PYC PATHWAY SCHOLARSHIP

Pittsburgh Youth Chorus is the region’s premier choral education organization, providing professional-level choral education and performance opportunities to a diverse group of children since 1983 so that they might realize their innate artistic potential and share their talents with their families and communities.

At Pittsburgh Youth Chorus (PYC), we firmly believe in the transformative power that comes from lifting one’s voice in song, and we further believe that music is a gift to be enjoyed and experienced by all. As an organization dedicated to serving Pittsburgh’s talented young singers, we are committed to increasing economic, racial, social, and cultural equity and inclusion in our choirs.

To advance this goal, we are proud to introduce PYC Pathway, a new scholarship initiative for disadvantaged children enrolled in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

PYC Pathway will provide full scholarships for up to ten children who reside within and attend a Pittsburgh Public School.

While PYC has always welcomed students of diverse backgrounds, through PYC Pathway, we will open our doors wide and remove the economic barriers that prevent disadvantaged children from participating in our choral education program.

PYC Pathway will provide tuition support for the following programs:

- Neighborhood Training Choirs for children in first through second grade;
- Performance choirs for singers in grades three and above. Placement auditions determine whether a child is accepted into the entry-level Troubadours, intermediate Talisman or the advanced Bel Canto Singers;
- A one-week Summer Singers Day Camp for children ages 7-10; and,
- A residency summer camp for children who have been accepted into either the Talisman or Bel Canto Singers

Depending upon a singer’s choral placement, PYC Pathway provides tuition assistance valued at $275 to $1850 annually.

Pittsburgh Youth Chorus expects to award $10,000 per year in assistance to students who are accepted into the PYC Pathway program.
REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Students interested in applying to PYC Pathway must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must reside and attend a school within the Pittsburgh Public School District system.

2. Students must have good academic standing (a minimum C average) and show a keen interest in music and singing.

3. Students in grades three and above who are interested in joining a performance choir must audition for placement at one of PYC’s regularly scheduled auditions. Audition dates are posted on the PYC website. Auditions are not required for the Neighborhood Training Choir program (grades 1-2) or for the Summer Singers Day Camp (ages 7-10).

4. Students accepted into the entry-level Troubadours are expected to attend Summer Singers Day Camp. Students accepted into Talisman or Bel Canto Singers are required to attend the summer Choral Arts Music Program (CAMP).

5. Students must provide a written letter of recommendation from their school music teacher detailing their music aptitude and ability to meet the demands of PYC’s rigorous choral training program.

6. Students (and their parents/guardians) must commit to the entire academic year of PYC membership and must fully participate in all rehearsals and performances to the best of their ability.

7. Parents must complete the PYC Pathway Application and provide a copy of one or more of the following documents to verify financial need: Section 8 Housing, CHIP, WIC, Foster Care, SNAP (food stamps) from PA, Medical Assistance from PA, Cash Assistance from PA, Assistance from LIHEAP 1 or 2, Refugee/Immigrant Assistance or Participant in Homeless/Domestic Violence program/s, or an SAT fee waiver.
PYC PATHWAY APPLICATION

Student Name: ____________________________________________________________
Grade in September: __________________________ Birthdate: ____/____/____
School: ___________________________________________________________________
Home Address: ___________________________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Name(s): ___________________________________________________________________
Primary Phone: __________________________ Other Phone: __________________________
Primary email: ___________________________________________________________________

Please detail any past and current music instruction:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any additional extra-curricular activities in which this student is involved:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please tell us why you believe your child would benefit from the PYC PATHWAY. You may continue on the back of this page if more space is needed.
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Date: ____/____/____

Dear ____________________________,

My child, ____________________________ is auditioning for acceptance into Pittsburgh Youth Chorus and is applying for consideration of PYC PATHWAY, a program that will provide free tuition to PYC for one year.

A requirement of this program is that my child’s music teacher must submit a written letter of recommendation on his/her behalf. Can we count on you to do this?

You may mail or email a letter on my child’s behalf to:

PYC Pathway
Pittsburgh Youth Chorus
212 Ninth Street, STE 601
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
lee@pittsburghyouthchorus.org

Sincerely,

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