

The Reston **Chorale**

Robert E. Simon, Jr. Music Scholarships for High School and College Vocalists

The Reston Chorale is an inclusive, auditioned mixed-voice choir under the direction of Artistic Director David B. Lang. The Reston Chorale is known for presenting high-quality performances of a wide range of music—from classical choral masterworks to classic rock. In 2024, **The Reston Chorale was named “Best Municipal Chorus” in The Greater Washington D.C. Choral Excellence “Ovation” Awards.** The Reston Chorale was also a finalist for Creative Programming in the 2018 Ovation Awards.

The Reston Chorale presents Robert E. Simon Jr. Music Scholarships to up to eight high school and/or undergraduate college students per season. Music scholars may participate in multiple seasons.

Students receive a monetary award to help further their education, with high school students accruing \$75 for each concert segment they successfully complete with the Chorale, and college students accruing \$125 per successfully completed segment. Scholarship awards are presented at the end of the concert season.

Scholarship recipients also gain valuable experience singing with The Reston Chorale, including opportunities to:

- **Strengthen vocal range and abilities**, and learn from The Reston Chorale’s expert artistic staff and guest coaches;
- **Sing with experienced vocalists and professional musicians**, such as the Brass Band of Northern Virginia and the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra, and
- **Explore broad genres of music**, ranging from choral masterworks and new works by American composers to traditional spirituals, jazz, classic rock and Broadway choruses.

Eligibility & Requirements

The Robert E. Simon, Jr., Music Scholarships are open to:

- **High school students** (grades 9-12) enrolled in public or private school performing arts programs, such as choir, band or orchestra. Home-schooled students are also eligible.
- **Local undergraduate college students** taking at least six course hours per semester or quarter, regardless of major.

Concerts and rehearsals are photographed and recorded (audio and video), so participants (or a parent or guardian for youth under age 18) must sign a photo/recording release form.

Audition & Selection Process

Scholarship recipients are selected annually by auditions designed to provide the artistic director with information about the applicant's understanding of music and singing. Auditions include prepared excerpts, a short sight-reading exercise and a vocal range assessment. Auditions are held annually in September and January, but may also take place by appointment during other times of the year.

Prepared music may be a solo of the student’s choice *or* audition selections on The Reston Chorale’s website. Scan the QR code or visit at www.restonchorale.org/chorale_auditions.html.

Students also have the option of participating in two rehearsals before auditioning.

To request an audition, send an email to: Membership@RestonChorale.org.

Cost to Participate

Zero. Scholarship recipients receive concert attire on loan (as needed) and music for each segment. Membership dues are also waived for scholarship recipients.



Rehearsal & Concert Schedule

The Reston Chorale rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:30 pm at the Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, Virginia. Optional note-learning sessions take place from 6:15-6:55 pm for those who wish additional group practice time.

Each concert segment also involves one Saturday rehearsal and a mandatory dress rehearsal. Locations vary for Saturday and dress rehearsals.

2025-26 Season Schedule*

The Reston Chorale typically performs four major concerts per season, currently scheduled to include:

- **Saturday, December 6, 2025: *The Wonder of the Season*** holiday concerts featuring Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata* for chorus, brass and organ, plus holiday favorites.
- **Saturday, March 21, 2026: *Choral Masterworks*** (to be announced.)
- **Saturday, May 9, 2026: *Walkin' on Sunshine*** — a collection of pop hits scientifically proven to lift spirits.
- **Sunday, May 24, 2026: *A Star-Spangled Salute*** patriotic concert with the Brass Band of Northern Virginia.

* Subject to change.

Commitment / Maintaining Good Standing

In order to maintain good standing in the Robert E. Simon, Jr., Music Scholarship program, music scholars must:

- **Sing at least two concert segments** with the Chorale per season;
- **Attend regular and dress rehearsals**** and sing all performances for the concert segment, and
- **Be fully prepared for and attentive during all rehearsals**, including marking music, arriving on time, refraining from cell-phone use or texting during rehearsal (except during break or emergency), etc.

***No more than two regular rehearsals may be missed per segment. Excused absences include personal illness, serious illness or death in family, unavoidable conflict with work, school music performance or required school activity. Missing more than two rehearsals or unexcused absences may result in forfeiture of scholarship for that segment.*

For More Information

If you have questions or would like to schedule an audition for 2025-26 Season, please contact Jacqueline Bordeaux, Membership@RestonChorale.org.

Other Ways Youth Can Benefit from The Reston Chorale

- **Free concert tickets** – Youth 17 and under are admitted for free to The Reston Chorale's ticketed concerts. Youth must be accompanied by an adult or senior ticket holder. Visit www.restonchorale.org for concert tickets.
- **Opportunities to Gain Community Service Hours** – Youth age 14 and older may serve as volunteers at Chorale concerts listed above, as well as other events throughout the season.

Youth volunteers will receive certification of their community service hours. To volunteer or request more information, contact Susan Meeks-Versteeg at Manager@RestonChorale.org.