



## MOUNT ROYAL'S ARTIO CHOIR HANDBOOK 2019-20

Your reference for participating in Mount Royal's Artio Choir

### MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY CONSERVATORY

4825 Mount Royal Gate SW  
Calgary, AB T3E 6K6  
Phone: 403.440.6111

### [CHOIR MEMBERS RESOURCES WEBPAGE LINK](#)

Artistic Director of Mount Royal Choral Programs &  
Artio Director: Jean- Louis Bleau  
Email: [jbleau@mtroyal.ca](mailto:jbleau@mtroyal.ca)

### MOUNT ROYAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION OF CALGARY

Website: [mountroyalchoirs.com](http://mountroyalchoirs.com)  
General Manager: Claudia Istvanffy  
Email: [choirs@mtroyal.ca](mailto:choirs@mtroyal.ca)

## WHAT IS THE MOUNT ROYAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION OF CALGARY (MRCA) AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

MRCA is the member/parent support organization of the Mount Royal Choirs: Ariel, Arietta, Arioso & Artio, and fulfills the vital role of funding the enrichment component of the Mount Royal Conservatory's choral program. The Conservatory provides the core component through choir tuition which includes weekly rehearsals and one concert per year. It is MRCA that provides for additional performances, workshops, camps, uniforms, music binders and bags, transportation when required, scholarships, bursaries, and significant contribution to expenses of touring. Artio chorister/ children's choir parent support of MRCA and its activities is essential to the success of the program and directly benefits each and every chorister. Support MRCA through volunteering and fundraising.

Mount Royal Choral Association is a charitable non-profit society

*Mount Royal Choral Association of Calgary*  
*Registered Charity No. 89002 3062 RR0001*

# CONTENTS

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- WHAT IS THE MOUNT ROYAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION OF CALGARY (MRCA)..... 1
- OUR SUPPORTERS..... 2
- THE MOUNT ROYAL CHOIRS ARE: ..... 3
  - ARIEL..... 3
  - ARIETTA ..... 3
  - ARIOSO..... 3
  - ARTIO..... 3
- REGISTRATION ..... 3
  - STEP 1: Pay tuition with Mount Royal University Conservatory..... 4
  - STEP 2: Register with Mount Royal Choral Association..... 4
  - STEP 3: Attend MRCA Annual General Meeting..... 4
- SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES ..... 4
- ATTENDANCE ..... 5
- SIGN IN..... 5
- PUNCTUALITY..... 5
- PARKING ..... 5
- MUSIC ..... 6
- PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS ..... 6
- COMMUNICATION..... 6
- VOLUNTEER SUPPORT..... 7
- FUNDRAISING ..... 7
- CASINO..... 7
- DONATIONS..... 8
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS ..... 8

## THE MOUNT ROYAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION IS SUPPORTED BY

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## THE MOUNT ROYAL CHOIRS ARE:

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### **ARIEL, ARIETTA, ARIOSO**

Choir Directors: Jamie Popowich (Ariel), Elizabeth Paynter (Arietta & Arioso)

#### **Kindergarten – Grade 9**

Mount Royal Conservatory's 3 children's choirs instill a lifelong love for music, while building strong musical and vocal foundations for future musical study. The children's groups learn age appropriate music, and perform on Calgary's finest stages throughout the year.

**REHEARSAL:      Wednesday Evenings**  
**Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts**

### **ARTIO**

Choir Director: Jean- Louis Bleau

Email: [jbleau@mtroyal.ca](mailto:jbleau@mtroyal.ca)

#### **Ages 15+**

**Artio** specializes in choral music that is distinct, demanding, diverse and innovative. They explore a variety of genres from early music through to innovative creations being crafted by today's composers. Artio re-imagines and re-invents music of the past and embraces the avant-garde music of tomorrow as they continually seek to push the boundaries of choral music and performance.

Mount Royal Artio presents a final choral music performance each year that fuses music with innovative ideas and other art forms — “choral theatre” performances that highlight the season and gives audiences exciting new performance presentations that draw upon the talent and imagination of Artio members.

**REHEARSAL:      Tuesdays 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**Nickel Theatre, Mount Royal University Main Campus, West Entrance**

## REGISTRATION

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**Students must be registered in order to participate in the choir program.**

There are three steps to registration with the choir program:

- 1. Tuition payment through the Mount Royal University Conservatory**
- 2. Complete registration forms and submit music/uniform/volunteer deposits to Mount Royal Choral Association**
- 3. Attend the Annual General Meeting on October 2, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Atelier Room, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts**

### **Step 1: Tuition Payment through the Mount Royal University Conservatory**

Registration fees are paid through the **Mount Royal University Conservatory**. The registration fee includes the Conservatory Instruction Fee which covers the “core” components of the program, the MRU Instructional Equipment Fee, and the Mount Royal Choral Association Society Fee.

Fees can be paid on an instalment Payment Plan.

The choir program is considered to be full year program, lasting from Sept to May. For choristers joining the choir mid-season a pro-rated tuition fee will be calculated. For further information regarding registration, or to register by phone, please contact the **Conservatory office at 403.440.6821**.

[Mount Royal Conservatory online registration](#)

### **Step 2: Complete registration forms and submit music/uniform/volunteer deposit cheques to Mount Royal Choral Association**

Forms can be accessed online from the [Choir Members Resources Webpage](#), or paper forms can be picked up at rehearsal sign in desk. Completed forms and post-dated cheques can be handed in at rehearsal sign in tables. Deadline October 1, 2019

Required Registration Forms include:

- MRCA Chorister Registration Form
- Mount Royal Conservatory Release Form

Post Dated Deposit Cheques include:

- \$50.00 Artio Deposit towards Music

Please make cheques payable to the Mount Royal Choral Association, post dated to **June 1, 2020**. The cheque will be returned or destroyed (your choice) on or after June 1, 2020 upon return of uniform and all music binder and bag in good condition, and completion of volunteer requirements.

### **Step 3: Attend the MRCA Annual General Meeting**

**Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**Location: Atelier Room, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts**

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES - MRCA HARMONY FUND**

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One of the principal goals of MRCA is to ensure that all children and youth are able to participate in the choral programs at the Mount Royal University Conservatory. In keeping with this objective, families (or individuals) experiencing financial constraints, may request assistance through the MRCA Harmony Fund. The **MRCA Scholarship and Bursary Application Form is available online through the [Choir Member Resources Webpage](#)**. **Deadline for the Scholarships and Bursaries Application submission is September 25, 2019**

## **ATTENDANCE**

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Regular attendance in all choir activities is essential (rehearsals, performances, workshops, etc.). Each chorister becomes a valued member of his/her ensemble through his/her attendance. Regular attendance ensures good tone, balance, and blend, as well as a unified level of musicianship and positive morale within each choir. All events are integral to building good group dynamics in the choirs, as well as the musical skills of each student. And “teamwork” is what choirs and later life activities are all about!

Mount Royal Artio’s Calendar is provided to you in September. Please mark event and deadline dates on your calendar and schedule around them—you expected to attend all events listed.

Despite the essential nature of every chorister’s attendance, we realize there are times when an absence is unavoidable. An excused absence can include the following:

School function (e.g. school concert, exam),

Health,

Family Emergency / Crisis.

Choristers are expected to let the Choir Director know of any anticipated absences as soon as possible.

## **SIGN IN**

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Choristers are asked to sign in at the beginning of rehearsal and at all performances.

## **PUNCTUALITY**

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Aim to arrive 10 – 15 minutes before the rehearsal start time.

## **PARKING**

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If interested, Evening Student Parking Passes can be purchased. They are valid Monday to Friday after 4pm or later and all-day Saturday. Parking passes can be purchased at the Conservatory reception desk. People with these parking passes can only park in Student Parking Lots. Please visit this website if you would like to know where the Student Lots are located. <http://www.mtroyal.ab.ca/parking/parkingmap.pdf>

## MUSIC

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Artio singers will be issued sheet music. It is the chorister's responsibility to care for the music while in their possession. Please keep the music in a binder or folder and bring to each rehearsal.

Music deposit cheques will be forfeited if music is damaged or not returned at the end of the season.

## ARTIO PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS

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A performance uniform is required for Artio members and is to be purchased by the member. A separate uniform is often planned for the year end performance. Appearance should be professional and subdued, and not draw attention to an individual member.

Uniforms are to be business casual or formal (like formal wedding attire), with a blue, black, grey, and white colour palette. Solid colours are preferred, please avoid wearing prints.

Tops:

- Dress shirt or blouse, optional cardigan or blazer
- Tops should be modest and sleeves must go past the elbow

Bottoms:

- Dress pants or knee length (or longer) skirt
- Dark socks or opaque tights
- No skin should be visible, especially at the ankles or through open-toed shoes

Shoes:

- Dress shoes or flats
- Shoes should be comfortable for standing in place for the duration of the performance

Grooming:

- Members should be well groomed and presentable (hair should not obscure the face)
- Members may not wear strongly scented products (perfume, cologne, etc) to any Artio function
- Makeup, jewelry, and flair should be appropriate for the performance

We are delighted that Fishman's is our official uniform sponsor for the Mount Royal Children's Choirs 2019-20. Please consider supporting Fishman's for your families drycleaning needs.

Check out [fishmans.ca](http://fishmans.ca) to locate a convenient location.

## COMMUNICATION

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In order to keep you informed about choir activities, emails are distributed throughout the season.

Please be sure to read the emails prior to each rehearsal or performance so that you prepared and necessary deadlines are met.

## **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT**

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MRCA is the chorister/parent support organization of the Mount Royal Choirs and relies upon volunteers. Artio chorister/ parent involvement is an integral part of the choral program. There are a numerous volunteer positions available throughout the year.

Volunteer roles include:

MRCA Board members

Artio Board members

Social Media volunteer

Rehearsal sign in volunteer

Music volunteers

Fundraising volunteers

Year-end party volunteers

Tour and camp chaperones – parent volunteer required

Miscellaneous positions for duties that arise in the season

No Casino volunteers are required this year. There is no AGLC casino scheduled for the 2019-20 season.

## **FUNDRAISING**

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MRCA oversees all activities of the choirs and provides the needed funding for important enrichment activities (concerts & performances, camps, tours, workshops, uniforms, scholarships, etc.) beyond what the general tuition fee covers. MRCA is a registered charitable organization.

Fundraising is a necessary part of any non-profit organization. All choir families are expected to participate in fundraising activities. MRCA will be holding two fundraisers for the 2019-20 season.

- 1) Purdy's Chocolate (fall)
- 2) Grocery Raffle (spring)

A 'guilt-free' opt out of fundraising option is available for one single payment of \$150.00

If this is a preferable option for your family, payment can be made through the MRCA General Manager.

ARTIO may plan and organize additional fundraisers.

## **CASINO**

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Applications for casino fundraising events are submitted to AGLC. Casino's are assigned every 18 - 22 months. Our next casino will take place in the fourth quarter of 2020.

## **DONATIONS**

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As a registered charitable organization, Mount Royal Choral Association of Calgary gratefully accepts donations. Tax deductible receipts are provided.

Many companies have a policy of supporting local organizations, and will match donated funds; thus every \$1 donated becomes \$2 in the hands of your child's choir organization. Please inquire at your place of employment and apply for these funds if it is appropriate for you to do so.

If you have an idea for additional fundraising, we would love to hear from you!

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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The MRCA Board of Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting in October. We encourage parents who are interested in any of the positions below or know somebody who might be, or can volunteer in any other way to stand for election. Your support and involvement are essential to the success of the choral program!

### **The MRCA Board comprises the following:**

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Gaming Coordinator
- Fund Development
- Members at Large

The MRCA Board meets once per month and each meeting lasts approximately two hours.

A description of each of these positions are included in the Volunteer Handbook.