

# The Reston Chorale

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

Now in its 53<sup>rd</sup> season, The Reston Chorale is an auditioned, mixed-voice choir under the direction of Artistic Director David B. Lang. Known for presenting high-quality performances of a wide range of music—from classical choral masterworks to classic rock—the Chorale was named a finalist for Creative Programming in the 2018 Ovation Awards for Choral Excellence. In addition, the Chorale's Principal Guest Conductor, Dr. Allan Laino, was named the winner of the 2017-18 American Prize for Conducting in the Community Chorus Division.

The Reston Chorale presents Robert E. Simon Jr. Music Scholarships to up to eight high school and/or 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 Washington Symphonic Brass Quintet 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

The 2019-20 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.

### 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—which may be found and downloaded at [https://www.restonchorale.org/chorale\\_auditions.html](https://www.restonchorale.org/chorale_auditions.html)—a short sight reading exercise and a vocal range assessment.

Prepared music may be a solo of the student's choice *or* audition selections on The Reston Chorale's website at [www.restonchorale.org/chorale\\_auditions.html](http://www.restonchorale.org/chorale_auditions.html).

### Upcoming Audition Dates

The next auditions for the Robert E. Simon, Jr., Music Scholarships will take place:

- **August 27 and September 3, 2019** (pending availability)

To schedule an audition, send an email to: [RCAuditions@RestonChorale.org](mailto:RCAuditions@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.

**Camerata—the Chorale’s chamber ensemble—also rehearses on Tuesday evenings** from 6:15-6:55 pm. Scholarship students are eligible to audition for this ensemble, as well.

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

## 2019-20 Concerts Dates

The 2019-20 season has not been finalized, but preliminary dates and plans include:

- **Sunday, October 20, 2019**—*I Dream a World*, a concert of traditional spirituals and music by Black composers
- **Saturday, December 7, 2019**—Holiday Concert, featured work: Vivaldi’s *Gloria*
- **Sunday, March 8, 2020**—Classical Concert, featured work: Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*
- **Saturday, May 9, 2020**—Pops Concert: *Hittin’ the Road*

## 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 all rehearsals** (music marked, arrive on time, etc.)

\* *No more than two rehearsals may be missed per segment. Excused absences include 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 to schedule an audition, please contact [RCAuditions@restonchorale.org](mailto:RCAuditions@restonchorale.org).

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## 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](http://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 the following events.
  - May 23, 2020, *Star-Spangled Salute* at the Reston Town Center Pavilion
  - June 6, 2020 Gardens of Note Garden Tour

Youth volunteers will receive certification of their community service hours. To volunteer or request more information, contact Susan Meeks-Versteeg at [manager@restonchorale.org](mailto:manager@restonchorale.org)