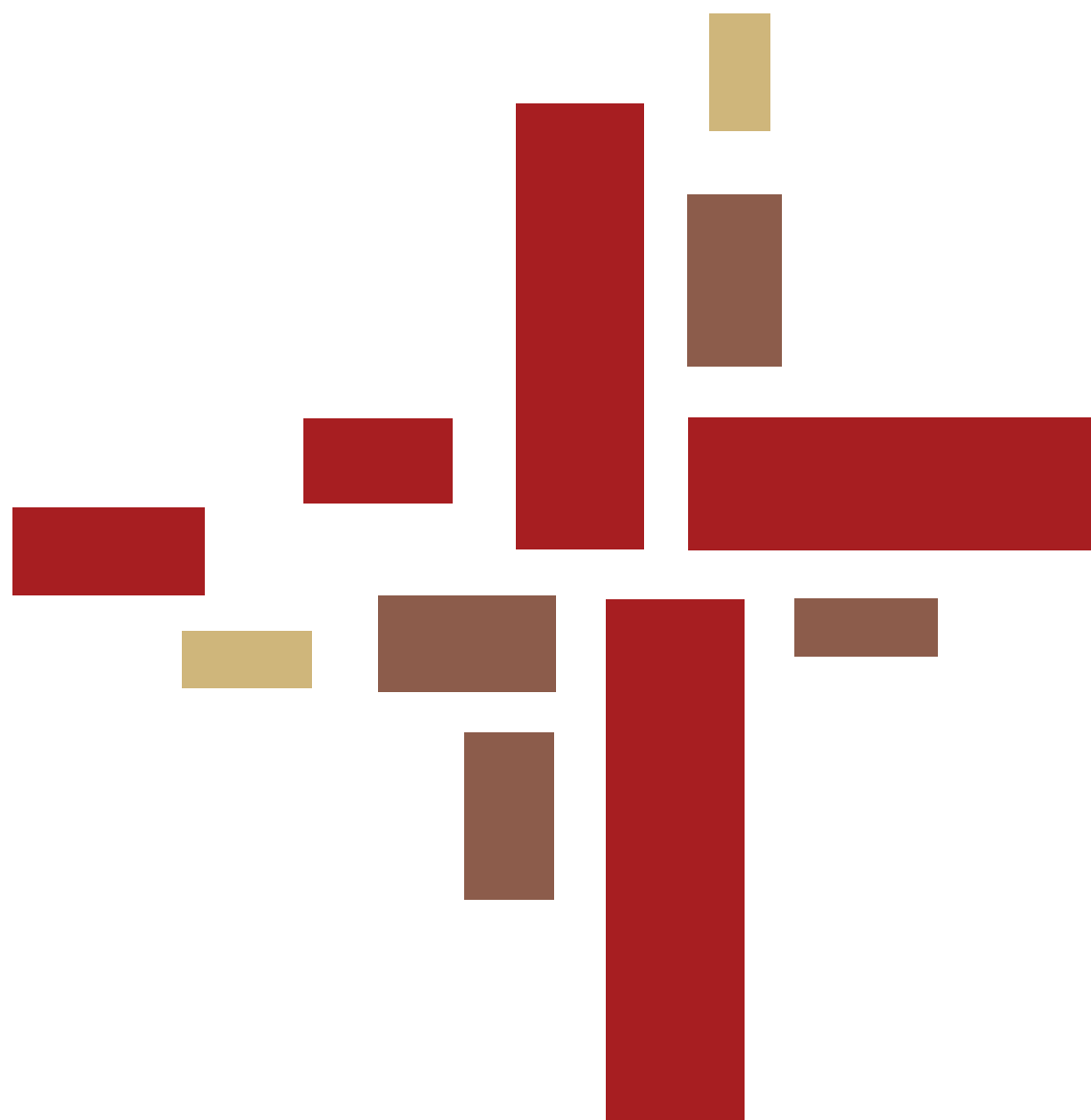


Preparatory Choir

The Church of St. John the Divine



2026-2027

2450 RIVER OAKS BLVD • HOUSTON, TX 77019 • SJD.ORG



"I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also."

1 Corinthians 14:15

The Church of St. John the Divine Music Staff

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Mission Statement

At St. John the Divine we are striving to foster and strengthen a lifelong appreciation for music in children and adults - cradle to grave. SJD Choristers will apply the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) *Voice for Life* Curriculum, beginning with ages 3-18 with the goals:

- to teach and guide children and youth in sacred, choral and worship music to sing for JOY and all to God's Glory,
- to encompass pedagogy, theory, and liturgy into the program for age appropriateness,
- to work in conjunction with Children, Youth and Family Ministries,
- to pass on a love and appreciation of Anglican worship and to sing intergenerationally with the SJD Chorale in the Anglican Cathedral tradition in addition to other styles of sacred music.

Guidelines

Attendance

Commitment to regular attendance is essential and expected for the success and formation of our Preparatory Choir. Please email Ms. Anna or Ms. Rebecca at least one week in advance for any absence. For a last-minute unexpected absence, please email or text as soon as possible. **Preps who wish to make quick progress are welcome to contact Ms. Anna to schedule a lesson.**

Drop-off/Pick-up and Safety

To ensure the safety of each Chorister, please drop off and pick up your Prep promptly before or after rehearsal. Punctual pick up is especially important as other rehearsals follow. **If your child arrives more than 10 minutes before the start of rehearsal, an adult from their family must supervise them.**

While there is no childcare on Tuesdays, parents and guardians are welcome to supervise children at the church. Room L20 is available during rehearsals as a "quiet room" for homework and other activities. The play pit in the Atrium and First Steps playground are also available for children under the supervision of a parent or guardian.

When playing in the Atrium, please be mindful of noise levels as this is still a workplace on Tuesday afternoons.

Dress Code

For traditional services, Preps should wear black flat shoes and their vestments, which will be provided. Long hair should be tied back. For Awesome Worship service, wear your SJD Choristers t-shirt and dark bottoms.

RSCM Voice for Life Ribbon Training

The SJD Chorister program uses The Royal School of Church Music *Voice for Life* curriculum. The beginning White Level is taught throughout the year and implemented into rehearsals; therefore, every Prep receives a white ribbon and medal after completion of their first year. Each Prep is encouraged to participate in the *Voice for Life* program by continuing their musical studies in the advancing workbooks. At the completion of each level, a new ribbon is given. Preps interested can schedule time with Ms. Anna outside of choir rehearsal to work towards completing each level. You can learn more about the curriculum here: [RSCM-America](https://www.rscm-america.org/)

SJD Chorister Program Weekly Schedule

Tuesday Rehearsals:

The Cherub Choir: age 3- Kindergarten

Choir C 2:40 - 3:10 PM

Choir A 3:15 - 3:45 PM

Choir B 4:00 - 4:30 PM

The Preparatory Choir: 1st- 3rd Grade 4:45 - 5:30 PM

Wednesday Rehearsals:

SJD Choristers: 4th- 12th Grade 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Privately Scheduled Lessons:

Call Ms. Anna to Schedule

Important Dates - Fall & Christmas 2026

Saturday, August 22	Open House & Chorister Retreat 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast & Rehearsal
Sunday, August 23	Rally Day & Comissioning in the Church 10:00 AM Service *Sit with your family in the reserved East Bay seating <i>Wear your SJD Choristers T-Shirt!</i>
Tuesday, September 8	Back to Choir! Rehearsals begin! 4:45 - 5:30PM
Sunday, October 4	The Preparatory Choir Sings Evensong for the Feast of St. Francis 5:00 PM Service in the Church <u>4:15 PM Call</u>
Sunday, October 18	The Preparatory Choir sings in Awesome! 9:15 AM service in the HLC <u>8:30 AM Call</u>
Sunday, November 15	The Preparatory Choir sings in the Church 11:15 AM service in the Church <u>10:15 AM Call</u>
<i>Tuesday, November 24</i>	<i>No Rehearsal for Thanksgiving Break</i>
Sunday, December 6	The Choir of St. John the Divine & Preparatory Choir sings 5:00 PM Advent Lessons and Carols Service <u>4:15 PM Call</u>
Tuesday, December 22	Christmas Eve Rehearsal 10:00 AM Christmas Breakfast and Book Drive 10:30 AM -12:30 PM Rehearsal
Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve 3:00 PM service <u>2:00 PM call</u>

Important Dates - Winter & Spring 2027

Tuesday, January 5	Rehearsals Resume, Tuesday at 4:45 PM
Sunday, January 10	** “Festival of Lights” Durham Fundraiser Concert ** All choirs will participate. More information to come. 6:00 PM concert <u>Call TBD</u>
Sunday, February 14	The Preparatory Choir sings in Awesome! 9:00 AM service <u>8:15 AM call</u>
<i>Tuesday, March 9</i>	<i>No Rehearsal for Spring Break!</i>
Sunday, March 21	Palm Sunday Services 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM <u>8:15 AM call, Breakfast provided</u>
<i>Tuesday, March 23</i>	<i>Holy Week - No Preparatory Rehearsal</i>
Wednesday, April 14	End of Year Service and Choir Dinner 6:00 PM service <u>4:30 PM call</u>
Sunday, April 18	SJD Choristers and Preparatory Choir sing in the Church 11:15 AM service <u>10:00 AM call</u>

River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) Concerts

ROCO is proud to offer ROCOrooters during and after their performance at SJD! This program offers engaging music lessons and activities with our teachers, a trip into the concert hall to hear one piece live, and pizza and movies with 5 hours of childcare under the supervision of certified and bonded childcare professionals. We encourage you to take advantage of this incredible musical resource in our community!

Cost is \$65 per child, and you can register at www.rococo.org/rocorooters.

Saturday, September 26	Concert: "Eyes on the Horizon"	
	4:30 - 5:00	Child Drop-off @ SJD Reception Desk
	5:00	Concert @ SJD
	10:00	Child Pick-up @ SJD Parlor

Choristers' Prayer

Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants
who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts
we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.