

# **TRINITY GIRLS CHOIR**

## **Uniform Guide for services and other performances**

The appearance of the choir members “sets the tone” for how they feel about themselves and the choir, and how others will perceive them. Singers wear robes in church services so that the attention of the worshippers is not drawn to any one person; rather the choir appears as a group to lead the service. Choir girls are also very visible after Sunday services at Trinity and when visiting other venues. A uniform appearance for all singers reflects the choir’s role as a professional singing group.

This booklet is designed as a style guide. The pictures are intended to give examples of the kind of wardrobe items required. It is not possible for the choir to require identical uniform items for all members because of differences in availability for the range of sizes from girls to misses. You do not have to purchase the exact items shown here, but it is important that you follow the guide for style points. The choir may require an alternative style if the item chosen does not meet the professional look for which we strive, based on the standards described.

Sources: Depending on size, some items may not be readily available in local stores. Plain black skirts of appropriate length are particularly difficult to find in girls sizes. Uniform stores or Lands’ End Uniform line (online or at Sears stores) are good sources for some garments.

Vestments worn in services (red cassocks and white ruffs, as well as white surplices for singing girls) are provided by Trinity.

Sunday morning uniform: White shirt with black skirt or black pants, “nude” or skin-tone hose and black shoes. Occasionally the Choirmaster will specify either skirt or pants for a particular event; otherwise, it is usually the girl’s choice. In colder weather, a red V-neck sweater provided by Trinity may be included as part of the formal wardrobe.

Concert attire: The Choirmaster will announce for each even, either

- Sunday uniform, with either skirt or pants specified or
- Green concert dress (provided), nude hose and black shoes

On all occasions, girls should be neatly groomed with uniforms clean and pressed, as necessary. Hairstyle should not interfere with a singer’s view of her music or the director. Jewelry should be minimal, as bracelets and necklaces may be uncomfortable under vestments and earrings should be stud-type only.

## WHITE SHIRT

The white shirt is part of the Sunday morning uniform. Fabric should be woven, opaque and un-ornamented; blends that are wrinkle-resistant are ideal. The shirt should have a collar which will be comfortable under the cassock and ruff worn in services. Long sleeves are standard, but a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length sleeve is acceptable. Shirts with tails should be worn tucked into skirts or pants. Shirts with rounded hems of adequate length may be worn un-tucked, if the appearance is neat and professional.

## EXAMPLES



✓ Classic single pocket shirt  
This shirt meets the requirements.  
The rounded hem gives a professional look both tucked in and un-tucked.



✓ Long-sleeved button down  
This shirt is available in many sizes and meets the requirements. Shirt tails will need to be tucked in.



⊘ This polo shirt does not meet the requirements for woven fabric and sleeve length



⊘ This shirt does not meet the requirements. The floral detailing detracts from a clean, professional, and uniform appearance.



⊘ This shirt does not meet the requirements. The sheer fabric is not in line with a conservative, professional, and uniform appearance.

## BLACK SKIRT

Black skirts are part of the Sunday morning uniform. The hem should fall at or slightly below the knee. When shopping for a skirt the goal is “professional” – look for clean lines and smooth fabrics.

## EXAMPLES



### ✓ Pencil Skirt

A pencil or A-line skirt is a great choice. This skirt meets the requirements of a professional looking skirt which falls at the knee.



### ✓ Flippy Stretch Skirt

This skirt (in black) will meet the requirements. Girls not comfortable with a pencil skirt style may find the flared skirt style more appealing because the material will float away from the body.



### ✓ Solid A-line Skirt from Lands' End Item # 08492-45Y1

This skirt is 23” long in misses sizes. A similar skirt is available in girl’s sizes (check that length will be adequate).



⊘ This style does not meet the requirements. The length is too short and the ruffled body of the skirt does not portray a professional image.



⊘ This style does not meet the requirements. While longer in length than the skirt above, again the ruffled body of the skirt does not portray a professional image.

## BLACK PANTS

Black pants are part of the Sunday morning uniform. Trousers should be professional in appearance, of smooth, non-shiny fabric and fit properly: straight legs, cuff just below the ankle, rise at the waist. Low waist pants are not allowed. Boot-cut is also not appropriate because pants often fit too tightly through the leg to appear professional.

## EXAMPLES



✓ Classic Trousers  
These pants meet all the requirements: Sits at waist, Straight leg



⊘ These pants do not meet the requirements. The cuff above the ankle is too short and the cargo pockets detract from a professional appearance.

## BLACK SHOES

Black shoes are part of both the Sunday morning uniform and concert attire. They should be comfortable and clean, and the style should go with black pants, skirts and concert dresses. Girls should be able to process down long cathedral aisles and negotiate stairs safely. On some travel occasions these shoes may have to be worn all day.

Toes and heels must be closed for a professional appearance (no sandals). Mules, slingbacks and other open-backed shoes may come off the foot too easily. Heel height: No higher than 1 inch (balance becomes difficult in processions).

## EXAMPLES



✓ This shoe fits all the requirements.



✓ This shoe fits all the requirements.



✓ YES, you can wear this shoe. It may provide more balance if needed.



✓ YES, you can wear this shoe. Not comfortable with a heel? This is a good alternative.



✓ YES, you can wear this shoe. Want a more stylish shoe? This is acceptable because of the low “kitten” heel.



⊘ NO, you cannot wear this shoe. The open toe and open back make this shoe inappropriate for singing occasions.

## **HOSIERY & UNDERGARMENTS**

Hose should be “nude” or skin-tone. Knee-high or thigh-high stockings are acceptable if the tops are well-covered by the skirt. Colored undergarments should not show through white shirts. A long slip is needed under the green concert dress.

## **JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES**

Please remember that what is worn from the neck up is seen even when singers are in their choir robes. Only stud-type earrings are appropriate; all other jewelry is discouraged. Hair accessories worn for services and concerts should not call undue attention to the wearer; hairstyle should not interfere with the singer’s view of her music or the director.

## **GREEN CONCERT DRESS**

The choir has a “library” of full-length concert dresses which are loaned to the girls each year. Before the first concert dress occasion, arrangements will be made for a dress to be fitted and hemmed for each girl.