



**AMERICAN FEDERATION
PUERI CANTORES**

*The Vatican-based official student choral
organization of the Catholic Church.*



August 2023

AFPC Newsletter

Vol. 15, Issue 2

2024 Pueri Cantores Festival Season

Dear Pueri Cantores family,

When I think about the many challenges that our Catholic Church faces today, one thing is clear to me: Pueri Cantores singers are a bright light during dark and confusing times. What is more profound and awe-inspiring than witnessing these young faith-filled choristers joining their voices to praise God, and being impacted by the beauty of the the sacred vocal and choral repertoire of the Church?

People are disassociating with the Church at an alarming rate, and our children and youth are constantly bombarded with secular and harmful messaging and content. The American Federation of Pueri Cantores offers another path- a better path, a Holy path- for children, families, and communities around the country. While the world offers social media, sports, politics, and empty promises, AFPC offers peace, purpose, fellowship, and a path to Christ's Gospel and righteousness.

What kind of experiences do you want to offer your singers this school year? How about one that celebrates our faith, strengthens community, and nourishes our young people's wellbeing and souls through music and worship? As you fill up your choir's schedule with meaningful events to engage your singers, we hope you will consider joining us at a Pueri Cantores Festival in 2024.

We are thrilled to be offering a record 16 regionals Pueri Cantores Festivals around the country next year! In addition to our usual locations, we're pleased to be bringing a festival back to the Belleville/St. Louis area, as well as an inaugural festival in Louisville. Please see the festival schedule below to see where we're hosting Festivals. We hope to see you and your choir in 2024!

God bless you,

**Paul French, President
American Federation Pueri Cantores**



PUERI CANTORES 2024 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



PHOENIX Treble (grades 4-8)
Saturday, February 10th, 2024
St. Mary's Basilica, Phoenix, AZ

SOUTH FLORIDA Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, February 10th, 2024
Chapel of the Holy Cross @ Jesuit High School
Tampa, FL

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, February 10th, 2024
Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, IL
Bishop Michael G. McGovern, Celebrant

SALT LAKE CITY High School (grades 9-12)
Thursday, February 22 - Friday, February 23, 2024
Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City, UT

CHICAGO Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, February 24th, 2024
Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, IL
Bishop Mark A. Bartosic, Celebrant

TEXAS High School (grades 9-12)
Saturday, February 24, 2024
Our Lady of the Atonement Church, San Antonio, TX

HOUSTON Treble (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 2nd, 2024
Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Houston, TX
Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Celebrant

NEW YORK Treble (grades 4-8)
Saturday, March 2, 2024
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, New York, NY

MILWAUKEE Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Church of the Gesu, Milwaukee, WI

NEW ENGLAND Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, MA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Treble (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Christ Cathedral, Garden Grove, CA
Bishop Kevin W. Vann, Celebrant

LOUISVILLE Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, KY
Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, Celebrant

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 16th, 2024
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, San Francisco, CA
Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, Celebrant

PITTSBURGH Treble (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 16th, 2024
St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA
Bishop David A. Zubik, Celebrant

FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 (closed registration)
St. Pius X. Church, Granger, IN
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Celebrant

MID-ATLANTIC Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, April 20th, 2024
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate
Conception, Washington, D.C.
Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, Celebrant

Visit www.pcchoirs.org for individual festival brochures, repertoires, and additional details.

Festival registration will open soon!

Be sure to check the AFPC website (www.pcchoirs.org) for individual festival brochures which will include the repertoire, schedule, registration details, and other important information. Brochures will be posted and announced via email within the next couple weeks.

2024 National Repertoires

The American Federation Pueri Cantores 2024 Treble Voice Festival Repertoire for Treble Choirs (SA) Grades 4-8 & Grades 4-12

CHORAL PRELUDES

A. Choral works sung by individual choirs (optional - limited to 5 choirs)
B. Choral works **sung by ALL choirs**
*Misereere nostri Domine (canon for 3 voices)

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - (Unison, organ) Thomas Ravenscroft
AFPC Public Domain Series
J.S. Bach
AFPC Public Domain Series
Ave Maria (SA, keyboard) Carlos Zapién
Pueri Cantores Choral Series (GIA Publications, G-10715)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

*Entrance Hymns
*ORDINARY TIME: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN
*LENT: Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days Tune: ST. FLAVIAN
*Kyrie: (Mass XI "Orbis Factor") Gregorian chant
*ORDINARY TIME ONLY Gloria: Congregational Mass John Lee
Performance Instruction: Choirs are to prepare the entire Gloria - assembly will sing part II only. GIA Publications

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Responsorial Psalm (Antiphon will be found in the Order of Worship)
*Gospel Acclamations:
*ORDINARY TIME: Mode VI (Paschal) Alleluia Gregorian chant
Performance Instruction: 1. Response - unison choir 2. Response - choir/all 3. Verse (sung by cantor)
4. Response - soprano-descant, altos-melody
*LENT: Lenten Acclamation in hon. Fr. Paul LeJeune Corpus Christi Watershed
Performance Instruction: 1. Response - unison choir 2. Response - choir/ALL
3. Verse (sung by cantor) 4. Response - ALL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts Motet: Tantum Ergo (SA, organ) Jessica French
The French Press - <https://www.jessicafrench.org/shop/p/tantum-pueri>
*Sanctus: (Mass XVIII) Gregorian chant
*Memorial Acclamation: (We proclaim your death O Lord) / Amen: (Unison chant, organ) ICEL
*Lord's Prayer/Doxology: Chant Gregorian chant
*Agnus Dei (Mass XI "Orbis Factor")
Performance Instruction: Choirs Directors are asked to dedicate extra rehearsal time to the Agnus Dei.
Communion Procession
*1. English Chant Communio (English Proper) Adam Bartlett
Performance Instruction: Choirs are to prepare and memorize the antiphon. Cantor will chant the verses.
*2. Post-Communion motet: God Be In My Head (2 part, organ) Andrea Ramsey
Alliance Publications AMP 0804

CONCLUDING RITE

Choral Recessional: Te Deum Michael Bedford
Choristers Guild CGA 1127

* Indicates free downloadable music from pchoirs.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 92667.

The American Federation Pueri Cantores 2024 Mixed Voice Festival Repertoire for Mixed Voice Choirs (SATB) Grades 4-12

CHORAL PRELUDES

A. Choral works sung by individual choirs (optional - limited to 5 choirs)
B. Choral works **sung by ALL choirs**
*Misereere nostri Domine (canon for 3 voices)

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - (SATB, organ) Thomas Ravenscroft
AFPC Public Domain Series
J.S. Bach
AFPC Public Domain Series
*Da Pacem Domine (Canon in 4 voices) Melchior Franck
AFPC Public Domain Series

INTRODUCTORY RITES

*Entrance Hymns
*ORDINARY TIME/EASTERTIDE: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN
*LENT: Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days Tune: ST. FLAVIAN
*Kyrie: (Mass XI "Orbis Factor") Gregorian chant
*ORDINARY TIME/EASTERTIDE ONLY Gloria: Congregational Mass John Lee
Performance Instruction: Choirs are to prepare the entire Gloria - assembly will sing part II only. GIA Publications

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Responsorial Psalm (Antiphon will be found in the Order of Worship)
*Gospel Acclamations:
*ORDINARY TIME/EASTERTIDE: Mode VI (Paschal) Alleluia Gregorian chant
Performance Instruction: 1. Response - unison choir 2. Response - choir/all 3. Verse (sung by cantor)
4. Response - soprano/tenors-descant, altos/basses-melody
*LENT: Lenten Acclamation in hon. Fr. Paul LeJeune Corpus Christi Watershed
Performance Instruction: 1. Response - unison choir 2. Response - choir/ALL
3. Verse (sung by cantor) 4. Response - ALL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts Motet: Ecce fidelis servus, Op. 54 (SATB, organ) Gabriel Fauré
AFPC Public Domain Series
*Sanctus: (Mass XVIII) Gregorian chant
*Memorial Acclamation: (We proclaim your death O Lord) / Amen: (Unison chant, organ) ICEL
*Lord's Prayer/Doxology: Chant Gregorian chant
*Agnus Dei (Mass XI "Orbis Factor")
Performance Instruction: Choirs Directors are asked to dedicate extra rehearsal time to the Agnus Dei.
Communion Procession
*1. English Chant Communio (English Proper) Adam Bartlett
Performance Instruction: Choirs are to prepare and memorize the antiphon. Cantor will chant the verses.
*2. Communion motet: Ave Verum Corpus (SATB, organ) Wolfgang Mozart
AFPC Public Domain Series

CONCLUDING RITE

Choral Recessional: Te Deum Michael Bedford
Choristers Guild CGA 1127

* Indicates free downloadable music from pchoirs.org

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IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT FESTIVAL REPERTOIRE: The repertoire for your regional Pueri Cantores Festival might differ slightly from the national repertoires above. *Please refer to **individual festival brochures** for the correct repertoire list you should prepare with your choir.*

Downloadable Festival music is available [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). 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 scored. With the mention of your AFPC affiliation, the published song titles, when purchased through Loser's Music at losers@lmf.net, will be discounted 25% off the original price.

Festival Preparation Resources for Choir Directors

[What is Pueri Cantores, exploring the ins and outs of a Festival, and how best to prepare your choir \(video\)](#)

[MP3 practice recordings will be available to help with your choir rehearsals](#)

[FAQ about Pueri Cantores Festivals](#)

[AFPC/NCEA archived webinars for music teachers, choir directors, and worship leaders \(videos\)](#)

[Choir organizational tips from Pueri Cantores conductor members](#)

Meet the Singers



Eli H.

Age: 13 Years in Choir: 5
JMD Tampa Bay Pueri Cantores, FL

What do you love about singing and being in choir?

I love how connected it makes me feel with everyone & with God. There is an adrenaline rush when you are able to sing beautiful music together. It's just amazing when it clicks.

How has being in choir strengthened your faith and enriched other areas of your life?

Being in choir helps me to work as a team and respect the abilities of my fellow singers. Singing helps me remain focused on God during the entire Mass.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

I have participated in three Pueri Cantores festivals in South Florida. I really enjoy the combining of all the choirs under one roof, as it makes the music seem even more rich and powerful. I love to visit all the different beautiful churches.

What else would you like to share about yourself and your choir experience?

I have always loved Pueri Cantores because my choir director Mrs. Lau took me from an enthusiastic but misguided singer into a developing soprano. Choir helps keep me grounded and remain focused on my faith amid my other music lessons.

*My choir and I at the
2023 Florida Festival!*





Nathan O.

Age: 11 Years in Choir: 1

Jesus the Good Shepherd Youth Choir
Owings, MD

What do you love about singing and being in choir?

I like singing and it makes me feel good and relaxed. I like being in choir because we can travel to different places, sing to others, and worship the good news of Christ.

How has being in choir strengthened your relationship with God and others?

The lyrics in the songs we sing make me feel close to God. It helps me think of God all the time and that helps me with my daily routine. It also helps me to be nice and kind to other people and listen to my parents.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

We were told by our music teacher that we were invited to the Pueri Cantores Festival in Washington, DC. It was very exciting and we practiced every week for a few months after school. It was so much fun and there were so many people!



↪ The combined choirs at the 2023 Mid-Atlantic Festival! ↩

[Click here to sign up your child to be featured in a future AFPC newsletter.](#)

2023-24 Pueri Cantores Rome Congress

More than 1,000 U.S Pueri Cantores singers and their families from CA, AZ, TX, NC, IL, IN, MI, PA, and MD will be traveling to Rome this December/January for the 44th Pueri Cantores International Congress! This extraordinary week-long celebration is part pilgrimage and part choral festival that traditionally occurs every five years, bringing together Pueri Cantores choirs from around the world to participate in many thrilling liturgies and concerts. The Congress culminates with thousands of Pueri Cantores choristers singing for the Papal Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on January 1, 2024 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God), with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, presiding. It truly is a once-in-a-lifetime event for our young people and a huge triumph for the Church!

Click on the brochure below to learn more about the Congress and contact David O'Brien at Corporate Travel at dobrien@ctscentral.net or 734-223-3348 if you have any questions.



44th International Congress of PUERI CANTORES

Your Choir Is Cordially Invited To Join Choirs of Young Singers From
Around the World to Sing the Peace of God at this Extraordinary Event

Rome & Vatican City
December 26, 2023–January 2, 2024



Sistine Chapel Private Tour

Opportunity limited
to initial registrants

Deposit early to guarantee
your space!



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AFPC-NCEA Webinar Series

for Conductors of Catholic Student Choirs, Worship Leaders and Classroom Teachers, Elementary through High School

Catch up on our latest webinar here:



[Click here to watch our archived AFPC-NCEA webinars.](#)
Stay tuned for more webinars in the new school year!

Pueri Cantores Alumni Spotlight



During my high school years, I was able to attend three AFPC festivals throughout New England. Each of these festivals have shown me a depth to music and singing that is not always visible to the eye or ear alone. Being able to connect with others immediately upon meeting them is difficult. However, being in a large choir will show you this is possible! Music brings people together and connects them for a common purpose. AFPC elevates that ability to connect with other singers by raising it to a new standard: a standard of worship. We all gather together and unite our talents, time, and love of singing to offer praise and thanksgiving in the setting of the Mass.

Being able to participate in a large choir with AFPC gave me a new experience of discipline and structure that closer-knit choirs with fewer people may not have access to. I am very thankful to have had both experiences going forward in my life. This fall I will be

studying music with an emphasis on voice at The Catholic University of America. I will be a part of the university choral group as well as taking private voice lessons. With my degree, I hope to become a choir director or professional singer. I am incredibly thankful for the knowledge and exposure the AFPC festivals gave me during my time in high school!

-Julia Stout, Pueri Cantores Alumnus Singer 2018, 2019 & 2022



Julia Stout with her fellow Mount Royal Academy Choristers at the 2019 New England Festival - St. Mary's Church, Newport, RI

Are you a Pueri Cantores Alumnus Singer? Email info@pcchoirs.org to let us know what you are up to and to join our alumni network!

Join our Monthly Sustainers Program!



AFPC's mission is to **educate and evangelize young Catholics across the U.S through sacred music**, thereby cultivating their passion for the arts, nurturing their personal and spiritual wellbeing, and developing a relationship with God and the Church that they will carry all their lives.

AFPC's work is made possible through the support of individuals like you who see the value in this apostolate and are committed to seeing it continue. **Please prayerfully consider becoming a Monthly Sustainer** to help us enrich the lives of thousands of children and families for years to come.

[Click here to become a Monthly Sustainer](#)

Or make a one-time donation to Pueri Cantores here

From the International Federation of Pueri Cantores

Learn about Pueri Cantores Choirs across the globe!

FIPC News & Events

Foederatio Internationalis Pueri Cantores | July 2023 | Issue 018

Goulven Airault President Pueri Cantores France - A profile



Early beginnings with Pueri Cantores:

My first connection with Pueri Cantores was in 2009 when I arrived in Saint Brieuc (Brittany) to conduct the choir Petits Chanteurs de Saint Brieuc. This choir is 600 years old and is very invested in the French Federation since its foundation in 1947.

Early years – schooling, music, professional track record.

I come from Brittany which has a very strong identity, and culture. I was born into this culture, where faith has a central place. I played violin, (my first job was violin teacher) and I used to play traditional music with a band. I began choir conducting with friends, in a choir that sang Sacred Breton music. I learned conducting in a conservatory and this has been my job since 2003. I have also worked for music school, opera, before I arrived in Saint Brieuc in 2009. I am Capel master of the Cathedral. I also compose music, sacred, liturgical and also operas for children.

Family life:

I am married and my wife and I have a 9-year-old child.

Choirs from Brittany:

In Saint Brieuc, we have choirs for every age group. I work a lot in primary school (starting with children who are 2-3 yrs old)

My Vision for PC France:

I would like help French choirs in 5 ways:

- protection of children.
- reinforce meetings between singers and conductors.
- help conductors in their formation (musical, liturgical).
- reinforce and create partnership with Church, and State musical institutions.
- propose a pastoral and pedagogic dynamic especially to help new choirs.

PC France in the next 5 years.

I hope we will grow from 67 choirs that exist today to 90 -100 choirs. I also hope we will be able to say, 'Our house is very safe'. Finally I hope our relationship with all our partners in the Church, and Civil Society will be rich and constructive.

Thoughts on PC – as an integral part of the Church in enhancing Liturgical Celebrations.

Évangélisation is a priority! We must speak to our young singers with Jesus' words! We are Pueri Cantores, and for me, that means servants of God and his people! So we have to be humble and persevering in our mission. We are heirs of Sacred Music and it is our duty to make it come alive through the liturgy.

Some advice to young members of Pueri Cantores who can be future leaders of the FIPC.

With the beauty of your voices, the unity you practice every day, not only in your music but also in your life, you are witnesses of The Gospel.

You can change the world!



[Click here to download a pdf of the entire 7-page FIPC July newsletter.](#)

A note about Online Festival Registration

For the 2024 Festival Season we will be using [Zeffy](#) to manage online festival registrations. Zeffy is offered **completely free to nonprofits** (no monthly membership payments or credit card processing fees- a rarity!), **which means 100% of your festival fees go to AFPC**. Zeffy operates solely on donations in order to keep their platform free.

When you complete your online registration form and get to your Order Summary, please notice that a donation to Zeffy is automatically added by them into the total amount due. **If you would prefer not to make a donation to Zeffy, select "other" and then "0" to ensure that you're not paying an additional amount.** If you have any questions about the new online registration platform, please reach out to the AFPC office.

NEW Official Festival Choir Participant Cancellation & Refund Policy



THE AMERICAN FEDERATION
PUERI CANTORES
*Bringing together youth choirs throughout
America to sing the Peace of God*

Official Festival Choir Participant Cancellation and Refund Policy

To secure your choir's registration in a Pueri Cantores Festival, all Festival fees and materials are due no later than one month prior to your regional Festival date.

We at AFPC understand the unpredictable and changeable nature of working with children, therefore the AFPC offers the following cancellation and refund policies for choirs:

FULL REFUND

Full refunds will be granted if the AFPC office is notified of your cancellation no later than two weeks prior to the Festival date. This includes cancellation of your entire choir's participation in a Pueri Cantores Festival or individual student participant cancellations.

PARTIAL REFUND*

Partial refunds (50%) will be granted if the AFPC office is notified of your cancellation no later than nine days prior to the Festival date. This includes cancellation of your entire choir's participation in a Pueri Cantores Festival or individual student participant cancellations.

NO REFUND*

Notification of cancellation after the ninth day prior to the Festival date will not qualify for a refund. This includes cancellation of your entire choir's participation in a Pueri Cantores Festival or individual student participant cancellations.

*Orders for festival materials (snacks, drinks, festival medallions, etc.) are placed in advance of the festival date, and as such require AFPC to incur costs based on festival attendance figures.

In the situation of extenuating circumstances, any cancellation and refund requests received after the two-week full refund date may be reviewed by the Program Director who in turn will recommend the appropriate refund and action to the AFPC Board of Directors.

In the event of a Festival cancellation by the American Federation of Pueri Cantores, registrants will receive a full refund.



**AMERICAN FEDERATION
PUERI CANTORES**

