

## For Young Singers Saint Cecilia Choir

**S**aint Cecilia Choir, the choral program for young singers at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, offers extensive musical training and experience as well as an understanding of the role of music in liturgy. Membership is open to choristers with unchanged treble voices age eight and older. Classes are held most Thursday afternoons from September through May and the Choir sings at a Cathedral liturgy approximately every third Sunday.

Previous experience, audition, and Cathedral membership are not required. The program's primary focus is on the musical education of its participants, using the Royal School of Church Music *Voice for Life* curriculum. (The RSCM is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the use of music to enrich Christian worship and to provide practical means of achieving the highest possible musical education.) Each chorister receives individual attention through small-group instruction. Emphasis is placed upon developing a healthy, beautiful singing voice and the ability to read musical notation.



The Choir's repertoire includes chant, spirituals and music from the classical sacred repertoire, in English and Latin. The Choir has made recordings for MorningStar Music Publishers that are distributed nationwide, and each year they participate in the Cathedral's December concert. The Saint Cecilia Choir was honored to be invited to present a Hymn Festival at the 2009 convention of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

To listen: [www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/music](http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/music)

### *Saint Cecilia Choir -*

- For youth, age 8 and older
- Classes are held at the Cathedral on Thursday afternoons from 4:00 - 5:00.
- The Choir participates in liturgy at the Cathedral approximately every third Sunday
- Participants receive instruction in music reading skills, tone production, music history, and liturgical practice
- Affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music in America
- Music is drawn from the classical sacred repertoire
- If it is possible, the Cathedral suggests a \$50 donation per family to help defray the costs of the materials and choir robe cleaning.
- For enrollment information, contact Marilyn Biery at 651-357-1347

*Sing with Spirit.  
Sing with understanding.*

## For Adults Cathedral Choir

**T**he Cathedral Choir is the principal adult choral ensemble at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. An ensemble of 35 to 40 professional and volunteer musicians, the Choir's primary mission is to lead the congregation in the worship of God through music each Sunday at the 10:00 am Mass. Their repertoire ranges from Gregorian chant to Renaissance polyphony to music of contemporary composers.

The Cathedral Choir rehearses weekly on Wednesday evenings from September through May, and sings at the 10:00 am Mass through Corpus Christi Sunday in June. The Choir season includes the liturgies which celebrate Christmas and the Easter Triduum, as well as a few additional liturgies and concerts. A wholehearted commitment to membership in the Choir ensures that its members can make glorious music that enriches their own spiritual lives, as well as uplifting and inspiring the people of God. An 80% attendance commitment is desirable.



## Joining a Choir at the Cathedral

*Both choirs welcome and appreciate new members.* The easiest time to join is at the beginning of the choir season in September, but there are several additional opportunities throughout the year to join either group.

For further information about choir membership, contact Marilyn Biery at 651 357-1347 or [mbiery@cathedralsp.org](mailto:mbiery@cathedralsp.org)

### Cathedral Music Staff

**James Biery** was appointed Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Paul in 1996. He holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in church music and organ and was awarded the Fellowship certificate by the American Guild of Organists in 1986. He has directed programs in Nebraska, Illinois, and Connecticut.  
[jbiery@cathedralsp.org](mailto:jbiery@cathedralsp.org)  
651-357-1326



**Marilyn Biery** is the Associate Director of Music at the Cathedral. She holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ and church music from Northwestern University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota in organ performance.  
[mbiery@cathedralsp.org](mailto:mbiery@cathedralsp.org)  
651-357-1347



**Lawrence Lawyer** is the Cathedral's Assistant in Music. He has extensive experience in all facets of church music, and has served prominent parishes in the Upper Midwest. He holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in church music and organ.  
[llawyer@cathedralsp.org](mailto:llawyer@cathedralsp.org)  
651-357-1351



## Benefits of Choir Membership

Participating in a musical ensemble brings great personal satisfaction and many long-term benefits.

- Learning and performing some of the greatest musical treasures of the choral art
- The satisfaction of learning to sing well and read music, and the joy of sharing that talent with others
- An opportunity to meet new people who share similar interests
- Relief of stress and anxiety
- The preservation and passing on of an important tradition of the faith
- An outlet for expressing one's feelings and emotions
- The honor and thrill of participating in the faith community's significant events

Singing in a choir may even keep you healthier. A study by the University of California, Irvine, found that a protein used by the immune system to fight disease (Immunoglobulin A) increased 150 percent during choir rehearsals and 240 percent during performances. The increase seemed related to the singers' states of mind, which singers described as happy or euphoric.



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# THE CATHEDRAL CHOIRS



**James Biery**, *Director of Music*

**Marilyn Biery**, *Associate Director of Music*

**Lawrence Lawyer**, *Assistant in Music*

Cathedral of Saint Paul  
National Shrine of the Apostle Paul  
Saint Paul, Minnesota