



# SCHOLA CANTORUM

## Program Details & Curriculum

### Novices

Children grades 3-8 generally enter the choir as Novices-ones who are in training to become Choristers. Novices receive vocal, musical and liturgical training that will allow them to fully take part in sung services. Generally, the novice period lasts for one year.

As each novice completes the required program of studies, he/she will be fully admitted to the choir as a Chorister during the Investiture Ceremony which takes place during or after one of the weekend Masses.

### Choristers

Choristers, full members of the Schola Cantorum, are divided into Junior and Senior Choristers in order to more adequately address the musical and developmental need of each child. Both Junior and Senior Choristers continue their musical training using the Voice for Life training program through the Royal School of Church Music.

There are also a Head Boy and Head Girl Chorister whose duties are to assist the director in any necessary tasks, but more importantly to provide student leadership within the choir. These are appointed by the Choir Master.

## Voice for Life Program

The Saint Vincent de Paul Schola Cantorum uses the Voice for Life program for Novice and Chorister training. It is the most comprehensive chorister training program available and is ideal for use with students. Its graded program (white, light blue, dark blue, red and yellow levels) provides a framework for choral singers to develop their vocal skills, their musical understanding and their knowledge of repertoire. It is intended to enable choir trainers and teachers to train their choir or group more effectively, and to help singers grow as people as well as musicians. For more information on this wonderful program click [here](#).

## Chorister Training Materials

The White Level Skills Chart provides a list of all the skills a child will need to master in order to be received as a chorister into the choir. These skills are practiced within group rehearsal as well as individual rehearsals. In order to pass the White Level Choristers Quiz, a child will need to know all of the information on the VFL White Level Music Geography and Symbols. These will be provided to you at the appropriate time and also made available online.