



Mission Statement

We exist to provide a wholesome refuge where music can restore hope, boost confidence, accelerate healing, build friendships, and inspire excellence

Forte! Performer Contract

Being a member of Forte! indicates you are willing to dedicate a good portion of your time and talents to the group's success. If any of the following points will be difficult to fulfill, please speak to a director or board member before auditioning to be sure this is the right fit for you this season.

1. Qualifications to Join:

- a. Performers must be in high school and be 15 years old by September 30th to be eligible to audition.
- b. Annual auditions occur each fall for new AND previous cast members. A performer must score high enough in their vocal, performance, and dance audition to be considered for the available spots in the group.
- c. Cast members in good standing from the fall season in *performance, attendance, and conduct*, will qualify for the spring season without having to re-audition.
- d. A performer can participate in a maximum of six seasons, however, previous participation does not automatically guarantee a spot in future seasons.
- e. Performers must pass an interview affirming they will uphold the mission of TCYC to be considered for the group. *(Please review the **Mission Statement**, **Code of Conduct**, and the **Performer Contract** prior to your audition)*
- f. Performers are required to uphold the **Code of Conduct** in all activities associated with Tri-City Youth Choir.

Code of Conduct:

1. I will be honest, respectful and polite (which includes not insulting, criticizing or putting others down, even joking).
2. I will pay attention to and follow instructions from the directors, choreographers, or others addressing the group.
3. I will not use crude, vulgar or offensive language, or participate in backbiting or gossip.
4. I will not consume tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, or other addictive substances.
5. I will ensure my dress and appearance is neat, clean, and modest (i.e. no short shorts/skirts, tank tops, shirts that do not cover the stomach or are too low in front, or clothing with crude messages).
6. I will not adopt any extremes in hairstyles or appearance.
7. I will not engage in overly affectionate behavior or pair off while at any TCYC location, including rehearsals, events, or performances.
8. I will not enter the dressing rooms/areas of opposite genders.
9. *Sexual misconduct in any form will not be tolerated. This includes and is not limited to: remarks, gestures, stalking, sexual harassment, dating/domestic violence, and sexual assault.

**Sexual Misconduct reported by a cast member, director, parent, or other TCYC support person, should be referred directly and immediately to the TCYC Board President. TCYC will take prompt and effective steps, reasonably*

calculated to end sexual harassment and sexual violence that creates a sexually hostile environment (such as separating the parties or terminated participation). The board will work directly with the involved parties to resolve the issue and establish appropriate consequences including contacting legal authorities when appropriately required by law. Being a victim of sexual misconduct is never considered a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Failure to follow this Code of Conduct may lead to dismissal from forte!

2. Rehearsal Expectations:

- a. Acceptance as a member of Forte! means you are contracting your availability and commitment to attend ALL assigned rehearsals.
- b. Cast members are permitted **FOUR** absences. Exceeding the limit will impact your participation in the current season and may also make you ineligible to participate in the following season. Reasons for the absence will need to be reported at the start of the season and **before** the rehearsal occurs. Missing more than an **hour** of rehearsal also counts as an absence. Please send your absence schedule to the Artistic Director at director.forte@gmail.com. *Any exceptions require Artistic Director and Board approval.*
- c. Performers show up to rehearsals with the top priority to work hard. This means arriving BEFORE rehearsals start to be ready to begin ON TIME. *10 minutes early is encouraged. **Five minutes early is expected!*** Being tardy delays progress as a group and an excess of **FOUR** tardies will be considered an absence and may put you in violation of your contract.
- d. Rehearsal clothing should be easy to move in and cover the shoulders and cover the legs down to mid-thigh/knee without gaps. Please plan accordingly when coming from other events where attire may not meet these expectations. When in doubt, err on the side of modesty.
- e. Cell phone use is **NOT PERMITTED** during rehearsals or at TCYC events. Please silence and put them away until the end of rehearsal or event.

3. Behavior Issues:

- a. If your behavior is distracting, disruptive, not on task, or otherwise inappropriate, you will be asked to step out of rehearsal until you are ready to contribute and stay on task. It will be up to you to catch up on areas missed on your own time. *Consistent behavior issues may result in contacting your parent/guardian, asking a parent/guardian to chaperone rehearsal, and/or a formal review with the board.*
- b. TCYC further reserves the right to dismiss any individual that obstructs an uplifting learning environment, or is disrespectful.

4. Rehearsal Schedule: The following time periods generally make up the rehearsal schedule:

- a. Rehearsal is held every Thursday evening and every Saturday morning. There will be no rehearsal Thursday and Saturday of Spring Break, and usually one Saturday each month is taken off.
- b. Every rehearsal starts and ends with prayer. TCYC is a nondenominational Christ-centered group and the prayer may be offered by a performer belonging to any religious faith. It is not a requirement to participate in any activity that you deem religious, but you are required to be respectful of those who choose to participate in such activities.
- c. Body or vocal warm-ups are conducted immediately at start-time in preparation for the rehearsal to follow. This is important for proper preparation and should NOT be considered "okay to miss." The tardiness policy will apply.
- d. After rehearsal ends, an adult will stay present for **15 minutes**. After that point, performers need to vacate rehearsal locations, *including the parking lot.*

5. Performance Expectations:

Your attendance at mandatory rehearsals and performances is REQUIRED. Once these dates are announced, don't schedule over them. Missing these rehearsals or performances jeopardizes future involvement in forte, including sitting out a season before being eligible to audition again. *Any exceptions require advance notice and Artistic Director and Board approval.*

a. **Mandatory Rehearsals/Performances**

- i. Small venue performance (Elementary school assembly or parade)
- ii. Recording Session
- ii. Tech Week - Monday-Thursday 5:30-9:30 pm
- iii. Show Performances - Friday, Saturday and Monday

b. **Extra Performances**

- i. *Please remember the purpose of this group is to bring hope and uplift the community and to provide an opportunity to share your gifts.* Performers will have the opportunity to volunteer for extra performances which will be disclosed at the start of the season.
- ii. More small venue performances may be added to the schedule as the season progresses and the group is invited. Any additional performances are carefully considered by the Artistic Director and board and performer participation is strongly encouraged.
- iii. Performers will be able to volunteer for no more than three extra performances.

6. Communication and Policy Disclosure:

- a. Generally, all communication this season will be through the **BAND APP (new for Fall 2023 season)**. Please ensure you are able to regularly check that. Sometimes rehearsal location is changed last-minute. PLEASE stay informed. This is YOUR responsibility once every effort from the directors/board is made to get information out. Non-urgent information will also be communicated via email as needed.
- b. Any other communication can be made to the director or board at: director.forte@gmail.com, or tcyc.board@gmail.com. All correspondence between the director and performer is subject to the Two-Deep Leadership Rule and will be seen by a TCYC board member.
- c. TCYC governing documents, including TCYC Constitution and Comprehensive Policies and Procedures, are available upon request to a current TCYC Board member.

Forte! Parent/Guardian Expectations and Responsibilities

Forte! success **depends** on the efforts of parent volunteers. Although payment is required for teens to participate, there are not sufficient paid directors or volunteer board members to do all the work necessary. Parent/guardian involvement is expected and essential to help promote the mission of TCYC and the achievement of a professional and uplifting show for our community. As a parent/guardian, we require your support in the following ways:

1. Parent/Guardian Participation Responsibilities:

- a. Upon acceptance into Forte, parents/guardians commit to help by signing up for the various committees that help the show run. These include: *Fundraising, Hospitality, Outreach, Marketing, Stage, and Costuming*. (See descriptions of committee responsibilities on the Forte page of the website)
- b. Every TCYC member household is expected to have at least ONE representative serving on one of the committees listed and is expected to give at least EIGHT HOURS of support.
- c. In order to keep appropriate balance across committees, parents/guardians will number their top three choices in preference order and the board will then assign committee groups according to preference and help needed.
 - i. A committee lead that works directly with a board member will also be selected
 - ii. Committee leads are responsible to make all their committee members aware of committee needs, activities and service opportunities and report parent involvement back to the board or staff member who oversees each committee.
- d. Parents/guardians will receive their final committee assignments at the parent meeting at the start of the season, where committee breakout sessions will follow the standard meeting agenda.
- e. Additional committee meetings will be conducted throughout the season as needed.
- f. Committee members are encouraged to provide a summary of their involvement and suggestions to help improve the committee assignments for the next season.

Board positions are always coming open, if you feel inclined to support this and other TCYC activities on a board, please let the board know.

Complete the next section to signify agreement to all terms listed in this contract and acceptance of the Liability and Media Release form outlined below



Parental/Guardian and Performer Permission Agreement

Liability and Media Release

- I, parent and performer give permission for my child/me to appear in media, including but not limited to, print, TCYC advertising and internet sites, photos, videos and TV. Notice of any exceptions must be given to the TCYC Board of Directors at time of audition, or permission is automatically granted for all media for the entirety of the season. It is understood that restricting media permission may limit cast members' participation
- Parents/Performers understand and agree: Forte!/TCYC nor its board, teachers, directors, staff or volunteers shall not be liable for any injuries sustained by performers, their families, guests, or others in this organization's facilities, or in any activities of this organization's which may occur outside their facilities, now or in the future. I, as a parent/performer, understand that inherent in any performing arts training, there are risks and I/we assume all risks incidental to all activities of these organizations. ***Choreography outside of basic dance movements, such as; stunts, flips, or gymnastic moves, requires additional parent consent.** Additionally, in the event of an emergency, every attempt will be made to contact the parent/guardian. However, by enrolling, I, as a parent, give permission for any emergency medical treatment deemed necessary for my performer.
- I am fully and personally responsible for my child(ren)'s safety and actions while and during participation and I recognize that he/she/they may be at risk of contracting COVID-19.
- With full knowledge of the risks involved, I hereby release, waive, discharge Forte!/TCYC, its board, officers, independent contractors, affiliates, employees, representatives, successors, and assigns from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever, directly or indirectly arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, or death, that may be sustained by my child(ren) related to COVID-19 while participating in any activity while in, on, or around the premises or while using the facilities that may lead to unintentional exposure or harm due to COVID-19.
- I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Forte!/TCYC from and against any and all costs, expenses, damages, lawsuits, and/or liabilities or claims arising whether directly or indirectly from or related to any and all claims made by or against any of the released party due to injury, loss, or death from or related to COVID-19.

Parents AND Performers need to complete the online Liability and Media Release form in order for performer to be eligible to audition

** Only performers with proficient experience will be invited to engage in these types of movements after additional parental consent is given.*