



## **Cape Ann Youth Chorus**

Welcome Packet  
2024-25 school year

We are so happy you and your singers(s) are joining The Cape Ann Youth Chorus! Co-Directed by Kristina Martin and Thom Smoker and presented by Rockport Music, the chorus provides a comprehensive musical experience in an inclusive and supportive environment for young singers ages 8-18.

### **What students and families can expect**

Weekly rehearsals and concerts at different community events, in addition to at our home of the Shalin Liu Performance Center. Singers in the chorus can expect to join a wonderfully supportive community that values high artistic excellence and diverse musical programming that reflects the Cape Ann region within a global context. We prioritize fun and joy with our singing and welcome all!

### **Schedule**

Weekly rehearsals on Mondays 4-5:15pm, (see attached calendar for full schedule)  
Location: Shalin Liu Performance Center, third floor  
37 Main Street, Rockport MA 01966

### **Contact**

Elizabeth Stefan, Director of Education and Partnerships at Rockport Music  
Email: [estefan@rockportmusic.org](mailto:estefan@rockportmusic.org)  
Phone: 978-546-7391 ext. 134 (office)  
410-652-2231 (cell)  
Website: [www.rockportmusic.org/youth-chorus](http://www.rockportmusic.org/youth-chorus)

## **Expectations**

### **Attendance**

Singers are expected to attend weekly rehearsals and commit to the full rehearsal and concert schedule upon registering. Should a singer need to miss a rehearsal, please give at least 24-hour notice to the Director of Education and Partnerships via email. In addition, if a singer cannot attend the full rehearsal length, either arriving late or being picked up early, 24-hour notice should be given.

Each singer is allowed 3 excused absences (an excused absence is considered when notice is given) per chorus season. Absences beyond the excused threshold, or starting with 2 unexcused absences, will result in a conversation with the Director of Education and Partnerships, and a reconsideration of scholarship if one is being received.

Absences due to illness or family emergency that cannot be given with 24-hour notice are considered excused if communication occurs in a timely manner.

### **Communications**

Updates and communications will primarily be sent via email. Students and families are expected to keep up to date with communications from Rockport Music, and reply in a timely manner if needed.

### **Concerts**

Singers are expected to participate in 2 concerts per season at the Shalin Liu Performance Center. Extra dress rehearsals prior to the performance may be required as concert preparation.

In addition, community performances opportunities will arise throughout the season. Singers will choose to participate through a sign-up process. Each singer is expected to participate in approximately 3 per season, depending on scheduling.

### **Student Participation**

Rockport Music is dedicated to providing a safe and positive learning environment for all. To that end, there is zero tolerance for bullying. Any suspected or documented harmful or hostile actions should be reported immediately to the Director of Education and Partnerships.

In addition, singers are expected to engage in all activities throughout rehearsal and performances in a safe and positive manner.

Cell phones and other technology are not permitted during rehearsals and performances and should be stored safely for the duration.

## **Logistics**

### **Concert dress**

Top: Rockport Music will provide a performance polo shirt as part of the registration fee. Singers are expected to wear the polo for each performance.

Bottom: Singers are expected to wear long, ankle length dark bottoms (pants, skirt, etc), dark socks, and dark shoes.

### **Supplies and Materials**

Rockport Music will provide each singer with music and needed materials. It is the singer's responsibility to ensure the items are treated respectfully and well kept.

### **Transportation**

Each student and family are responsible for on time arrival and pick up each rehearsal. Multiple late arrivals or late pickups (starting at 3) will be considered an unexcused absence.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to drop off their singer and pick up at the end of rehearsal. There will be open rehearsals throughout the year where friends and family are encouraged to attend. The Shalin Liu Performance Center will not be open to the public during rehearsals, and the front door will remain locked after all singers arrive. Please plan your transportation accordingly.

Should you want to explore a carpool with students in your area, Rockport Music is happy to help coordinate between families and can be indicated to the Director of Education and Partnerships. Please note that Rockport Music is in no way responsible for verifying or certifying the reliability, driving ability, or insurance status of drivers and carpool participants. Rockport Music also takes no responsibility for any personal injuries, property damages, financial losses, or other damages that may result from sharing a ride.

### **Permissions**

#### **Emergency Contact**

As stated in the registration form, the phone number listed for the primary parent/guardian will be used as the emergency contact. If that person cannot be reached, Rockport Music will move to calling the secondary parent/guardian contact. If no secondary number is listed, Rockport Music will continue calling the primary number until contact is made. Should you like to list an additional emergency contact, please do so on the acknowledgement form.

#### **Medical Permissions**

Rockport Music will use the utmost precaution in guarding the health of and preventing accidents for each singer. However, should an unforeseen incident occur Rockport Music will reference the allergies and medical conditions listed in the registration form. If no allergies are listed, Rockport Music will be able to aid in minor treatment, such as bandages or over-the-counter medications as appropriate. The emergency contact will be notified prior to any administration of any medical treatment. Should more extensive treatment be necessary, Rockport Music reserves the right to take action that seems appropriate to protect the health and physical well-being of the singer.

#### **Photo Permissions**

Rockport Music routinely promotes programs and activities involving students through various media outlets (including social media, website, and print). Rockport Music reserves the right to use stills and brief clips for archival, educational, promotional, fundraising, and other purposes as determined fit. Students will not be identified by name when posting and should this be requested, additional permission will be obtained from each singer/family by Rockport Music.

## **About Rockport Music**

Rockport Music inspires a love and understanding of music through exceptional live performances and creative learning opportunities. The vision for Rockport Music education is to provide engaging and interactive programming of all genres throughout the community to encourage curiosity, participation, and creativity through music.

Rockport Music education programs offer diverse programming, engaging youth and the community in learning, creating, and performing across various genres, styles, and cultures with professional musicians.

## **Staff and Faculty Bios**

**Kristina Martin** has been a lifelong singer, starting with school, church and community children's choirs, then on to university and professional ensembles. She studied opera performance at the Boston University School of Performing Arts, and voice, music, education, and communication disorders at Brigham Young University. She has performed with the North Shore Music Theater, Back Bay Chorale, Firehouse Theater, Gloucester Stage Co., Washington, D.C. Opera Co. at the Kennedy Center, Kansas City Lyric Opera and Symphony Orchestra, Springfield, MO Opera, and various educational outreach programs. A longtime resident of Rockport with her husband and 3 daughters, she has taught chorus and performing arts at all levels of Rockport Public Schools and at the Waring School in Beverly, has maintained a private voice studio, prepared choruses with the Annisquam Village Players and is the longtime director of the youth choir at the First Congregational Church of Rockport. She is a member of the American Choral Directors' Association and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She is a co-founder and director of the summer choral/arts program, Cape Ann Arts Alive.

**Thomas Smoker** is a singer, pianist, and arranger who has earned a graduate degree in Vocal Performance from The Boston Conservatory. This fall he started as the new Choral Director for the Rockport Public Middle & High Schools, in Rockport, MA. Before that he served as an Assistant Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music, as well as an adjunct faculty member in the performing arts department at Endicott College where he directed music ensembles and taught performing arts classes. Thomas has over 15 years of experience in performing, teaching, coaching, directing, leading workshops and symposiums, and is a member of the [National Association of Teachers of Singing \(NATS\)](#), the A cappella Educators Association (AEA), as well as the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). He regularly music directs, composes and arranges for community and high school musicals, concerts and special events. Thomas also maintains a healthy performance career in opera, oratorio, musical theater, and solo concerts & cabarets as he is often sought after throughout New England and Mid- Atlantic.

**Elizabeth Stefan** holds a multifaceted career as violist, educator, and arts administrator. Currently, she teaches young violinists and violists at musiConnects, after previously serving as Program Director (2016-20) and longtime Resident Musician (2012-20). Previous teaching positions were held with Making Music Matters and the Community Music Center of Boston. She received a META Fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the inaugural class of fellows (2016-2018) and presented her teams' research on the support Teaching Artists needs versus the support they receive. As a performing violist, Elizabeth has been a founding member of several ensembles, including the Sumner Quartet and Phoenix. Elizabeth holds a BM and Arts Leadership Certificate from the Eastman School of Music and a MM from New England Conservatory. She is currently the Director of Education and Partnerships at Rockport Music.



**Receipt and acknowledgement of the 24-25 Welcome Packet for the Cape Ann Youth Chorus.**

By signing below, the singer and parent/guardian understand the expectation and participation guidelines outlined, in addition to the permissions granted to Rockport Music.

- I agree to the outlined medical permissions
- I agree to the outlined photography and media permissions
- I do NOT agree to the outlined medical permissions, and Rockport Music may under no circumstance administer over-the-counter medication to the participant.
- I do NOT agree to the outlined photography and media permissions. Rockport Music may not take individual photos or videos of the participant, and the participant will make every effort to not be included in group photo/video situations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Singer (Participant) Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Singer (Participant) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Authorized Pick Up (please list any additional persons authorized to pick up beyond the primary and secondary contact on registration form)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation Plan (Person(s) most likely present for drop off and pick up, will student be arriving on their own and allowed to self check out?)

Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional additional emergency contact information (please list name, phone number, and relation to singer):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_