

# **A Christmas Carol Children's Chorus FAQ**

## **If my child is in the show, do you expect them to be at every rehearsal and every performance?**

Yes, we do. With up to 40 actors and 20 crew people (not to mention an audience of 700) it is our firm expectation that your child will be available when called to rehearse and will be on time and ready to perform for every show.

## **Do you really rehearse every day (except Monday) from 10am to 6pm?**

There will be rehearsal every day of the week except Monday but not all actors are called to every rehearsal. We ask everyone to be available for the entire rehearsal period, so it is very important to clear your schedule for the entire time that rehearsal is possible.

## **How many performances are there each week?**

Typically we do 8 performances a week. There is usually nothing scheduled on Monday.

## **Do we get rehearsal and performance schedules at the time of being asked to be in the show?**

Yes and no. You will get the performance schedule when a role is offered, but you will only get a *potential* rehearsal schedule. The daily rehearsal schedule is drawn up at the end of each day, based on input from the director, the stage manager, choreographer, music director and designers. The stage manager emails the daily schedule to the actors as soon as it is prepared.

## **You often refer to youth actors as "children". Why is that?**

The Citadel Theatre is bound by the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (the CTA) which is an agreement between PACT (the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres – of which the Citadel is a member) and CAEA (Canadian Actors' Equity Association). The CTA allows a Children's Chorus of youth who are all under the age of 16. In the CTA those young actors are referred to as "child actors". We find it more consistent to use the terminology of the CTA, even though we know teens prefer to be referred to as youth.

## **Will our travel expenses be paid?**

No. there is no provision in the budget to pay for travel. The expenses incurred to bring your child to the Citadel are paid by you. We appreciate the parents who do this very much, but do not have the resources to pay the expenses ourselves.

## **Do I have to pay for equipment and costumes?**

No. Unlike hockey and dance programs, the Citadel pays for costumes. Our professional wardrobe people will measure your child and will custom build the costumes and provide all footwear and show underwear. All we ask is that you bring a designated pair of indoor shoes for your child to wear until the show shoes are ready.

**Is there any compensation at all?**

Each child who participates receives an honourarium of \$400 on opening day.

**Do I get to sit in on rehearsals?**

Rehearsal is a time for the actors and the directors to focus on the work they are doing, so on the whole, we ask that parents stay out of the rehearsal hall while the actors are working. We do realize that it is very meaningful for parents to be able to watch some of the rehearsal process, and to that end, we will open specific rehearsals up for parents to attend. We will give more information about these opportunities to parents when a role is offered.

**Will my child miss school?**

Yes, that is a certainty. There are school matinees that your child will be performing in. There will also be rehearsals during school hours. We ask parents to speak to your child's school and make sure the school is aware (and supportive) and will give us with a letter indicating that the school supports your child's participation. There may be school concerts, field trips, birthday parties, and other events that your child will have to forego while in a show, so it is a good idea to discuss this thoroughly.

**This all sounds very onerous. Why would anyone want to have a child in a Citadel production?**

This is a question that I asked when I started doing this job 18 years ago. In the intervening years, hundreds of children have auditioned and many have been cast in our productions. I receive cards, emails, and verbal thank-yous from parents and consistently the message is: my child has grown and flourished in many ways while being in a Citadel show. Children who appear in our productions love the experience and want to be asked back. Parents have noticed their child's school marks actually go up over the course of a show. I think this is because the child is so motivated and wants to succeed. Additionally a child interested in theatre gets a rare insight into the workings of a large professional company and gets to work with some of Canada's best directors, actors, choreographers and music directors.

**If my child auditions and doesn't get a role, will I be notified?**

Yes, everyone who auditions will be notified one way or the other.

**What are the COVID-19 Protocols in place for the show?**

We commit to ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of everyone we work with. Everyone working on the show must be fully vaccinated. COVID-19 protocols are prepared in advance for each new production, in collaboration with staff and artists. While protocols will be unique to each project, elements such as mandatory N95 mask use (when not on stage), rapid screening, and daily symptom checks may be included in each production's protocols.

**Who do I talk to if I have more questions?**

Peni Christopher, Citadel's Company Manager. Peni created this **FAQ sheet** and will be happy to answer more questions. Peni will respond to emails sent to [auditions@citadeltheatre.com](mailto:auditions@citadeltheatre.com).