

Welcome to the

RISE

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

2025

2026

Season

Come sing with us!



RISE

DONAIS & STUDIOS

RISECHOIR.CA

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WELCOME



Dear RISE Family,

I am excited to welcome you to the 5th Anniversary Season of RISE Children's Choir!

This milestone is a celebration of five incredible years of music, connection, and growth—and we're thrilled that you'll be part of this extraordinary season.

Choral singing is truly special.

There is nothing quite like the experience of standing on stage, surrounded by friends, as your voices blend in perfect harmony to share powerful stories and moving melodies. These moments create memories that last a lifetime.

Research confirms what we've long known in our hearts: singing in a choir profoundly benefits children.

It enhances physical and mental well-being, builds meaningful social connections, boosts mood, reduces stress and anxiety, improves memory and cognitive function,

and instills a deep sense of belonging and purpose.

Singing is not only an art—it's a gift to the body, mind, and spirit.

This season, we promise more than just music. **RISE** is a community where joy, adventure, and friendship take centre stage. With retreats, weekly rehearsals, engaging fun nights, vibrant community events, exciting tours, and four spectacular concerts, your child will experience musical and personal growth in a way that is deeply enriching and endlessly fun.

At RISE Children's Choir, we believe that every voice matters.

Choral singing has a unique power to connect us—to each other and to the world around us. Our mission is to inspire and empower our singers to discover their inner strength, express themselves freely, listen deeply, and connect

with commitment, conviction, and compassion.

This year's concert series is designed to challenge and uplift every singer.





Through dynamic and playful performances, we will explore meaningful themes, nurture musicianship and artistry, and provide opportunities for each child to develop confidence, creativity, and technical skill.

Your voice is an instrument of inspiration, capable of uplifting and transforming lives. We are honoured that you've chosen to share it with us.

Get ready for an unforgettable season filled with growth, connection, and music that lets your voice truly **RISE**.

Keep singing,
Andrea Donais

Artistic Director
RISE Children's Choir
*Commitment, Conviction
& Connection*

-  andrea@donaisstudios.ca
-  risechoir.ca
-  @donaisstudios
-  @donaisstudios

introduction to

DONAIS STUDIOS



At Donais Studios, we are dedicated to providing exceptional music education experiences for youth and families of all ages and skill levels in our community.

For the 2025/2026 Season we are delighted to offer two core programs:

RISE

RISE Children’s Choir™

A choral music experience for singers in grades JK–12.



The Artist Within Academy™

Private voice lessons for individuals of all ages and skill levels.

Our programs are designed to help you discover, ignite, and share The Artist Within™.

At Donais Studios, we give our students the tools to become confident performing artists through a powerful pedagogy, a beautiful and inspiring studio environment, passionate and highly qualified teaching artists, intentional performance opportunities, and a vibrant community of artists.

introduction to

RISE CHILDREN’S CHOIR



RISE Children’s Choir is a dynamic choral ensemble of genuine, intentional, and inspirational young voices dedicated to fostering connection, collaboration, and confidence through the transformative power of singing.

We are passionate about nurturing musical excellence and providing exceptional music education that helps our singers develop their technical skills, artistry, and confidence both on and off the stage.

Through powerful performances and meaningful storytelling, **RISE** uniquely connects individuals to one another, our shared humanity, and the world around us. Every performance is an opportunity to share beauty, inspire change, and celebrate the unifying language of music.

RISE empowers young singers to engage with the world with commitment, conviction, and connection. By embracing artistry and creative storytelling, our singers discover their potential to inspire and uplift, becoming ambassadors of hope and positive change.

Come sing with us and let your voice RISE!

introduction to

OUR MISSION

At Donais Studios our mission is to inspire a new generation of artists through the transformative power of the arts.



OUR VISION



At Donais Studios, we envision a world where every young artist discovers the courage to express their voice with confidence and authenticity. Through exceptional vocal training and the vibrant community of **RISE** Children's Choir, we aim to cultivate artistry, ignite passion, and shape the next generation of empowered, expressive, and compassionate performers.

get to know us

MEET THE ARTISTIC TEAM



Andrea Donais
Artistic Director & Founder,
RISE Conductor



Lian Senior
RISE Associate Conductor
& Vocal Coach



Asher Farber
RISE Collaborative
Pianist



Amelia DePiero
RISE Vocal Coach & Voice
Instructor



Janice Chong
Studio Coordinator



Eli Kaczor
RISE Rehearsal Assistant

OUR PROGRAMS

RISE Principal Chorus

Singers: Grades 6–12
Rehearsals: Monday Evenings, 7–8:45pm
Rehearsal Location: New Hope Methodist Church, 337 Queen Street, Newmarket
RISE Concerts: Nov 29, 2025 & May 30, 2026
Conductor: Andrea Donais
Associate Conductor: Lian Senior
Rehearsal Assistant: Eli Kaczor



RISE Junior Chorus

Singers: Grades 4–6
Rehearsals: Monday Evenings, 6–7:15pm
Rehearsal Location: New Hope Methodist Church, 337 Queen Street, Newmarket
RISE Concerts: Nov 29, 2025 & May 30, 2026
Conductor: Andrea Donais
Associate Conductor: Lian Senior
Rehearsal Assistant: Eli Kaczor



RISE Prep Chorus

Singers: Grades 1–3
Rehearsals: Monday Evenings, 6–7pm
Rehearsal Location: New Hope Methodist Church, 337 Queen Street, Newmarket
RISE Concerts: Nov 29, 2025 & May 30, 2026
Conductor: Andrea Donais
Associate Conductor: Lian Senior
Rehearsal Assistant: Eli Kaczor

Mini Maestros

Singers: Grades JK–1
Rehearsals: Monday Evenings, 5–5:50pm
Rehearsal Location: New Hope Methodist Church, 337 Queen Street, Newmarket
RISE Concerts: Nov 29, 2025 & May 30, 2026
Conductor: Lian Senior
Rehearsal Assistant: Eli Kaczor

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS



Our programs are designed to be all-inclusive. Once you are registered for one of our programs, all materials and artistic instruction are included:

- Weekly choral instruction
- Vocal training and curricular instruction
- All music and materials
- Music folder
- RISE Hub: access to our exclusive online resource library with warm-up videos, technique videos, practice tracks, tips & tricks, practice prompts, and more.
- Artist Within™ planner
- Two formal performances: November 29, 2025 & May 30, 2026
- Two community performances: December 13, 2025 & June 13, 2026
- Choir Retreat: October 4 & 5 2025
- RISE sweatshirt and t-shirt

Additional fees may include: concert tickets and optional external fees (ie. social events, etc.). RISE singers are required to supply their own formal concert attire: black dress OR black skirt and dressy top OR black pants and black dressy top, black shoes.

Introducing the 2025/2026 CONCERT SERIES



Saturday, November 29, 2025. 7pm
Home for the Holidays
Location: TBA

Celebrate the warmth, joy, and magic of the season with **Home for the Holidays**, a heartwarming performance by **RISE Children's Choir**. This festive concert will fill your heart with cheer as the voices of all four **RISE** Choirs bring timeless holiday classics and modern favourites to life.

Through moving melodies and joyous harmonies, **Home for the Holidays** is a musical journey that reminds us of the beauty of togetherness, the comfort of cherished traditions, and the wonder of the holiday spirit. From heartwarming ballads to spirited carols, this concert is a perfect way to create unforgettable memories with family and friends.

Let the joy of music surround you this holiday season—join us for an evening of inspiration, connection, and celebration as we welcome you **Home for the Holidays**.



Saturday, May 30, 2026. 7pm
RISE Up: Five Years of Voices, One Celebration
Location: TBA

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music, joy, and community at **RISE Up: Five Years of Voices, One Celebration**. This special 5th Anniversary concert will showcase the incredible talent, growth, and unity of **RISE** Children's Choir, as we celebrate five years of friendship, impact, and beautiful choral music.

From heartfelt ballads to spirited anthems, our young singers will take you on a musical journey that reflects the heart and soul of **RISE**. With each song, we celebrate not only the beautiful music we've shared but the lasting connections, memories, and transformations that have shaped our choir over the years.

RISE Up is more than just a concert; it's a tribute to the power of music to unite, inspire, and uplift. Come celebrate with us as we honour the past five years and look toward the future, where our voices will continue to **RISE**—together.

Don't miss this joyous occasion of song, celebration, and the incredible spirit of **RISE**!

RISE CALENDAR 2025/2026

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Monday, September 8 | • RISE Rehearsals Begin |
| October 4 & 5 | • RISE Retreat |
| Monday, October 13 | • Thanksgiving Holiday (no rehearsals) |
| Saturday, November 29 | • Home for the Holidays RISE Concert |
| Saturday, December 13 | • Donais Studios Winter Concert |
| Monday, December 15 | • Community Carolling |
| December 22—January 2 | • Winter Break (no rehearsals) |
| Monday, January 5 | • RISE Rehearsals Resume |
| Monday, February 16 | • Family Day Holiday (no rehearsals) |
| March 14—20 | • March Break (no rehearsals) |
| Monday, March 23 | • RISE Rehearsals Resume |
| Monday, April 6 | • Easter Monday Holiday (no rehearsals) |
| Friday, April 10 | • RISE Prep & RISE Junior Fun Night |
| Friday, April 17 | • RISE Fun Night |
| Monday, May 18 | • Victoria Day Holiday (no rehearsals) |
| Saturday, May 30 | • RISE Up: Five Years of Voices, One Celebration |
| Saturday, June 13 | • Donais Studios Spring Concert |
| Monday, June 15 | • Year-end Party |

A LOOK BEHIND THE MUSIC



The Artist Within Method

Listen: Listen to different recordings and absorb the overall feel of the piece.

Rhythm: Understand the beat, timing, and flow of the song.

Pitch: Hone in on the melody, intervals, and pitches.

Vowels: Pay attention to vowel shapes and resonance to enhance clarity, vocal consistency, and projection.

Expression: Study the score for dynamics, tempo, and the story you're telling through the music.

Sing: Finally, bring it all together and sing with confidence and passion!

"You will meet such lovely people. I love all of the RISE girls that I sing with! It is a really positive community."

—MW

"Join us.
It's so
much
fun!"

—VD



Save the date...



RISE Core Values

Artistic Expression
Musical Excellence
Community and Belonging
Growth Through Courage
Inspiration and Impact

RISE Prep Sample Rehearsal Schedule

6–6:05pm
Welcome &
Physical Warm-up

6:05–6:10pm
Vocal Warm-up &
Technical Focus of the Week

6:10–6:15pm
Ear Training or
Sight Reading Activity

6:15–6:25pm
Repertoire 1

6:25–6:35pm
Repertoire 2

6:35–6:45pm
Repertoire 3

6:45–6:55pm
Repertoire 4

6:55–7pm
Sing-Through or
Performance Song

"You should join because it is really fun and you sing a lot of cool and really fun stuff. You learn lots of new things and meet new people and make a lot of new friends." —AH

for our artists

RISE HUB

Valuable At-Home Artistic Practice Resources for RISE Singers

At **RISE**, we're committed to helping you create an artistic practice that's enjoyable, meaningful, and fosters independent growth, discipline, and lifelong learning. Our carefully crafted resources are designed to inspire confidence, ignite creativity, and support your journey as a musician and artist.

Here's what awaits you in the **RISE** Hub:

Warm-Up Videos

Start every practice session strong with targeted warm-up videos designed to help you prepare your voice and body for success. These quick and effective exercises will build your confidence and set the tone for productive at-home practice.

Technique Videos

Take your vocal and musicianship skills to the next level with our clear, step-by-step technique videos. Learn how to improve your ear training, sight-singing, and vocal precision—all from the comfort of your own home.

Practice Tracks

Stay on track with high-quality practice tracks and accompaniment recordings tailored to each voice part. Whether you're practicing harmonies, polishing phrasing, or building confidence for performance, these tools make independent practice seamless and effective.

Practice & Rehearsal Prompts

Find motivation and inspiration each week with prompts designed to deepen your artistry. Explore storytelling, reflect on the meaning behind your music, and connect emotionally with the songs you're singing.

Tips & Tricks

Unlock insider strategies to help you shine! From performance tips to practice hacks, these resources are designed to build your confidence, refine your skills, and support your growth as a vocalist and artist.

Learning Resources

Dive into our extensive library of learning tools to expand your musical knowledge and creativity. Whether you're looking for inspiration, guidance, or technical support, this is your go-to hub for continued artistic development.

for our artists

THE ARTIST WITHIN™ PLANNER

Created exclusively for artists by Andrea, this transformative planner is your ultimate guide to meaningful, consistent artistic practice.

With daily prompts, tasks, and inspiration, the Artist Within Planner™ encourages you to:

- Plan your practice: Set intentional goals for each day.
- Stay inspired: Find fresh motivation and challenges to explore and grow.
- Achieve real results: Build confidence, self-trust, and artistic momentum.
- This planner isn't just about music—it's a tool for personal transformation, helping you develop discipline, creativity, and self-expression that will serve you both on and off the stage.

Your Success Starts Here

The **RISE** Hub and Artist Within Planner™ are designed to empower you with the tools you need to thrive. This season, you'll build skills, embrace your artistry, and grow as a musician in ways you never thought possible. Let's ignite the artist within!



the details of your INVESTMENT

RISE Principal Chorus

Grades 6–12

\$1,485

3 Installments of \$495
Due Upon Registration, October 1,
2025 and February 1, 2026.

RISE Junior Chorus

Grades 4–6

\$1,275

3 Installments of \$425
Due Upon Registration, October 1,
2025 and February 1, 2026.

RISE Prep Chorus

Grades 1–3

\$1,185

3 Installments of \$395
Due Upon Registration, October 1,
2025 and February 1, 2026.

Mini Maestros Singers

Grades JK–1

\$885

3 Installments of \$295
Due Upon Registration, October 1,
2025 and February 1, 2026.

Payment Options

Pay in Full

Pay the full **RISE** tuition fee
amount by September 1, 2025
and receive a 2% discount on
total tuition fees owing.

Pay by Installments

Pay your tuition fees in 3
installments due:
upon registration,
October 1, 2025 and
February 1, 2026.

PAYMENT & WITHDRAWALS

Payment Details

- The Donais Studios **RISE** Children's Choir program is a 10-month program beginning Monday, September 8, 2025 and ending Monday, June 15, 2026.
- All fees are payable to Donais Studios Inc.
- Cash, e-transfer, and credit card payments are accepted methods of payment. E-transfer payments should be sent to admin@donaisstudios.ca.
- Credit card payments are subject to a \$3.00 convenience fee.
- Late payments will be subject to a late fee.



Payment Options

Paying In Full

Pay the full **RISE** tuition fee
amount by September 1, 2025
and receive a 2% discount on
total tuition fees owing.

OR

Pay By Installments

Pay your tuition fees in
3 installments: due upon
registration, October 1, 2025,
and February 1, 2026.

Withdrawals & Refunds

- All requests for withdrawal from any **RISE** Children's Choir program must be made in writing to admin@donaisstudios.ca.
- Students are required to give one month notice of their intent to withdraw from the **RISE** Children's Choir program.
- No refunds will be granted for program withdrawals once the season has begun.



your step-by-step guide

HOW TO REGISTER

Ready to join **RISE** Children's Choir and ignite your musical journey?
Follow these simple steps to secure your spot for the 2025/2026 season:



1. Meet With Us

Join a **RISE** Experience Day to immerse yourself in the exciting world of **RISE** Children's Choir. Find out if **RISE** is right for you!

This is your chance to:

- Meet new friends
- Learn to sing
- Explore music reading
- Mark your score
- Sharpen your listening skills
- And so much more!

Each workshop includes a dedicated Q&A session for parents and singers.

If you prefer a personalized approach, you can request a one-on-one "Meet with Us" session. Note: Mini Maestros Singers are not required to attend a "Meet with Us" session before registering.

2. Read Through The RISE Welcome Package

This document contains everything you need to know about the 2025/2026 season.

Joining **RISE** is a commitment to yourself and your ensemble. We want you to be fully prepared and ready to let your voice **RISE** this September!

Take your time to review all the details so you can dive in with confidence.



3. Review Our Policies

No one likes unexpected surprises!

Be sure to read through our studio policies to ensure you're set up for the absolute BEST learning experience.

Clarity and communication are key to a successful season.

4. Register Online

Visit www.donaistudios.ca/rise-registration/ or simply scan the QR code below to complete your registration.

Pro Tip: Register by August 1, 2025 to secure your spot and ensure we have all your materials ready for an incredible start to the season.

Get ready to sing and **RISE** with us! We can't wait to welcome you to the **RISE** community.



STUDIO POLICIES

At Donais Studios & **RISE** Children’s Choir, our priority is to create an extraordinary arts education experience that fosters creativity and growth. We are dedicated to helping our students achieve success and build confidence in all aspects of their musical and artistic pursuits.

In order to uphold our mission and vision, we have established the policies outlined below.

These policies are designed to ensure that each student receives the finest quality arts education and is empowered to achieve their goals.



A. Tuition Payment

There are two options for tuition payment. Tuition payment is due either: 1) In full on September 1, 2025 OR 2) In 3 installments due at time of registration, October 1, 2025 and February 1, 2026.

B. Missed Rehearsals

Due to the nature of a choir program, no refund or make-up credits will be given for missed rehearsals.

C. Lateness

We understand that life is busy and unpredictable at times. We ask that students be present and on time for their scheduled rehearsals and performances.

D. Cancellation

Studio Closure: For studio closures due to inclement weather, email notifications and text messages will be sent to all affected singers. Please note that Donais Studios does not follow school board closures as several different school boards are represented within the studio and choir. **RISE** rehearsals will be moved to Zoom in the event of a studio closure due to inclement weather.

Conductor Absence: For conductor absence or illness, email notifications and text messages will be sent to all affected students.

E. Holidays

There will be no rehearsals on holiday Mondays: Thanksgiving (October 13), Winter Break (December 22 to January 2), Family Day (February 6), March Break (March 16), Easter Monday (April 6) and Victoria Day (May 18).

F. Dismissal

Singers may be dismissed from the **RISE** choir program for the following reasons:

- Persistent failure to attend rehearsals.
- Failure to pay tuition fees.
- Inappropriate, uncooperative or abusive behaviour.
- Rehearsals and programming missed or time lost for suspension or dismissal for any of the above reasons will not be refunded or made up.

G. Etiquette

- Please arrive on time for your rehearsal.
- Please remember your music, materials, pencil, and a water bottle for each rehearsal.
- Home practice is an integral part of the learning process and is an expectation of the **RISE** program. The **RISE** Hub (digital resource library) is provided for home practice.
- If a parent needs to speak with the instructor, please schedule a meeting or phone call with the instructor via email (admin@donaisstudios.ca). Rehearsal time is limited and precious!

H. Release of Liability and Indemnification

In addition to giving full consent for you or your child’s participation, you agree to release, save harmless and indemnify Donais Studios and any organization that it owns and their respective employees, volunteers, instructors or agents from and for all losses and/or injuries incurred or suffered from or related to your child’s participation in the **RISE** Children’s Choir Program on the Donais Studios premises or by taking part in any of its programs or activities at any facility wherein a Donais Studios event or activity is being held, including, but not limited to Newmarket Old Town Hall, Aurora Town Square and New Hope Methodist Church.

I. Photo and Video Release

By registering with Donais Studios, you grant Donais Studios permission to take photographs and videos of you or your child’s participation in Donais Studios activities. You also grant Donais Studios permission to use, reuse, modify, publish, and republish those photographs/videos in any format or media, including print and online, for promotional or instructional purposes. Donais Studios may use the photographs and videos without compensation to you or your child. You waive any rights to prior inspection and approval of the photographs/videos and their use. Donais Studios will not sell such photographs/videos to anyone. Your child’s name will not be posted with his or her photograph without your permission. You waive any claims, demands, and liabilities against Donais Studios for taking and using these photographs/videos. **To opt out of Donais Studios’ Photo/Video Release Policy, please send an email to admin@donaisstudios.ca.**

By registering for the Donais Studios 2025/2026 Season—**RISE** Children’s Choir Program—you agree to the above policies and accept the terms of registration.

important guidelines for

COMMUNICATION

Studio Hours

Our administrative office is open from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. **RISE** rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at New Hope Methodist Church. The studio is open for private lessons from 3:30 PM to 9:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, and from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Sundays. Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings are reserved for studio performances, retreats, and workshops.

Preferred Contact Methods

The best way to reach us is via email, which guarantees the quickest response time. Alternatively, you may leave a voicemail, and we will return your call promptly. If you need to notify us of an absence from rehearsal, please email admin@donaisstudios.ca.

Donais Studios Portal

We kindly request that all **RISE** singers keep their personal contact information updated in the Studio Portal. The portal serves as your central hub for:

- Rehearsal schedules
- Attendance tracking
- Rehearsal notes
- Email communication
- Account information

Staying connected is a priority for us!

Each week, you'll receive a Weekly Snapshot Email that includes your:

- Rehearsal schedule
- At-home practice notes
- Links to **RISE Hub**

Feel free to contact the office or your instructor with any questions or concerns.

Contact Information



Email

admin@donaisstudios.ca



Phone

(289) 803-4211



Studio Address

342 Prospect Street
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 3V4

in your words

THE IMPACT OF THE ARTS

Thank you so much for a wonderful year of **RISE** Choir. My daughter has looked forward to Mondays all year and **always comes home smiling**. Singing with the choir has really **ignited something inside her**. I'm so grateful to have found this studio with such awesome, dedicated teachers.

—Heidi, Donais Studios & RISE Parent



The **musical experience** our daughter receives at Donais Studios is of the **highest quality** from lesson preparedness to exam readiness, and we regard it as an **essential part of her overall development** as a well-rounded person.

—Teena, Donais Studios & RISE Parent

To all the staff and artists involved in last night's **RISE** concert — **thank you, and Bravo!**

We were thrilled to be able to attend, **loved every minute of it!**

—Matt, Student & RISE Parent



WHAT'S NEXT?

Step into the Donais Studios
2025/2026 Season and
let your artistic journey begin!

RISE Children's Choir welcomes singers from Grades JK to 12 who share a love for music and a desire to grow and learn.


Through the transformative power of choral singing and artistry, **RISE** helps young singers build confidence, hone their artistic skills, and form lasting, meaningful friendships.

Let your voice **RISE!**



Register Today

donaisstudios.ca/rise-registration

D O N A I S  S T U D I O S