



A Performing Youth Group  
Sharing the Light of the Gospel  
Through Music

## Information Sheet / Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

### **VISION:**

The Zion Choir is a youth performing group of 40-50 high school juniors and seniors from the greater San Jose area who meet at least weekly to study and memorize challenging sacred music which is presented at church firesides and activities. These youth are asked to prepare themselves musically and spiritually to invite the spirit whenever they perform.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

to provide an opportunity for all in attendance to feel God's spirit and receive personal revelation. Hopefully, that spirit will lift the discouraged, comfort the oppressed, challenge the complacent, and inspire those who yearn for a more meaningful life.

### **GOALS:**

1. To learn gospel principles and gain a testimony of their truthfulness through inspired sacred music; and help others feel the spirit, receive answers to prayers, be inspired to live better lives, and gain their own testimonies.
2. To have a repertoire of sacred music that can be easily adapted to common gospel settings and used for regular church functions, including, but not limited to missionary conferences, firesides, youth conferences, ward or stake musical concerts, and other church events.
3. To provide an opportunity for youth to receive training and experience in performing challenging music that will help them prepare and qualify for furthering their educational experience at college.
4. To provide an opportunity for youth with similar interests and abilities to meet (without regard for stake or ward boundaries) and fellowship each other in a safe and constructive environment.

## **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Participants will be required to rehearse and perform at times that may conflict with their regular ward and/or stake activities. Parental and ecclesiastical judgment should be used to ensure that this type of activity is appropriate for each participant and will not jeopardize his/her spiritual well-being.
2. Participants must attend seminary **REGULARLY**. They must also be active in their ward and stake, attending all their meetings whenever possible.
3. Participants must be worthy to receive a temple partial use recommend. Young Women should be participating in the Personal Progress Program and living the Standards of Personal Worthiness. Young men must be worthy to hold and officiate in the appropriate Priesthood for their age. Young men should be participating in the Duty to God program.
4. Participants must organize their schedules and plan their schoolwork so they can attend **ALL** rehearsals and performances on time with assignments done, and prepared to fully participate. (A **maximum** of 3 absences every 6 months may be appropriate.)
5. An annual registration fee of \$55 per participant will be collected at the beginning of each season (in June). This money will be used to cover expenses for music, and equipment. **Additional** money will be needed for performance attire and will be collected when the order is complete. There may be a fee for a weekend trip at the end of the season.
6. Modesty in dress will be expected at all rehearsals and performances. Missionary attire will be required at any performance where uniform outfits are not appropriate. Hair should be clean and neat with no extreme styles or **unnatural colors**. Boys will be asked to be clean shaven with conservative haircuts. See EFY standards on the last page.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:**

### ***Why is it so important to attend every rehearsal and performance?***

In order to become a polished group with the limited number of rehearsals we hold, it is necessary to make rehearsals a top priority. In other words, if everyone attends every rehearsal on time and comes with their assignments done, we accomplish more in less time because there is no need to repeat information. Even on missing voice at a performance can have a dramatic effect on the sound. We spend time unifying the sound of the choir. Every effort will be made to schedule around important events and to notify families ahead of time.

### ***What do I need to provide for my performance attire and what will it cost?***

The cost of performance attire is approximately \$65-100. Women's dresses and men's tuxedo shirts, vests, and ties will be ordered from a performance wear catalogue. In addition, women will need to wear their own black, close-toed dress shoes (not sandals or flip-flops). Men will need their own pair of BLACK (not navy or off-black) DRESS PANTS and black dress shoes with BLACK SOCKS. Choir members should launder their outfits regularly.

### ***Why do we need a performance outfit?***

We will not wear concert attire when singing at some venues, such as a youth concert. Concert attire adds unity and credibility to the choir. It also lessens the chance of one or two individuals attracting inappropriate attention during a performance. All performance attire will be modest. Jewelry for women will be a simple necklace and earrings. An optional wristwatch is acceptable.

### ***What kind of “assignments” should I expect?***

Each participant is encouraged to write a brief message relating to the theme to be delivered at the fireside performances. Participants will be required to memorize all the music and much of their scripts. These assignments will happen mostly in the Summer and Fall.

### ***What kind of time commitment should I be prepared to make?***

This is mainly a Sunday commitment. In the Summer and Fall we spend most of our time rehearsing, with only a few performances. December can be a busy time. There are many opportunities to perform, including weekends and occasional week nights. In the Spring, we perform approximately twice a month, usually on Sunday. The group will rehearse EVERY Sunday from 5 to 7 PM. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled, to prepare for special events. This schedule may conflict with individual stake youth firesides and church meetings. Participants will be expected to make Zion Choir rehearsals and performances a priority.

### ***What about transportation?***

Since this is not an official church organization, we are not covered by Church insurance. Participants will be expected to arrange for their own transportation to and from rehearsals and performances. Carpooling is encouraged, but parents should make sure automobiles carry adequate insurance to cover all passengers. Uninsured vehicles should not be used.

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# Appearance

## How are you measuring up?

**Conservative Hair Styles**  
Hair should be clean and neat with no extreme styles or unnatural colors.

**Piercings**  
Only one pair of earrings should be worn in your ears, and just one earring per ear. No other face or body piercings.

**Clothing**  
Avoid being sloppy or inappropriately casual:  
• Clothing should cover the shoulders.  
• Skirts and tops must cover the stomach and back.

**Skirts, dresses and shorts** must extend at least to the knee.

**Footwear** should be worn at all times; footwear should be appropriate for the activity (i.e., Sunday footwear should not be designed for the beach or an athletic activity).

**Rule Out Delays... Measure up to standards Before check-in.**

*Thanks!*

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# Appearance

## How are you measuring up?

**Conservative Hair Style**  
Hair must be trimmed above the collar. Ears and eyes must be visible; no ponytails, pigtales, braids, designs, carving (including Mohawks) or completely shaved heads; no unnatural hair color.  
Tucking the hair behind the ears or hiding it under a hat does not meet these expectations.

**Clean Shaven**  
• No facial hair of any kind.  
• Sideburns must not extend below the ear lobes or onto the cheek.

**Piercings**  
No face, head or other body piercings are acceptable.

**Clothing**  
Avoid being sloppy or inappropriately casual; pants must be worn at the waist; no underwear should be visible.

**Unacceptable Clothing Includes**  
• Hats worn indoors  
• Shirts without sleeves  
• Inappropriate logos or artwork, offensive or suggestive words, etc.  
• Tight clothing  
• Other revealing attire  
• Faddish clothing (i.e., Gothic, emo, etc.)  
• Shorts that do not extend to the knee  
• Baggy/saggy pants

**Footwear** should be worn at all times; footwear should be appropriate for the activity (i.e., Sunday footwear should not be designed for the beach or an athletic activity).

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*Thanks!*