



The Champittet Choir School – La Manécanterie
Founded in 2004
Affiliated to the Swiss and International Federation of the Pueri Cantores

General presentation of the Choir School

The Manécanteries of the ‘Pueri Cantores’

A manécanterie is a choir of boys and girls who sing mainly sacred music in equal voices or mixed voices. Originally founded for the purpose of serving the students of Collège Champittet, the Manécanterie opened its doors in 2006 to children from outside the college who were motivated by the music, by singing, by the approach and the goals which this choir has set itself. It therefore welcomes children and young people between the ages of approximately 6 and 16 (and older for boys), whether or not they are Christians. The non-Christian children take part in all the activities of the choir school and receive the same human and spiritual support.

The Manécanterie is affiliated to the International Federation of the Pueri Cantores (Small Singers), which brings together several thousand choristers across the world in the tradition of the *Petits Chanteurs à la Croix de bois* (Small Singers with the wooden cross) (Paris). The Champittet choir thus benefits from the human and spiritual experience already acquired by other choir schools, but it must also endeavour to maintain the high standard of musical quality that its membership of the Pueri Cantores demands.

Objectives

To help the children and young people discover the greatness and beauty of sacred chant by offering them a musical and spiritual education in the service of the Church. To teach them to live together in a spirit of human understanding, mutual assistance, openness and respect for each other through song and other joint activities.

Musical education

- Learn to sing
- Develop their voice
- Discover sacred and profane songs
- Build up a musical culture

Education in mutual understanding and human values

- Share the joy of singing with others
- Spend unforgettable times in the group
- Make journeys of discovery with the Musical Tours

Spiritual and Christian education

The chaplain of Champittet takes part in the different activities of the Manécanterie.

- Spiritual support
- Deepening of the Christian faith
- Discovery of the spiritual meaning of the different works

Organisation

Choir practice takes place every Monday from 4 pm to 6 pm in the church hall of Sacré-Coeur in Lausanne. One part of it is devoted to the 'placement of the voice', which is done by an experienced person at the invitation of the Director of the Manécanterie. More thorough choir practice takes place on certain Saturdays, especially when preparing for concerts. The Music Camp is a key moment in choral training at the start of each new school year.

During the school year, the Manécanterie holds liturgical celebrations both at the College and in the parish (around 6 to 10 masses a year), and gives several concerts (normally 2 to 3 concerts). It organises a Tour abroad, which is the crowning reward for all the work accomplished during the year and allows the choristers to share, both among themselves and with others, their enjoyment of singing.

Regular participation in choir practice and in the other activities of the Manécanterie is essential both for each chorister, to enable them to make genuine musical progress, and for the entire choir, whose achievements depend on the participation of everyone.

Scheduling

To enable everyone to make the necessary family arrangements to ensure this regular attendance, the detailed annual schedule of all the activities is communicated in June for the following school year.

Contribution

The annual contribution amounts to CHF 790.00. It covers the ordinary running costs and the costs of the Music Camp. Since the costs of the Musical Tour vary greatly depending on the location where it is held, the costs are covered partly by the contributions and partly by the income from the concerts and the other activities of the Manécanterie. If necessary, families may be asked to make an additional payment.