

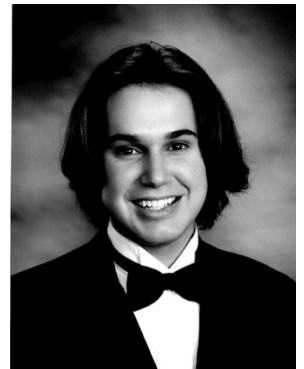


Roanoke Valley Children's Choir Seniors



Sarah Bell became part of the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir when she was 8 years old, beginning in the A Choir. Over the years she has performed at Carnegie Hall, Strathmore Hall, the Washington National Cathedral, and many local churches. After taking a brief pause from choir during the Covid-19 pandemic, Sarah returned to the C Choir, making 2023 her 8th year. If Sarah isn't singing, she can be found making designs on Canva for the RVCC Instagram with Choir Bear, playing the piano, or whipping up a new flavor of French macarons. During her senior year, she has had the privilege of getting to know the younger choristers in the A, B, and B+ choirs. Each Monday Sarah loves to hear about a tough math test, or what a chorister got for their birthday. She plans to continue her education at a four-year university, while making lots of music along the way. On her journey through college, Sarah aspires to carry with her the example that she has learned from choir; the appreciation of those who love to make music as much as she does.

Daniel John Chappell is a senior graduating from William Byrd high school, He is in the choir program at his high school where he participates in all-district choirs and all-state choirs. He was born in Orange Park, Florida. He initially joined choir in the 3rd grade and in the 6th grade he joined the Jacksonville Children's Choir where he travelled to 5 different European countries to perform every where from the city plaza to the local church. He briefly attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts before moving to Roanoke in the 9th grade then joined the RVCC the following year. He will attend college at Virginia western, and wants to become a pilot, living out or New York City, travelling back to Roanoke to visit his parents.



Alex Benjamin Coffey has been a part of the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir for 10 years. He is a 17-year-old senior at William Byrd High School and plans to continue his education in college with a focus in mechanical engineering this upcoming fall. Through the Governor's Academy Stem Initiative at the Burton Center of Engineering, Alex is maintaining an internship locally with StageSound to further develop his technical skills and gain experience in a professional field. In addition to the RVCC, Alex also participates in Scouts BSA and is currently striving to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project of designing, machining, and installing new standardized tree identification signs for Roanoke County Parks & Rec is set to be complete by mid-April. Choir has influenced Alex to learn multiple instruments including guitar, alto saxophone, piano, and music production software. He is currently working with a colleague in Burton's Mass Communication Program to create a soundtrack for a short film project. His love of music and performance stems directly from the RVCC, and he wouldn't give away his choir experience for the world.

Aidyn Sofia Dowling is a senior at Cave Spring High School. She has been in the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir for 7 years, being in the Concert Choir for 5 years. Aidyn also participates in her school's advanced choir program, and recently participated in the 2023 All District Chorus in February. Aidyn received her cosmetology license in May 2022, as she completed the Burton Center for Arts and Technology's cosmetology program. Aidyn plans to attend an esthetician school to obtain her esthetician license. Aidyn would describe herself as a kind, outgoing, and confident woman. Though she does not tend to have a professional career in music, she still plans to involve music all through her life. The Roanoke Valley Children's Choir has made a permanent, positive impact on her life. This program has not only taught her how to sing with great skill, but she has also learned how to be a mentor, be responsible, and be a kind friend to all. Though she has participated in many extra-curriculars, she will always consider the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir to be the most impactful on her life.





Josephine Frances Fraticelli, "Josie", is a senior and valedictorian at Glenvar High School and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Science and Technology. She has been a part of the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir for 10 years. As a member of the RVCC, Josie has had the pleasure to perform in Carnegie Hall, the National Cathedral, and Disney. One of her favorite memories was the trip to New York. Whether it was going to see *Funny Girl* with her group and the people sitting in front of them having a very loud snack in the middle of the show, filming mini vlogs, figuring out how to close the ironing board, or coincidentally going to the same restaurant and sitting across from Kevin Jonas and his family. When she's not practicing her RVCC music, Josie can be found playing trumpet, French horn, or piano. Josie is the Band President and principal trumpet player in the Glenvar High School Band. She placed in the Symphonic band as a senior in the 2023 Virginia All District Band. Following graduation, Josie plans to pursue a career in Pediatrics. She plans to attend a 4-year college, still to be determined, and then attend medical school.

Caleb Daniel Gaines is a senior at northside high school in his 9th year of choir. Since joining the choir, he's performed in *La Bohème* and *Tosca* with the RVCC and Opera Roanoke, Performed a solo for the Mary Washington University choir, and. Outside of Choir, Caleb is a Percussionist and Bass Guitarist for his Concert, Symphonic, and Jazz Bands at his school. This past year he has performed in all- county band and Virginia Tech Honor Band. He also uses his Percussion talents for the choir and is often one of the percussionists for the choirs concerts. Caleb also loves food as much as he loves music and when he's not performing you can usually find him in the kitchen, creating or perfecting another recipe. After high school, Caleb intends to continue to pursue a career in music in the music technology program at Virginia Tech. Caleb has always worked for his musical accomplishments and is always driven to explore new ideas about music and the world around him.



Naomi Ruth Hodges is a Homeschooled Senior who has been in the RVCC for six years, and in the Concert Choir for five of those years. She has thoroughly enjoyed singing with the choir and is so thankful for the opportunities it has given her, including singing evensong in the National Cathedral, singing at regional ACDA, and performing at Carnegie Hall. She also enjoys volunteering to help mentor young choristers at A and B choir rehearsals. Naomi has been playing piano for seven years and has been taking piano lesson from Ms. Davidson for two of those years, during these two years she has grown tremendously in skill level and technique. Besides singing in Choir and playing the piano, Naomi enjoys cooking, watching movies, singing and playing piano for her church worship team, and hanging out with her siblings, Grace, Rose, Asher, Callie, and Esther. Naomi plans to attend Toccoa Falls College in the Fall and study as a Music Education Major. Naomi is so thankful to her parents for always supporting her and to Ms. Davidson for always inspiring her to pursue musical excellence.

Priscilla Anne Keller is a senior at Roanoke Valley Christian Schools. She has been in the RVCC for a total of three years (3rd-4th grade & senior year). Priscilla enjoys running, swimming, and thrifting in her free time. She has been on her school's cross-country team since 7th grade, and the track team that was started in 2022. Priscilla was the VACA (Virginia Association of Christian Athletes) State winner for xc 10th-12th grade. She led as the xc team captain during her sophomore through senior years. She has been in her schools' choir since 7th grade, participating in All-District choir 7th-10th grade. In 2021, Priscilla qualified and participated in the virtual All-State choir. Priscilla will be attending Longwood University in the fall, competing in D1 cross-country & track. She plans to study business administration with a concentration in information systems and cybersecurity.



Elizabeth Joy Mellas, a proud member of the choir for about six years, began her choral journey with the RVCC in the B+ Choir, in the Fall of 2017. The RVCC quickly became a place that was not only a fun and artistic outlet that allowed her to meet new friends, see new places, and have new experiences, but also required diligence, dedication, and hard work. Ms. Davidson only accepts the best from her students, and now Elizabeth can continue putting these disciplines to use while pursuing her associate degree in Graphic Design at Virginia Western Community College. Although it's not something entirely related to music or theatre, patience and discipline are principles that remain true for any art and are key lessons learned in the RVCC that will be remembered by choristers for the rest of their lives.

Maggie Parkhurst is a high school senior at William Byrd High School and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School. Maggie is a hardworking and passionate individual involved in the community and arts. She has been a member of the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir for 10 years and has loved every moment and opportunity. She also participates in Marching Band and Symphonic Band playing flute and piccolo at school. She is a member of the National BETA Club. She is currently researching Alzheimer's Disease working towards creating a blood-based early diagnostic tool and has won a state award in genetic research for her work. When Maggie has some free time, she can be found working on fun and bold outfits, playing and writing songs on ukulele, or cooking a new recipe to share with her friends and family. Maggie plans to go to college to major in genetics or cellular biology with a preference to neuroscience and minor in music. She hopes to have her own research lab one day and continue being involved musically wherever she can.



Abigail Rose Poling, "Abby," is a senior at James River High School. She has been in choir for 8 years, starting in B choir. She has enjoyed music all her life from when she was in choir at her elementary school to now, a proud RVCC chorister. She has been a member of NHS (National Honor Society) since 10th grade, and has spent over 60 hours volunteering since her freshman year. Abby is an intelligent student with a 4.2 GPA, and has participated in college credit dual-enrollment classes since her junior year. Not only is Abby a chorister, but she has also been taking piano lessons from Kim Davidson for about 7 years. She has had an amazing experience with the choir, especially since she joined the C choir her 8th grade year. Choir has allowed her to travel to so many marvelous places such as the Washington National Cathedral, the Strathmore Hall, and the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Abby will never forget the people she was able to meet along the way and she will always cherish her memories made in the RVCC.

Clarke Patrick Roudebush, a Senior at Salem High School, has been singing in RVCC for ten years. In addition to singing, he plays violin in the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra, French horn in his school symphonic band, and trumpet in his high school jazz band. In the marching band, Clarke has served as mellophone section leader. Clarke has been named a Distinguished Scholar in his class, with participation in several honors: he is a member of the National Honor Society and he is President of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Clarke is an active member of his church and helps lead worship weekly. Apart from the performing arts, Clarke has participated in his high school's cross-country and track & field teams and is a founding member of the school's Milk and Cookies Club. In Clarke's years in the RVCC, he went with the choir to Washington D.C., Alabama, New York, and Disney World. He is enrolled in the School of Engineering at Virginia Tech and he intends to continue participation in the performing arts.



Kalani Weed is a senior at North Cross School and will be graduating in May with second honor roll. She has been in the choir for 10 years and started out in third grade with the A choir. She will be going to college at UTC for Music Therapy, and hopes to take part in ensembles during her time there. Her main instrument will be her clarinet, and she hopes to graduate in 2027. While she was with the choir, she has gone to Williamsburg, New York City, and Orlando Florida. Some of her fonder memories from choir include 4H fall retreats, cookie days, Little Debbie days, and the Church Tours.