



2009-2010 Handbook

Dolce Choir ~ 10:30-11:30am

Director: Erin Small

Accompanist: Sandi Rabas

Cantabile Choir ~ 10:00-11:30am

Director: Quentin Staton

Accompanist: Lynette Tedlund

Bel Canto Choir ~ 9:30am-11:30am

Director: Amy Logan

Accompanist: Lynette Tedlund

~ 11:30am-12:00pm ~

Parent Committee Meetings:

(1st Saturday each month)

OR *La bohème* Children's Chorus Rehearsals:

(Most other Saturdays)

ROCK Artistic Director: Amy Logan

Phone: 671-5174 Email: thelogans@bresnan.net

Erin Small: smalle@billings.k12.mt.us Phone: 406-579-9964

Quentin Staton: gstaton@hotmail.com Phone: 406-208-5044

Rimrock Opera General Director: Douglas Nagel

Phone: 671-2214 Email: gd@rimrockopera.org

www.rimrockopera.org

I. Mission:

To challenge, to teach and to elevate—through music of the highest quality.

II. History:

Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids, ROCK, was founded by the Rimrock Opera in September 2004. Open by audition to youth in and around the Billings area, ROCK is dedicated to providing quality music education and a variety of performance opportunities. Singers are selected by audition and participate in events throughout the school year.

III. Goals:

Goals of the ROCK program include:

- Encouraging personal growth in listening skills, music reading skills, stage presence, poise, movement, diction, memorization and foreign language.
- Teaching and nurturing performing and auditioning skills.
- Promoting the performance of quality choral, ensemble and solo music.
- Enriching our community by having a children's choral group available for local performances.
- Investing in our community by helping to build consumers of the arts for the future.

IV. Auditions:

ROCK auditions are held twice per year, once in August/September and again in January (January only for students joining spring semester). All ROCK participants will audition each year for the following reasons:

- We will know your interest and intent to join ROCK for the season
- The audition process is important to all performing musicians (the only way it will get easier is to do it!)
- Kids' voices change, and the best way for us to know how a student is progressing is to hear them sing alone

Auditions consist of a prepared piece of music (a cappella or accompanied) and pitch/range & rhythmic exercises as determined necessary by directors. Singers are encouraged to choose music that shows off their tone, range, and vocal technique. As a singer progresses, it is important to showcase more advanced skills in the audition process (i.e. choose more difficult music, potentially in a different language).

V. Choirs & Schedule:

Rehearsals take place on Saturdays at Venture Theatre

(detailed schedule for each semester is at the back of the handbook)

Dolce Choir—10:30-11:30am—Students in grades 1-3

Cantabile Choir—10:00-11:30am—Students in grades 4-8

Bel Canto Choir—9:30-11:30am—Students in grades 9-12

VI. Attendance:

With only one rehearsal per week, each scheduled rehearsal becomes as important as a full week of school! We **strongly recommend** that ROCK members not miss more than two rehearsals per semester. This will help the singer to feel confident as a member of the ensemble. Please inform the director ahead of the rehearsal time if an absence is necessary so that you receive any information that needs to be passed along. Encourage your children to practice at home!

*Our ROCK rehearsals are open to parent observation; however, we request that ROCK students not bring friends along to rehearsals. Because ROCK is a tuition-based program, it is unfair for others to receive the same instruction and benefits of the program without payment. If a student is wishing to come observe with the intent of possibly joining, that arrangement should be made with Amy through their parent ahead of time.

VII. General Expectations:

1. Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. Be prepared to give your best.
2. Be a responsible choir member—bring your music and pencil; keep your music and folder in good condition; practice & know your music.
3. Maintain respect for the rehearsal rooms, facilities, instruments and equipment.
4. Take pride in your choir and fellow singers. Show respect to all students and directors.
5. Bring only water to rehearsals. Food, other drinks and gum will not be allowed. PLEASE turn off cell phones!
5. Remember, your actions and attitudes reflect on you and your choir!

Parents: Please help your children to be on time, and please be prompt in picking kids up from rehearsals & performances. Venture Theatre will be open for ROCK 15 minutes prior to the first rehearsal and locked up 15 minutes after the final rehearsal. Rimrock Opera and Venture Theatre are not liable for students dropped off early or left late after rehearsals.

In case of an emergency, please call Amy's phone and inform us of the problem (671-5174).

Please do not leave any non-registered children at Venture unattended or allow them to attend ROCK rehearsals (friends, siblings, etc).

We ask for a volunteer each week to sit in the lobby and attend the check-in table, answer questions and generally be a presence at each week of rehearsal. A sign-up sheet will be available at the first meeting.

VIII. Binders & Music:

Binders and Music, which are checked out for use by the students, are ROCK property, and must be returned at semester's end. Students **must** have their folder, music, and a pencil at each and every rehearsal.

IX. Tuition:

The yearly tuition for the 09-10 ROCK season is \$190. Tuition options include full yearly payment at the beginning of the season or two payment plans. In each case, payment must be received by Rimrock Opera before a student can participate in any ROCK activities. General Director Douglas Nagel will be handling payment of ROCK tuition.

*Year: 1 payment / September 12 / \$190

*Semester: 2 payments / Sept 12 & Jan 16 / \$105 each payment

*Quarter: 4 payments / Sept 12, Nov 14, Jan 16, Mar 6 / \$55 each payment

Chosen payment plan: _____

*All students are required to have a ROCK polo shirt. A new shirt can be ordered for \$10 (payable with first tuition payment). The parent committee may also be organizing the exchange of shirts which members have outgrown—selling/buying within the organization.

X. Performance Attire:

As a member of the ROCK program, you are expected to present a professional appearance for all performances. It is important you follow these guidelines so that the choir looks uniform. By looking your best, you will feel and sing better!

Formal Attire—*Students will wear the following:*

Boys: Black pants with belt (NO jeans)

White, long-sleeve, button-down shirt (tucked in)

Black dress shoes

Black socks

Girls: Black pants or skirt (longer than knee-length)

White, elbow-length or longer sleeve blouse

(collared, button-down is best, no see-through material, gaudy lace or low-cut necklines)

Black dress shoes (closed-toe preferred, small heel acceptable)

Black socks, hose, tights (NO bare toes!)

Informal Attire—*Students will wear the following:*

All: Black ROCK embroidered polo shirt

Khaki (tan) pants or long skirt

Black socks

Black shoes (not tennis shoes)

NOTES REGARDING ATTIRE:

1. Hair must be pulled away from the face for performances.
2. Jewelry will be kept to a minimum. Small necklaces and earrings are fine. Please avoid bright colors, large beads and hoops. You will be asked to remove gaudy jewelry.
3. If you are not found to be appropriately dressed, you may be asked to sit in the audience for the concert.
4. Students in need of the black ROCK logo polo shirt will be able to order the size of their choice.
5. Prior to a performance, directors will let you know which attire will be worn. Once in a while, we are asked to wear something different for performances. You will get as much notice as possible regarding these details.

XI. Parent Notes:

Weekly informational notes are handed out at rehearsals to each ROCK student. Duplicate notes are sent by email. Please check with your child after each rehearsal in order to remain aware of information, schedule changes and reminders. Please notify Amy when contact information changes.

XII. Parent Committee:

A volunteer parent committee will hold monthly meetings to brainstorm ideas, make decisions and generally assist in the promotion and production of the ROCK program. Any and all are welcome! If you have specific talents, ideas, or interests, bring them to the meeting! Meeting dates are generally the first Saturday rehearsal of each month.

XIII. ROCK Camp:

In the summer of 2010, ROCK will hold its 6th annual summer camp for kids entering 1st-9th grades. Stay posted for more information during the spring semester. Camp dates are June 21-25, 2010.

Thank you for your dedication to the ROCK program. It is through hard-working kids, and supportive parents, that we will continue to strive for excellence. We are looking forward to working with the students this year and thank you for your commitment. Please feel free to contact us with questions, concerns, and ideas!

Musically yours,

Amy Logan & ROCK staff



Rehearsal & Performance Schedule Fall Semester 2009:

August 29 – Auditions

September 12 – ROCK Rehearsals begin

Family meeting - 11:30am-12:00pm @ Venture Theatre...
required for all singers and a parent or guardian

Tuition payment due

September 19 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

September 26 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

*Rimrock Opera presents: *Barber of Seville* at Alberta Bair Theater
Saturday, Sep 26th @ 7:30pm & Sunday, Sep 27th @ 3:00pm

October 3 – Rehearsals / Parent Committee

October 10 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

October 17 – NO Rehearsals (MMEA Convention weekend)

October 24 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

October 31 - Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

November 7 – NO Rehearsals

November 14 – Rehearsals / Parent Committee

2nd tuition payment due—Quarter payment plan

November 21 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

November 27 – Downtown Holiday Parade – All choirs (Optional)

November 27 (evening)/November 28 (afternoon) – Nutcracker rehearsals

November 28 – NO Regular Rehearsals (Thanksgiving weekend)

**November 28 & 29 – Nutcracker performances at ABT
Dolce & Cantabile Choirs**

December 5 – Rehearsal / Parent Committee

December 6 – Laurel Ford Performances

Bel Canto Choir – 1:00 & 3:00pm

December 11 – Rita Coolidge Performance

**All Choirs – Alberta Bair Theater
(extra rehearsals may be held)**

December 12 – Rehearsals (potentially at Skyview) / *La bohème* Kids

**December 12 – Holiday Concert at Skyview High School
All Choirs – 7:00pm**

Possible performance: Moss Mansion Family Festival

Spring Semester Dates to Know:

January 9 – Auditions for spring semester students

January 16 – Regular rehearsals begin

April 24 & 25 – *La bohème* performances

May 15 – Spring Concert & Fundraising Dinner

Waiver:

I give my child permission to participate in ROCK activities. I understand and expressly acknowledge that I release the Rimrock Opera, Venture Theatre and their staff members from all liabilities.

I give my permission to the Rimrock Opera to use photographs, film footage and audio recordings which may include my or my children's image or voice for purposes of promoting Rimrock Opera and ROCK.

I understand this is a tuition-based program, and my child will not be allowed to participate unless proper payment has been received on or before the dates to which I've agreed. I also understand that no refunds will be granted.

Acceptance (Parent or Guardian):

I acknowledge the waiver set forth above.

Print Name

Relationship

Signature

Date

Please complete front and back of this page, detach, and return with payment.

Please mail to Rimrock Opera / PO Box 11 / Billings, MT 59103
or hand to Douglas Nagel today.

-TENTATIVE-



Rehearsal & Performance Schedule Spring 2010:

January 9 – Auditions for new students

January 16 – Rehearsals Resume / Parent Committee

2nd Tuition payment (Semesterly) & 3rd Tuition payment (Quarterly)

**due to Rimrock Opera at PO Box 11, Billings, MT 59103*

January 23 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

January 31 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

February 6 – Rehearsals / Parent Committee

February 13 – NO Rehearsals

February 20 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

February 27 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

March 6 – Rehearsals / Parent Committee

4th tuition payment due—Quarter payment plan

March 13 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

March 20 – Rehearsals / *La bohème* Kids

March 27 – NO Rehearsals

April 3 – NO Rehearsals **

April 10 – Rehearsals / Parent Committee

April 17 – Rehearsals

April 24 – NO Rehearsals

***Rimrock Opera's *La bohème* Performances:**

Saturday, April 24th at 7:30pm & Sunday, April 25th at 3:00pm

May 1 – Rehearsals / Parent Committee / Dinner solo tryouts

May 8 – Rehearsals / Coachings?

May 15 – Rehearsals (potentially at Skyview)

May 15 – Spring Concert & Fundraising Dinner

Dinner – 5:00pm / Concert – 7:00pm

Skyview High School

**Possible Additional Performances: Billings' Symphony Arts Day
Rimrock Opera "OperaFest"**

*****La bohème* children's chorus:** A detailed schedule of music & staging rehearsals will be made available for *La bohème* singers as soon as it becomes available. Extra rehearsals will begin the week of April 5th (evenings/weekends). There is one daytime dress rehearsal on Thursday, April 22nd (there will be a large student audience for this performance). Chorus members MUST be available for these additional rehearsals and performance dates.