

2026 HOUSTON PUERI CANTORES

YOUTH CHORAL FESTIVAL & MASS *for Treble Choirs (grades 4-12)*



Saturday, March 21, 2026 • 11:00 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
1111 St. Joseph Pkwy, Houston, TX 77002

Bishop Italo Dell'Oro, Celebrant
Dr. Bryan Zaros, Guest Conductor



8 Professional Development Credits are available for school conductors & MP3 rehearsal tracks of the Festival repertoire will be available for participating choirs.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Pueri Cantores, the national student choral organization of the Catholic Church, invites all parish and school treble choirs (grades 4-12) in the region to participate in a Choral Festival & Mass. Singers will unite with hundreds of their peers as one combined choir to sing beautiful music from the Church's rich historical repertoire.

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about Pueri Cantores and how best to prepare your choir for the Festival day. [Check out these FAQs](#) about the Festival, including attire, how to access music and MP3 rehearsal tracks, and much more.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

11:00	Registration
11:30	Choir Warm-up
11:45	Choir Placement
12:00	First Rehearsal
1:00	Lunch
<i>Individual choirs rehearse for Choral Prelude at this time.</i>	
1:45	Second Rehearsal
2:45	Break /Snacks
3:15	Final Rehearsal
4:14	Break – put on robes if needed
4:45	Choral Prelude begins
5:00	Festival Mass begins

Friends and family members are cordially invited to attend the Festival Mass.

MEET THE CONDUCTOR

DR. BRYAN ZAROS is Associate Director of Music & Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where he leads the Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra and Brass in liturgical as well as concert performances in the grand space of the world's largest Gothic Cathedral. He is also the Music Director of Central City Chorus, Music Director of The Pro Arte Chorale and a frequent guest lecturer at the Manhattan School of Music and at music conferences throughout the USA. Recent conducting engagements have included invitations with choirs and orchestras throughout the USA, Europe and South America. A devout Catholic, Mr. Zaros was previously Director of the Archdiocesan Choir & Orchestra at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford, CT.



The American Federation Pueri Cantores

2026 Houston Festival Repertoire

for Treble Choirs (SA) Grades 4-12

CHORAL PRELUDES

A. Choral works sung by individual choirs (*optional – limited to 5 choirs*)

B. Choral works sung by ALL choirs

*Praise to the Lord (canon for 3 voices)

William Boyce

AFPC Public Domain Series

O, I Got a Light (SSA, accompanied)

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Brandon Waddles

Walton Music #WW1857

*Introit (Proper-English Chant)

Adam Bartlett

Performance Instruction: Choirs will sing the antiphon only; the cantor will chant the verses.

Source & Summit

INTRODUCTORY RITES

*Entrance Hymn: The Glory of these Forty Days

Tune: ERHALT UNS HERR

*Kyrie: (Chant Mass XVI)

Gregorian chant

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Responsorial Psalm

(Antiphon will be found in the Order of Worship)

*Lenten Gospel Acclamation:

Richard Proulx

Performance Instruction: 1. Response – unison choir 2. Response – choir/ALL

GIA Publications

3. Verse (sung by cantor) 4. Response - soprano-descant, alto-melody

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts Motet: Canticle to the Holy Spirit (SA, accompanied)

Eleanor Daley

Alliance Music Publications #AMP 0411

*Sanctus: (Mass XVIII)

Gregorian chant

*Memorial Acclamation: (*We proclaim your death O Lord*) / Amen: (Unison chant, organ)

ICEL

*Lord's Prayer/Doxology: Chant

*Agnus Dei (Chant Mass XVIII)

Gregorian chant

Performance Instruction: Choirs Directors are asked to dedicate extra rehearsal time to the Agnus Dei.

Communion Procession

*1. Communio (Proper-English Chant)

Adam Bartlett

Performance Instruction: Choirs are to prepare and memorize the antiphon.

Source & Summit

Cantor will chant the verses.

*2. Gift of Finest Wheat

Omer Westendorf/Robert Kreutz

3. Post-Communion motet: God Be In My Head (2 part, organ)

Andrea Ramsey

Alliance Music Publications #AMP 0804

CONCLUDING RITE

Choral Recessional: Cantate Domino (2-part, organ)

Jesús López Moreno

VocalEssence Music Press - <https://graphitepublishing.com/product/cantate-domino-2/>

*** Indicates free downloadable music from pcchoirs.org**

With the mention of your AFPC affiliation, the published song titles (few exceptions), when purchased through Loser's Music at losers@lmf.net, will be discounted 25% off the original price. As a matter of justice to composers, arrangers and publishers, please plan to order an adequate number of music copies and refrain from distributing photocopied scores of those works under copyright protection.

NOTE: The William H. Hannon Scholarship Fund is available for choirs in need of financial assistance to purchase music for Festival participation. Letters should be submitted to: AFPC, 1188 N. Tustin St., Orange, CA 92867.

Join us & register your choir today!

Houston Youth Choral Festival & Mass for Treble Choirs (grades 4-12)

>>> **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE** <<<

OR MAIL FESTIVAL FEES & MATERIALS TO:

American Federation Pueri Cantores 1188 N. Tustin St., Orange, CA 92867

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
February 21, 2026**

Upon receipt, AFPC will send each registered choral conductor a welcome packet containing a sample repertoire music packet and important information needed to participate in this year's Festival.

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION APPLICATION

COMBINED ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FEE: \$150/choir

and PARTICIPANT FEES: \$25/singer

Participant fees include medallions, snacks & other festival expenses. (No cost for conductors & chaperones)

PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING THEIR OWN BAG LUNCHES

* Financial assistance is available through the *William H. Hannon Scholarship Fund*. Please contact the AFPC office for more information.*

Total Number of Participants (Conductors, Singers & Chaperones) _____ (1 chaperone per 10 singers requested)

of singers: _____ # Sopranos: _____ # Altos: _____

Choir Name (as it should appear in program): _____

Choir Director/s (as it should appear in program): _____

Parish/School: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Diocese: _____ ☐ New Choir ☐ Returning Choir

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PRELUDE INFORMATION (optional)

☐ My choir would like to sing a piece in the individual prelude portion of the festival (before the combined prelude pieces)

Choral Selection: _____

Composer: _____

Tempo: _____ Duration: _____ Key: _____ ☐ Major or ☐ Minor

Will you be requiring the services of an accompanist? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ A CAPELLA

* The first five choirs to submit this application form and a print copy of their 2-4 minute music selection will be accepted to sing.

LIABILITY/MEDIA RELEASE FORM

Downloadable at <https://www.pcchoirs.org/liabilityreleaseform>

Forms must be completed for all singers and signed by parent or guardian.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Choir directors and chaperones must provide the AFPC office a copy of their child protection certificate of completion. To read AFPC's complete Child Protection Policy, please click [HERE](#).

Required Forms

Conductors must submit to the AFPC office the Liability/Media Release Forms and Child Protection Certificates no later than one month prior to the Festival date. Mail: 1188 N. Tustin St., Orange, CA 92867 or email info@pcchoirs.org

[Official Festival Choir Participant Cancellation & Refund Policy](#)

QUESTIONS? Contact AFPC at 714.633.7554 or visit our website at pcchoirs.org