



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Calendar of Events -

SPRING 2026 Semester

January

Mon 1/26 - 1st Spring Rehearsal - Young Singers & Apprentice Choir

Thurs 1/29 - 1st Spring Rehearsal - Discovery Choir

Fri 1/30 - Stetson University Tenor/Bass Festival (YS by invitation)

February

Sun 2/8 - Discovery Choir Retreat 3-5 pm

Mon 2/16 - Nashville Travelers Special Rehearsal (time TBA)

Mon 2/16 - Regular Rehearsals (VCPS no school)

March

March 12-15, Nashville Travel (YS & AC choir members only)

March 15-20, No Rehearsals (VCPS Spring Break)

March 20-22 Hansel and Gretel! With Stetson Opera Theatre (DC by invitation)

April

Fri 4/10 - Adult Rehearsal & Stetson University Choir Concert. (all SYS members)

Sat 4/11 - 40th Anniversary Celebration! 12-4 pm (all SYS members)

Sat 4/25 - Dress Rehearsal, 9-12 pm (all SYS members)

Week of 4/28 - Final Regular Rehearsals

May

Sun 5/3 Final Rehearsal, Lee Chapel 4 - 6 pm

Sunday, May 3rd, Spring Performance, Lee Chapel, 6:30 pm

Attendance is expected for weekly rehearsals.

Choirs will meet every Monday or Thursday unless otherwise noted above.

Fall & Spring Concerts & Retreats are the only events that attendance is expected.

Future Dates

- Summer Camp, July 13-17, 2026

- First Rehearsal of the 2025-2026 - September 14th, 2026

Travel TBA - June 2027! *More information will be shared as plans are confirmed.*



Young Singers Program: Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

- **Discovery Choir (DC) (8-11 years, 3rd-5th grade)**
 - Thursdays 5:15 - 6:15 pm, room 132 - Tinsley
 - Melinda Fradley - conductor
- **Apprentice Choir (AC) (11-14 years, 6th-8th grade)**
 - Mondays 5:45 - 7:00 pm, room 132 - Tinsley
 - Angie Monahan - conductor
- **Young Singers (YS) (12-18 years, 7th-12th grade)**
 - Mondays 5:30 - 7:30 pm, room 352
 - Melinda Fradley - conductor



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Mission Statement

Stetson Young Singers – helping young people to find their voice, to build their confidence, and to grow their passions through music and service to the community.

Welcome

The Directors of the Stetson Young Singers program and Stetson University School of Music extended a warm welcome to the members of the 2025-2026 choirs. We look forward to working with you and sharing our love of music with our singers and their families. We sincerely hope that you find your years in choir to be a rewarding, fulfilling experience.

Introductions

The Stetson Young Singers program is a not-for-profit organization, in residence and in cooperation with Stetson University. Choir members range in age from eight to eighteen and are from varying racial, economic, and religious backgrounds.

Relationship with Stetson University School of Music

The Stetson University School of Music provides weekly meeting space for the choirs. Stetson faculty frequently guest conduct at special rehearsals and performances of the choirs as well as offer their expertise to the singers and directors of the choirs. The Choir Program functions as an ensemble of the university and could not exist without the support and encouragement of Stetson University School of Music.

The Stetson Young Singers program provides observation opportunities for Stetson University music students, serves as a demonstration choir when needed for Stetson music education workshops, provides internship opportunities for Stetson music students, and performs with the university choral organizations regularly.



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Build The Program

- Continue to spread the word! Invite others to join us. Invite potential singers to sit in a rehearsal with us. Contact Ms. Fradley for more information: mfradley@stetson.edu
- It is our belief that we are a family of singers. The stronger we are, the better we all sound.

Message to New Singers

We know that some singers start the season without knowing anyone in their ensemble, but we'll do our best to make sure they leave feeling like part of a choir family. It's our hope that your young singer will join us and grow with us, season after season. There are a lot of beautiful benefits to a multiage community based choir. Every singer is an important part of the ensemble. Any questions contact Melinda Fradley at mfradley@stetson.edu

History

Dr. Ann Small, Music professor emerita of Stetson University, left an indelible mark on the world of choral music through her founding and direction of the Stetson Children's Choir in 1985. Over the decades, this choir flourished under her guidance, expanding to encompass three choirs composed of singers aged 8 to 18. Dr. Small's dedication and passion for nurturing young voices manifested in transformative experiences for her students, as they not only honed their musical talents but also embarked on journeys of self-discovery and cultural exploration. Through performances at prestigious concerts and international tours to places like Newfoundland and Scotland, generations of choral students found their voices and discovered the profound joy of making music. Dr. Small's pedagogical approach emphasized not just technical excellence but also emotional expression, instilling in her students a deep appreciation for beauty and a lifelong love of music. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of those she taught and in the continued success of the Young Singers, formerly known as the Stetson University Children's Choir, which she nurtured for over 25 years.

Goals

- To foster the personal and social growth of Choir members and promote their sense of self-worth, self-esteem, accomplishment and pride.
- To attain the highest possible level of excellence in performance.
- To make Choir membership available to children and youth of all racial, cultural, religious, and economic backgrounds.
- To contribute to the cultural life in Volusia County and enhance the quality of singing in area schools and churches by providing additional quality choral experiences.



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Curriculum

- The students in the Young Singers program study and perform a variety of age-appropriate, quality music ranging from simple folk songs to complex, challenging literature from a variety of historical eras.
- Basic and advanced singing and interpretive skills related to breath, posture, diction, tone production, artistry and musical expressiveness are introduced and developed in each choir.
- Music literacy skills involving reading and interpreting music are incorporated into the weekly rehearsal process.
- Appropriate rehearsal skills and performance etiquette are included as an integral part of the learning process in every choir.

Rehearsal and Attendance Policies

What to Expect:

- Plan to attend every rehearsal.
- Arriving **5 minutes early** means we can begin rehearsals on time.
- Make sure you've eaten and used the restroom *before* rehearsal.
- Bring a bottle of water.
- Rehearsal etiquette and behavior will be taught and modeled to our singers. However, if there is a consistent behavior that is not helpful to the success of the ensemble, we will contact the singers' family to work out a solution.
- Consistent attendance is vital to building a successful program.
- If singers accumulate more than *three unexcused absences* over the course of the semester (meaning there wasn't prior communication before missed rehearsals), we will contact the singers' family to discuss and determine if continued participation in the ensemble is beneficial.



Please use this QR code or send an email to stetsonyoungsingers@gmail.com informing us your singer cannot attend a rehearsal.

Philosophy of Attendance for Success:

Regarding "mandatory" attendance. My philosophy is that there will always be conflicts. Please check your calendars, try your best to have your singers at every rehearsal, especially final ones. Please communicate conflicts as soon as you know. The reason for rehearsals is to



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

ensure that the singers are confident and feel good about their performance. Excited rather than anxious. And the reason there are conflicts is because the singers and their families are involved in other activities. I believe it's important for young people to be well rounded. I'll always try to share, give advanced notice to events, and stress when attendance is important. But I'll also work with families to support and allow singers to be active in other hobbies and interests.

SYS Home Study Music File



Music and music folders will be left at Stetson.

Digital copies and YouTube recordings will be shared through email and the SYS Google Drive, via this QR code. Young Singers are asked to review music at home at least 3 times during the week so that rehearsals are productive.

Communication

Our professional staff attempts to keep parents well informed of what's going on with the Choir in a clear and timely manner. As such, it is vital that the office have your correct home address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers.

The SYS Remind App and messages sent to families via e-mail are our primary forms of communication regarding the activities of the various performing groups. This is the most efficient and expedient method we know for notifying families of specific concert dates and venues, call and performance times, and uniform requirements. If you don't seem to be getting emails from the Choir Office, please check your spam folder or contact the Choir office so we can make sure we have your correct email address. We have added the text communication Remind to communicate with parents. This form of communication is helpful to connect conductors and parents at rehearsal and event sites when unexpected circumstances arise. Every parent will be invited to Remind at the beginning of the semester. If you choose to opt out you may miss emergency communications from the office.

- Remind101: text 81010 and send the message @sys24 to subscribe
- Public FaceBook Page: Stetson Young Singers
- Family (Private) Facebook Page: Stetson Young Singers Family
- Instagram: Stetson Young Singers
- Connect to our Google calendar
- Email: stetsonyoungsingers@gmail.com

Weekly Emails are sent from stetsonyoungsingers@gmail.com

- Please let us know if you are not receiving them!



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026



Remind 101 - All Ensembles



Google Calendar



FaceBook Page

Weather/Holiday Policy

Stetson Young Singers generally follow the Volusia County severe weather policies. A staff member will notify SYS families regarding rehearsals on days when weather is questionable. Stetson Young Singers do not take all of the holidays that most school systems take. Please take note of the calendar that is sent in the acceptance packet. All SYS holidays will be notated on this calendar. Any other school holidays (teacher's meetings, etc) are generally NOT holidays for SYS unless noted.

Code of Conduct

1. SYS members respect others by treating all people with honor and dignity regardless of age, race, gender, ethnic background, religion, or sexual orientation.
2. SYS members respect the property of others including the property of other choristers, SYS property (music, music folders, instruments, etc.) rehearsal sites, and performance sites by taking care when using the property of others to prevent damage or misuse.
3. SYS members and member families take ownership and responsibility for their actions, understanding that they are publicly representing Stetson Young Singers.

Parking - Drop-Off & Pick-up

Please plan to park your cars in the parking lot across the street from Presser Hall. This is the lot located on Michigan Ave, "behind" the Lynn Business Center. Walk from that lot at both pick up and drop off times. Plan a little extra time the first couple of rehearsals until we get a good system. Driving through the Presser Parking lot, especially for pick up, will not be safe with so many singers. With your permission, we will send the singers from Young Singers out to you after rehearsal. Please let us know if you're comfortable with this. Apprentice Choir singers will need to be picked up at the door.

Once you've brought your child to the door, feel free to head back to your car. We'll be in the lobby ready to get them into rehearsal. We are aware that there is not always parking at this time in this lot. Please have patience and thank you for your cooperation with this.



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Detailed Information for the season's special events

Main Season Events: The following events are important – signature – concert events that we hope all the singers in the respective ensembles will attend.

Discovery Spring Retreat – Sunday, Feb 8th – 3-5 pm

(participation is important) Discovery Choir

Our Spring Retreat will be run much like a day at summer camp. We will play games, work on the music for the season and get to know each other better. All parents will be asked to join us at 4:30 pm for a parent meeting that will end at 5 pm.

40th Anniversary Celebration – Stetson Young Singers & Stetson Children's Choir Alumni April 10th & 11th – Performance on April 11th – 3:00 pm

(participation is important) ALL SYS CHOIRS

It is an historic year for SYS as we celebrate 40 years of our youth singing at Stetson University. We are looking to invite alumni back to town for a weekend of concerts and reunion gatherings. And we want our current singers to lead the gathering and get a true sense of the family they've joined.

Friday evening will be an adult rehearsal of alumni and a reunion. Afterwards, we are all invited to attend Stetson University's Concert Choir performance. SYS may have a role in that performance, stay tuned. On Saturday the 11th, we'll come together with the alumni and rehearse. At 3:00 pm we'll all perform together, current SYS members and alumni. It will be a joyous event.

Optional Season Events: The following events are opportunities that our singers may participate in, if they'd like. They are festivals and invitations to sing for special events. As a family, you may decide which of these you'd like to participate in, if any.

Travel to Nashville! – March 12-15th

(participation is optional)

Much more information coming on this on September 15th... stay tuned!

Hansel & Gretel Opera – March 20 & 22nd

(participation is optional)

We've been invited to sing as a small part of the Stetson University Opera's production in the fall. The opera calls for 10-12 children to sing in one scene. The music will be learned during regular rehearsals. Practice recordings and additional rehearsals will go home with those that are able to attend. We will determine which singers will participate in January. It will be a combination of invitation by Ms. Fradley and ability to attend the extra rehearsals and performance by the singers. (The opera takes place during VCPS spring break.) A full schedule and all music will be announced in January.



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Stetson Tenor/Bass Festival – Friday, Jan 30th

(participation is optional)

This is the same as the fall Choral Clinic except it is for one day and tenor/basses only.

Parent Help

Rehearsal Help - we're looking for a parent to remain in Presser Hall during each Monday rehearsal. We'd like to have one downstairs and one upstairs to be at the ready during rehearsal if there are any needs for our singers. This will help to keep an eye out if a singer needs to leave for the restroom or if there is a more urgent need. Hopefully, most of the time this means you'll be sitting quietly in the halls.

Dismissal Help - we're also looking for 2 parents to help with this time of rehearsal at 7pm. They would remain in the lobby with all the singers until the last one is picked up. Thank you to those that have signed up to help already!

How to Register for SYS:

Use this QR code to register your singer(s).





Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Stetson Young Singers' Wardrobe Guidelines

Revised January 2026



Introduction

Stetson Young Singers – helping young people to find their voice, to build their confidence, and to grow their passions through music and service to the community.

These wardrobe guidelines ensure that every singer presents a professional and unified appearance that reflects the integrity and pride of our ensemble.

General Standards

Stetson Young Singers enjoys presenting a polished and cohesive image on stage. Concert attire demonstrates respect for the ensemble, the music, and the audience.

4. Attire must be clean, pressed, and in excellent condition for every performance.
5. Clothing should fit properly — not oversized or tight-fitting.
6. Hair should be neatly styled and secured away from the face.
7. Jewelry should be minimal and discreet, if at all.
8. Fragrances and strong scents are discouraged. Deodorant encouraged.
9. Closed-toe, closed heel, no heel, black dress shoes are required for safety and consistency. (ballet flats or mary janes are preferred for females)
10. If an approved item becomes unavailable, staff will provide updated ordering links or suitable alternatives.



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Discovery Choir Attire

The Look:



Dress:

Dress: Uniform Light blue dress — [Click here to order](#)

Legwear: Bare legs or nude tights.

Shoes: Black, closed toe, no heel, dress shoes.

Pants & Shirt:

Pants: Uniform Khaki dress pants — [Click here to order](#).

Shirt: White collared, long-sleeve button-down shirt.

Accessories: Blue bow tie (provided).

Belt: Black dress belt.

Shoes: Black dress shoes.





Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Apprentice Choir Attire

The Look:



Dress:

Dress: Uniform Teal dress — [Click here to order](#).

Legwear: Bare legs or nude tights.

Shoes: Black, closed toe, no heel, dress shoes.

Pants & Shirt:

Pants: Black dress pants.

Shirt: Black long sleeve, collared, button-down shirt.

Accessories: Teal bow tie (provided).

Belt: Black dress belt.

Shoes: Black dress shoes.





Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Young Singers Attire

The Look:



Dress:

Dress: Uniform black formal gown — [Click here to order from Concert attire.](#)

Legwear: Bare legs or black tights.

Accessories: Green sash (provided)

Shoes: Solid Black, closed toe, no heel, dress shoes.

Pants and Shirt:

Pants: Black dress pants.

Shirt: Black long sleeve, collared, button-down shirt.

Accessories: Green bow tie (provided)

Shoes: Black dress shoes.

Socks & Belt: Black socks and black belt required.



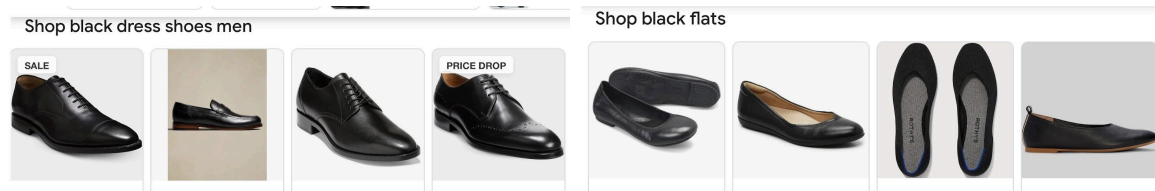


Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Footwear

Black Dress Shoes Required for all Singers: Solid Black, closed toe, closed heel and No heel shoes. Ballet flats and dress lace up shoes. No ornamentation on the shoes that draw attention to them. Singers stand and move for long performances. This footwear ensures a uniform look and allows comfort and confidence on stage.



Notes for Parents & Guardians

- Ordering links for required attire are embedded.
- You are able to purchase items (other than dresses) anywhere you'd like as long as they stay within the specific described requirements.
- Please ensure all uniform items are obtained and ready at least two weeks before the first scheduled concert.
- Contact us with any sizing or ordering questions or concerns:
stetsonyoungsingers@gmail.com

Ordering, Hemming and Dress Alterations:

1. Discovery Dress should be knee length
2. Apprentice Dress should be tea length. – to the bottom of the calf
3. Young Singer Dress should be floor length. – to the top of the shoes.

Discovery and Apprentice Choir Dresses run small. Please plan to order a size larger than usual. If the sizes in stock for the dress doesn't work for your singer, order the largest dress size. Once you have the dress, bring it to us and we'll both alter and hem the dress to fit.

Young Singer dresses come with a long length on purpose. You will need to get it hemmed. When you get the dress hemmed it is recommended that you keep at least 1 to 3" of material depending on your singer's age and chance of growing. That way it can be let out in the future as they grow, and you won't need to purchase a new dress. All dresses have sashes so they can be ordered with a little extra room and still look professional on stage.

Recommend – Mari Casey 386-747-1104 – Seamstress



Stetson University Young Singers

Season Overview - August 2025 - May 2026

Future Dress Exchanges:

It is our hope that we can create a “dress exchange” in the future. All the singers will grow and change choirs through the years. We hope that singers in the Discovery Choir sing with us until they graduate from Young Singers! So, we also hope to create a system of “donating” back dresses and exchanging for other donated dresses as your singer progresses through the choirs.