

Greetings to you and thank you for participating in the upcoming *Christmas with The Celts* PBS Show National Tour! Below are instructions for the Promoter and the Children’s Choir Director.

**1) How to find a Children’s Choir:** If you are a concert promoter, without a doubt, the best resource to find a choir is to simply call your local Middle School and ask to speak with the Junior High Choir Director. The music teachers are great to work with and usually excited for the children to have an opportunity to perform in a professional setting.

**2) What Age and How many:** Age can be anywhere from 10 to 14 years of age. The number of children to have in the choir depends on the size of the stage but usually a minimum of 6 to a maximum of 20 children approximately.

**3) Dress:** The Children can wear their choir uniforms OR if they do not have choir robes, either ALL white tops or ALL red tops, black or dark pants/skirts or jumpers and shoes (not athletic shoes if possible). An additional option for an added Holiday touch, they could wear winter scarves, hats, vests, and gloves. Every child should be wearing something wintery.

**4) Sheetmusic/mp3s/link:** Piano sheet music for “Happy Christmas” in the performance key of A is also enclosed with this package. We encourage the children to learn the music by ear so we intentionally did not include the actual choral sheet music arrangement. We have found that choirs perform and retain the song better without relying on the print. Lyrics and an audio MP3 file of the exact arrangement is included. **The song will be sung in the original key of A.** A video link of the song exactly as will be performed, and lyrics is viewable at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Esf90bDoSqU

**5) Memorize:** We ask that the children have the song memorized and rehearsed prior to the day of performance and be ready the day of the show with only one run through during sound check. Also, please **encourage them to sing loudly** and to battle the common tendency to become timid once in front of a live audience.

**6) Choreography:** Depending on each venue, we would like for the choir to divide in half and walk on the stage from each side. i.e. left and right to each side of The Celts lead singer who will be in the middle. Two adult leaders from the Choir group must be in attendance to assist with the choir. They begin walking on stage as soon as they hear "So this is Christmas" We will give them a cue from the wings.

In the 3rd verse (which will have the same lyrics as the first verse), the children will turn and look at the ensemble lead singer. Remind them to smile and to sing out really loud and look out into the faces of the audience.

**7) Backstage seating:** Venue owners and promoters have instructed us that the children will need to remain backstage during the show as opposed to sitting in the audience to avoid creating a distraction or disturbance in the audience. We will do our best to arrange to where they can still see the show from back stage.

**8) Call time/Food:** The call time is approximately 2 hours before show time. If different you will be contacted. We have found that most children prefer pizza, so that is what the promoter will be providing them.

Again, thank you so much for your participation in ***Christmas with The Celts.*** We know that your talents and organizational work will lead to a memorable Christmas for all**.**

If any questions contact:

Tour Manager: Mr. Alan Wentz 828-443-1177 awentz@msn.com

**Thank you,**

Ric Blair

**Show Producer**

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