Area or All-State auditions, or UIL Solo & Ensemble Contests.
- Student contracts for KCC participation will require a school orchestra director's signature. If a student is unable to acquire their orchestra director's signature, an explanation must be given.

Concert Days

Concerts will take place at St. Peter's United Methodist Church, 20775 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, Texas. Students and parents will be notified of optional outreach concert locations once they are scheduled.

Concert Procedure: Students should arrive by 6:15PM as usual to rehearse before concerts. Concerts will begin at 7:00PM. During any guest performances, students will sit in the audience to watch. When not performing, students must demonstrate proper audience etiquette. Phones or any other electronic devices will not be permitted.

Dress Code: Students must be in full concert attire upon arrival on concert days. Any student that does not abide by the following dress code will be required to change before the concert.

Concert Days Continued

Concert Attire:

- Black full length (to the ankle) dress (without long slits to the side, back or front), such as a school orchestra dress, *or*
- Black long sleeve dress shirt *or* black long sleeve blouse *and*
- Black dress pants or full length skirt
- Long black socks and/or black hosiery
- Black dress shoes with closed toes and closed heels
- Modest hair ornaments (if any)
- Simple make up (if any)
- Modest jewelry (if any) and no jewelry that interferes with cello playing
- Black suit jacket (optional)
- Black tie or bow tie (optional)
- NO low cut tops, exposed midriffs or backs
- NO clothing with ornate designs such as sequins, beading, open weaves, lace, embroidery or see-through areas

Outreach concert attire may vary. Details will be sent to students and parents once outreach concerts are scheduled.

Concert Tickets: All KCC concerts are free and open to the public! There is no need to order tickets or reserve seats.

Dismissal from KCC

Being dismissed from the KCC will not result in a refund. Students will be dismissed from the KCC immediately for any of the following:

- Refusing to follow instructions
- Engaging in any illegal behavior during rehearsal or in a concert
- Possessing a weapon
- Being expelled from school
- Missing a concert without notifying the director, except in case of an emergency

Contact Information

Mailing address (not an office): 6725 S Fry Rd. Ste. 700-315, Katy, TX 77494

E-mail: kcc@katycellochoir.org

Website: www.katycellochoir.org

COVID-19 Addendum

The Katy Cello Choir will adhere to any and all local COVID-19 mandates and guidelines during rehearsals and performances. As of June 2022, students will not be required to wear masks, but are certainly welcome to do so. Participants will be notified of any changes via email.

All information is subject to change.