

Western District All-State Youth (WAY) Choir

Handbook

2006 Season

Sponsored by:

Youth Division
Western District
United Pentecostal Church International
President: Rev. Kevin Bradford

1 Sponsorship

- The Western District All-State Youth Choir is sponsored by the Youth Division of the Western District United Pentecostal Church International. Other sponsorships and revenues are generated by membership fees, audition fees and private contribution funds.

2 Membership Requirements

- Requirements for membership into WAY include:
 - Single, never married.
 - Ages 15 to 25 years.
 - Baptized in Jesus Name.
 - Filled with the Holy Ghost.
 - Living a Christian lifestyle.
 - Completed Application.
 - Completed Pastor Approval Form.
 - Membership in affiliated Western District UPCI Apostolic Church*.
 - Successful Audition.
 - Approval of WAY Choir Director and Steering Committee.
 - Remittance of Membership fee.

*Preference and first choice will be given to those Applicants who are members of a church that is affiliated with the Western District UPCI. If all available choir membership positions are not filled by persons from an UPCI affiliated church, then persons from other Apostolic organizations will be considered.

3 Auditions

- WAY Choir auditions will normally be held in the month of October of each year at the Maximum Velocity events (North and South). Additional auditions may be held at the Western District Youth Convention.
- The Audition dates are announced at least two (2) months prior on: (1) the WAY choir website; www.waychoir.org (2) the WDYouth website www.wdyouth.org.
- A copy of the Application is available on the WAY choir website.
- A person who meets the Membership Requirements may apply to audition for membership in the WAY Choir.
- To audition, an Applicant must
 - (1) Submit a completed Application
 - (2) Submit a completed Pastoral Approval Form. This form must be sent separately by the pastor.
 - (3) Send a CD or tape of their vocal performance.
 - (4) Submit an Audition Fee of \$40.00 non-refundable check payable to Western District U.P.C.I.
 - (5) Bring their solo accompaniment track / CD to the Audition cued and ready to go.

3.1 Auditioning by CD or Tape

An Applicant may submit a pre-recorded Audition by CD or tape if they qualify under the following conditions:

1. Sick on the day of Audition (Applicant must contact Choir Director for a later scheduled audition).
2. Lack of transportation on Audition date.
3. Distance to Audition location is beyond 3 hours traveling time.
4. Work conflict on Audition date.
5. Vacation on Audition date.

Pre-recorded Auditions must arrive within one week prior to the Auditions. The pre-recorded Audition must be accompanied by a note from the Applicant's pastor that certifies the person singing on the pre-recorded audition is the Applicant.

Send paperwork and tape/CD to:
WAY Choir Auditions

P.O. Box 507
Elk Grove, CA. 95624

4 Annual Membership Fee

- An Annual Membership Fee of \$40.00 dollars will be collected at the 1st practice of each new fiscal year from each Applicant upon acceptance into the WAY Choir organization.

4.1 Allocation of Membership Fees

- WAY membership fees are used to support various functions of the choir including but not limited to: Overhead costs; printing, mailing, supplies, musical equipment and stands, telephone/fax costs; handouts; booklets, WAY choir parties and some travel expenses; Musical Research- CD's, Music and telephone calls to experts on music; obtaining musical knowledge from experts on voice, dictation, and musical repertoire; travel and performance experience throughout our district; confidence and motivational sessions for youth.

5 WAY Communications

- Website: The website is the PRIMARY means of communication with Members of WAY. The WAY choir website URL is www1w.waychoir.org. ALL information about the choir will be available on the website.
- E-mail is the SECONDARY form of communication between the Member and Choir Leadership. Members must maintain and monitor a valid e-mail account to be a member of WAY Choir.
- Mobile Telephone is the THIRD form of communication between the Member and Choir Leadership. Given the convenience of mobile telephones, it is greatly appreciated if you provide your mobile telephone number to the Choir Leadership.
- Home Telephone is the FOURTH form of communication between the Member and Choir Leadership.
- If a Member has changes to any of the above means of communication, the Member should immediately forward this information to the Choir Director as soon as you know them.

6 Representatives (North / South)

- Member Representatives for WAY Choir will be selected by the WAY Choir Leadership and for the purpose of representing the areas of the Northern and Southern Regions of the state in promotional issues.

7 Section Leaders

- Section Leaders for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor will be selected and appointed by the WAY Choir Director.

8 Rehearsals

- Rehearsals will be scheduled prior to each performance or singing event and are considered MANDATORY. Schedules will be distributed via e-mail and on the WAY choir website well in advance of the performances. ALL REHEARSALS ARE IMPORTANT! When a Member misses rehearsal, the entire Choir is adversely affected. Role Call will be taken at each rehearsal and performance.
- Due to the size of this particular singing group, absences will be unavoidable. Therefore, members will be allowed a maximum of one (1) "EXCUSED" ABSENCE. It is the Member's responsibility to contact the Choir Director in advance of any absence by telephone at 916-730-5066. An e-mail must also be sent to kfitzpatrick@waychoir.org. Failure to do so will result in exclusion from WAY Choir. You will not be eligible to audition again until the next year.
- Reasons that are considered to be VALID for absences are:
 1. Sickness that would not allow you to get out of the bed. (Sore throat, tiredness, or stomachaches are unexcused).
 2. Death in family.
 3. Automobile accident in route to practice or performance.
- "Classic Unexcused Absences" include:
 1. "I forgot about the practice or performance."
 2. "My Momma forgot to remind me."
 3. "I didn't get anything in the mail."
 4. "I thought it was the next week that we were supposed to practice or perform."
 5. "I had to work, and my boss wouldn't let me off."

6. "I moved."

7. "I didn't have anything to wear."

- Tardiness will be carefully monitored. Habitual tardiness will be considered a possible unexcused absence. The Choir Director will address such situations with the member who is at fault.
- Note: Unless special arrangements are made with the Choir Director, no one will be dismissed early from rehearsal or performances. Circumstances related to the requested early dismissal must be of a very serious nature for the request to be granted. It is in bad taste to leave a performance site early.

9 Rehearsal Materials

- Rehearsal tracks and lyrics of the choir repertoire are available on the WAY website. Members must learn their parts PRIOR to rehearsal.

10 Repertoire Suggestions

- Song suggestions are always welcomed by WAY choir leadership. If you know of a song or songs that you would like WAY to perform, just give us a CD or tape with performers, title cut and song name. We will review and consider your suggestion carefully,

11 Auditions for Solo Parts of Choir Repertoire

- Auditions for solo parts of songs which require soloists will occur at Choir Rehearsal. These solos will be done by private audition with the WAY Choir Director and Judges Panel.
- All Auditions for solos must be performed from memory, The Judges Panel will award the solo to at least three singers – the Principal, the Alternate and the Understudy. The Understudy will sing the solo in the event that the Principal or Alternates are unavailable. The Director will select the Principal or the Alternate for a particular performance.
- The Choir Director will make the final selection of Principal, Alternates and Understudies. Ratings for auditioners will be based on:
 1. Personal interpretation.
 2. Personal Interpretation.
 3. Stage presence and communication of the song.
 4. Ad lib ability/interpretation.
 5. Knowing the solo by memory.
 6. Overall confidence.

12 Choir Robes

- The WAY choir will use choir robes. Each Member must purchase their robe, and the robe is the property of the Member. If the Member is unable to be in the WAY Choir for the next year, Member may sell robe to a new Member. Communication and choir robe sales will be facilitated on the WAY Choir website.
- An alternative dress uniform will be used, in addition to the choir robe.
 - Ladies – (1) black on black dresses or (2) black on white outfits or dress suit on performance night. Black dress shoes and hose.
 - Men - black suits with a solid colored tie of your choice. Black shoes and black socks. (no white socks please)

13 Prayer Time / Fast Days

- Our anointing comes from the Lord Jesus, and prayer strengthens our relationship with Him. All Members of the WAY Choir will be required to find a "collective time of prayer" for one (1) hour prior to a performance. Prayer is mandatory!. No exceptions.
- Fast days will be called at various times throughout the year. If Member is physically unable to fast due to health reasons, Member will be exempt from this one area. Each Member is required to fast one day for the service or services in which the WAY Choir will be a participant.

14 Travel / Monies / Conduct (Mini Tour)

- As opportunities arise to the WAY Choir to sing besides the Summer Tour, each Member will be given additional chances to travel. Appropriate money for food and lodging and transportation will be the responsibility of each Member of WAY. Car pooling is recommended for all WAY activities in route to

practice or performance. We urge responsible coherent drivers to drive of course! Be considerate and share gas expenses if possible.

- The Rules of Conduct and Dress Code apply at all of these events.

15 Awards

- Awards to select members of WAY Choir will be given out at different times of the year, but primarily at social events and rehearsals. The WAY Choir Staff and Directors will decide awards.

Awards will be given to:

1. Singer of the Year.
2. Best Male Vocalist.
3. Best Female Vocalist.
4. Most Dedicated WAY Choir Member.
5. Personality Plus.
6. Best Improved Vocalist.
7. Best Contributor to the Organization. i.e. (Involving New Recruits; Song Suggestion; Attitude in Motivation; Special Assistance) *
8. Most well liked by WAY Choir members.

*Choir members vote on this award by secret ballot.

16 Fundraisers

- Each Member will be required to assist in fundraisers to help raise money for travel. Each Member will have his/hers separate accounting to credit you for your efforts. Each Member will pull their weight on this matter. Some Members may be able to get sponsorship from your local church.

17 Rules of Conduct and Dress Code

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost and we are instructed in the Scriptures to conduct ourselves in a manner that does not bring reproach on the Body of Christ. Members of WAY Choir must comply with dress standards of the Western District. No clothing should be worn that immodestly exposes one's body, or would be an offense to members of our District.

Therefore, while dress standards vary from church to church and are decided by each pastoral jurisdiction, the Western District Youth President has determined that the following dress code rules apply to WAY Members.

Rules of Conduct apply AT ALL TIMES during the tour to ALL MEMBERS, and include both dress and casual wear. Violation of the dress code will result in dismissal of Member from the WAY Choir:

Both Ladies and Men

1. A Member's general appearance shall be clean, neat and tidy. Daily personal grooming is required (baths, showers, teeth brushed, hair washed and combed and use of deodorants).
2. Sleeve lengths shall be 3/4 lengths or long sleeves during performances. Short sleeve casual wear that comes to the elbow is permissible.
3. No apparel that immodestly exposes the body (including tight-fitting; improper length tops; fish-net type shirts; sleeve-less shirts or blouses).
4. No jewelry (necklaces, earrings, bracelets, etc.)
5. No piercings.
6. No shorts.
7. No tee-shirts unless that shirt complies with casual wear sleeve length requirement.

Ladies

1. No make up (including foundation or base)
2. Dresses must be below the knees. No splits above the knee.
3. Ladies will be required to wear their hair up during performances.

Men

1. Hair must be above the collar and ears.
2. No facial hair (beards, moustaches).
3. Sideburns must be trimmed to no lower than the middle of the ear canal.

Conduct

A Member's conduct must be exemplary of a Christian at all times. Physical contact between the sexes is strictly forbidden while Members are under the direct supervision of the WAY Staff. Any violation will result in immediate termination from the WAY Choir without the refund of membership fees.

I have read and understand the Rules of Conduct and Dress Code for the 2006 WAY Choir Season and Summer 2006 Tour. I understand that violation of these rules will result in possible dismissal from the 2006 WAY Choir, without refund of any monies collected from me. I agree to comply fully with and abide by these Rules as a condition of acceptance and participation in the 2006 WAY Choir.

Signature of WAY Choir Member/Applicant

Date