

# AUDITION BROCHURE



416-939-1702  
info@TC3.ca  
www.TC3.ca

## The Toronto Children's Concert Choir & Performing Arts Company

Executive & Artistic Director: Rev. Denise Gillard, B.R.S., M.Div  
HWC General Music Director: Raquel McIntosh  
TC3 Administrator: Cheryl Hurst



### Auditions held at:

**Weston Park Baptist Church**  
1871 Weston Road @ Lawrence Ave W  
Toronto, ON M9N 1V9

**Malvern Methodist Church**  
2 Morningview Trail  
Scarborough, ON M1B 5A8

You must be accepted into the  
Performing Arts Choir before accessing the  
Dance Teams or Afro-Caribbean Drum Team

TC3's MISSION: To promote, develop and encourage the talents and gifts of youth in the musical arts through Inspirational music and dance ranging from Spirituals to Hip Hop focusing on excellence, holistic development and world-class performance. TC3 is committed to producing a unique youth performing arts company reflective of our great city.

TC3 is the signature program of **The HopeWorks Connection (HWC)**.  
HopeWorks is dedicated to empowering youth in the performing arts,  
academics and relieving poverty.

[www.HOPEWORKSCONNECTION.ca](http://www.HOPEWORKSCONNECTION.ca)



## **THE TORONTO CHILDREN'S CONCERT CHOIR & PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY**

The Toronto Children's Concert Choir & Performing Arts Company (TC3) is more than a choir. Bringing together young people ages 7 to 18 from across the Greater Toronto area, TC3's mission is to promote, develop and encourage youth through inspirational song, dance and Afro-Caribbean drumming. The focus is always on establishing excellence, holistic development and first-rate performance. TC3 provides a culturally-rich musical arts program that ranges from spirituals to hip hop. Our positive environment nurtures a sense of extended family and community.

The premier program of The HopeWorks Connection – a not-for-profit organization – TC3 has performed on television, at corporate events as well as at sold-out performances and on international tours. We have also released an award-winning album. However, our proudest fact is that young people who stay with TC3 complete high school and an impressive 90% continue on to higher education.

Participation in the performing arts company includes specialized training (vocals, stage presence), performance opportunities and tours; access to the dance and drum programs, academic tutorials and day camps. Since TC3's mandate is to meet the whole need of each chorister, we do not separate academics from musical training: if a member is late for the homework/academic tutorial period, that member is late for choir rehearsal.

Academics and community service are central to each young person's development as a leader. TC3 participants are given opportunities to teach other young people through peer-led workshops. Members are encouraged to write and perform original pieces and offered leadership responsibilities. All of this happens with the support of positive role models, mentors and instructors.

Young people who join TC3 can expect not only a broad scope of musical training and personal and academic support but to make positive friendships, strive for excellence as well as have performance opportunities which give them a chance to shine, to travel and learn more about the world they live in.

In November 2009 TC3's Performing Arts Choir debut CD "*Our Message*" was awarded a Covenant Award for "Children's Song for the Year". In 2013, TC3 won "Children's Performance of the Year" at the inaugural Glass Awards. In 2014, TC3 was nominated in the Best Gospel Group category at the Black Canadian Awards.

### **TC3's Basic Components**

Educational Tutorials  
Performing Arts Choir

### **TC3's Advanced Components**

Afro-Caribbean Drumming  
Afro-Caribbean Dance  
Additional Dance Genres

### **TC3's Optional Components**

Dance Classes  
Afro-Caribbean Drum Classes  
Electives

## MEET THE EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Rev. Denise Gillard** is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of The HopeWorks Connection, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth in the Greater Toronto Area through the performing arts, academics and relieving poverty. She also the sole proprietor of My Divine Appointment, a leadership incubator that mentors and develops individuals and non-profit organizations so they can positively impact their communities and the world; along with her husband, Rev Denise serves as the Senior Pastor of Kingdom City Church (Partners In Harvest, Toronto), and is a Director of Partners in Mission & Outreach International (Vaughan).

Born in Oakville, Ontario, Rev. Denise's father immigrated to Canada from Jamaica; however, her mother's side of the family comes from Nova Scotia by way of the Black Refugee and Loyalist movements. The musical arts have held a central place in Rev. Denise's life for as long as she can remember. Her mother was classically trained and made sure she and her siblings accessed a broad-based and eclectic variety of vocal, instrumental and theatrical training. At a young age Rev. Denise adapted children's stories to musicals that toured local libraries and public schools.

Rev. Denise received her undergraduate degree at Tyndale Bible College & Seminary (Toronto), and her post-graduate degree from the Divinity College of McMaster University (Hamilton). She was first ordained with the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec.

Known for her gifted preaching and inspiring motivational speaking, Rev. Denise Gillard has dedicated herself to inspiring, training, coaching and motivating people to achieve their full potential in the context of faith, service and transformational living. Rev. Denise has won several distinguished awards including The African Canadian Women's Achievement Award for Excellence in Youth & Women's Development and The African Canadian Achievement Award for Excellence in Religion. In 2013, she graduated from Arrow Leadership's Executive Stream and worked through the World Vision sponsored certification in Non-Profit Management (Trinity Western Institute School of Business). An accomplished author and editor, Rev Denise can be heard every Thursday at 9pm on her "My Divine Appointment" radio show at [www.SPRLIVEFM.com](http://www.SPRLIVEFM.com) Her greatest achievements, however, are found in the success of the young people she serves and adults she coaches, "It is a privilege to support people as they seek to live out God's calling, purpose, and destiny for their lives."

**For HopeWorks** related matters, you can contact Rev Denise at 416-939-1702 or [revdenise@hopeworksconnection.ca](mailto:revdenise@hopeworksconnection.ca)

**For speaking engagements, coaching sessions, or workshops:** [dgillard@mydivineappointment.ca](mailto:dgillard@mydivineappointment.ca)

## **MEET THE GENERAL CONDUCTOR**

Born in the heart of Downtown Toronto, it was during a worship service at the tender age of four that Raquel McIntosh realized two things that would change her life forever; That Jesus loved her and that music would be a powerful tool in her life.

At six years old, she began taking classical piano lessons catapulting her towards several music certificates and awards at district, regional and international levels. After receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts, Honours Degree as a Music Specialist from York University and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Windsor, Raquel went on to teach music in Birmingham, England for two years.

In 2010, she returned to Toronto continuing her passion through Music Education with the Toronto District School Board. With over a decade of experience, Raquel has mentored and directed teams and students on countless festival stages including the distinguished Massey Hall. Raquel, her husband Kurt and their “Spring Production Babies” Obe & Anna reside in the Greater Toronto Area. It is her desire to continue to promote, develop and encourage youth through Performing Arts.

## **TC3 INITIATIVES**

Choir and Vocal Music Development  
Afro-Caribbean Drumming  
Cultural, Contemporary & Urban Dance  
Music and Math Tutorial Program  
Literacy in Motion (L.I.M.)  
March Break and Summer Performing Arts Day Camps  
Instrumental Music and Band Development  
Personal Development  
National & International Tours  
Youth Performing Arts Conference (YPAC)  
Supporting Youth in Africa suffering due to AIDS or Violence  
Community and Corporate Partnerships

## **WHY JOIN TC3?**

Through TC3 youth have access to a broad scope of arts experiences including a diverse musical repertoire, vocal instruction, various forms of African and Caribbean dance and drum, contemporary dance forms including blends of Modern dance, Hip Hop and Step and more. This performing arts experience is rounded off by retreats, social skills training, conferences, stage presence skills building, specialized camps, as well as international and national appearances and concert tours.

Along with all this, TC3's youth are encouraged and supported in their quest for academic excellence. Our innovative “Music & Math” program is the first of what promises to be more ways in which TC3 supports its young people. Through the African Canadian Christian Network, in 2007 TC3 received funding to take the program to the next level. TC3 offers a unique and valuable opportunity for youth to develop themselves, make positive friends, strive for excellence and learn how to compete and interact in our global, multi-cultural society.

## WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parental/Guardian and family support is vital for success in TC3. Parents/Guardians must encourage their young person to practice, eat properly and get plenty of rest in order to participate at their maximum level. Parents/Guardians must consider the types of opportunities accessed through TC3, as an investment in their young person's potential. Parents/Guardians are expected to ensure that their member is prepared and ready to participate in TC3 activities. All TC3 members must have a valid passport within 5 weeks of becoming a member. Besides working with TC3 Staff to raise funds so their young person can participate to the fullest, parents are invited to become actively involved in a variety of ways as their schedule permits.

**We strongly recommend that Parents/Guardians accompany their child to the auditions so detailed information specific to our program can be discussed in person.**

## REHEARSAL FORMAT

TC3 rehearsals are on Saturdays depending on program involvement. Adjustments may be made to accommodate changes in calendar or performances. Basic participation in TC3 is composed of Music & Math and the Performing Arts Choir.

## WHAT FEES ARE INVOLVED?

**Non-Refundable Registration Fee: \$500.00**

While the program cost per member is valued at \$3000.00 plus per year, through the generous support of our community, Corporate Sponsors and Partners, **the ANNUAL FEE per member is \$500.00**

HWC offers a variety of payment options upon registration.

Subject to approval, a certain number of subsidized spaces ARE available to youth who meet the criteria.

Please note there are additional expenses, which may apply to the specialized aspects of our performing arts company (i.e., uniform components, dance gear etc.)

Payments can be made by:

Cash

EFT (electronic funds transfer): [accounts@TC3.ca](mailto:accounts@TC3.ca) Security Answer: **Registration**

Cheque/Money Order payable to: **THE HOPEWORKS CONNECTION**

**NSF Cheques are subject to a \$25 Administrative Charge**

## WHO CAN AUDITION?

TC3 auditions youth aged 7- 18 years, living in the Greater Toronto Area. Young people who have the following qualifications and/or desire to develop them are welcome to audition:

Talent in the Performing Arts  
Desire to Perform  
Willingness to Travel  
Positive Attitude  
Drug Free  
Good Behaviour  
Dedication  
Recommended  
Desire To Touch Lives

Applicants wishing to join TC3 must submit a Performing Arts Résumé along with their Audition form. The resume should outline the following:

**Name, Address, Telephone, Email, Choir Experience, Musical Experience, Dance Experience, Theatre Experience, Hobbies, Goals, Awards, Other.**

Those **applicants with no prior Performing Arts experience** may submit a letter, outlining their reasons for wanting to join TC3 and stating the contribution they hope to bring to our performing arts company.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** This is not a School project! We want to get to know you. No performing Arts experience is too small...i.e., School Play, Christmas Pageant...etc.

***Parents/Guardians:*** When helping younger children, please make sure to use their words...We want to “hear” your child’s thoughts.

## HOW DOES THE AUDITION WORK?

Once we have received your information, you will be contacted with your performing arts choir audition date and time. TC3 auditions consist of four parts and last approximately ten minutes. **First**, you will be required to introduce yourself. **Second**, you must present a talent: i.e., Solo, Instrumental Piece, Rap or Spoken Word (3mins maximum; remember to bring tape or CD accompaniment as needed. If you plan on participating in the dance or instrumental auditions you should prepare something different for this first audition). **Third**, you will be led through some choir excerpts so the adjudicators can listen for tone, pitch, rhythm and expressive musicality. **Fourth**, the adjudicators will ask you some questions based on your resume or letter. Be prepared to talk about yourself. That's it! **Be yourself and enjoy the experience. Remember TC3 was made for youth and we are looking for new members.** Parents/Guardians and friends must wait outside of the audition room.

**Afro-Caribbean Drum Auditions:** Drummers will be taken through a variety of drumming exercises to determine their skill set level. Youth who have never played previously are welcome. Those musicians who do not own their own African drum are welcome to use one of TC3's for the audition.

**Dance Auditions:** **First**, Dancers must present a 2- 5 minute solo dance piece (any style of dance is welcome; bring your own CD or tape). **Second**, dancers will be taken through a variety of dance exercises to determine their skill set level. Dancers should wear comfortable athletic wear.

## RETURNING TC3 MEMBERS (Less than 2+ consecutive years)

It is our experience that members who assume they will be automatically invited to re-join TC3, do not prepare for the audition and end up disappointed. Each year we expect more of our members. Please refer to the "**How The Audition Works**" section of this brochure. It applies to you too. At your audition, you are expected to show that you want to be a part of a forward-moving youth performing arts organization.

**You must bring your Audition Form and a Letter of Intention to your audition.** Your letter must address 3 to 4 of the following issues:

1. The reason(s) you want to return to TC3.
2. The personal strengths you hope to bring to TC3 this year.
3. The challenges you faced being a part of TC3 last season and how you plan to overcome them.
4. The positives TC3 brought out in your life.
5. Areas you must strengthen in to grow as a member of TC3.
6. Ways in which TC3 can strengthen itself as a Performing Arts Co.

**Parents/Guardians:** *When helping younger children, please make sure to use their words...We want to "hear" your child's thoughts.*

**AUDITIONS FOR RETURNING MEMBERS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**



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**“Empowering Youth through the Performing Arts, Academics and Relieving Poverty”**

# Audition Form

*Please complete and submit with Resume and/or Letter upon arrival at Audition:*

Preferred Practice Location:  West Practice Location: Weston Park Baptist Church  
 East Practice Location: Malvern Methodist Church

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First and Last)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(House/Apartment Building Number, Unit Number, Street Name, City & Postal Code)

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month, Day, Year)      Age: \_\_\_\_\_      Male/Female: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_      Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Present School: \_\_\_\_\_      Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_      Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate if you will be auditioning for the following TC3 Advanced Components:**

Afro-Caribbean Drumming       Dance

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Audition Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_      Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Status     New     Returning

Supporting Documents     Resume     Letter of Intention