



c/o 1844 Weston Road  
Weston, Ontario  
M9N 1V8  
416-939-1702  
tc3\_canada@hotmail.com  
www.tc3.ca

Executive Artistic Director: Rev. Denise Gillard, B.R.S., M.Div  
Administrator: Cheryl Hurst

### **AUDITIONS HELD AT**

Weston Park Baptist Church, 1871 Weston Road (@ Lawrence Ave W), Toronto



**\*You MUST be a Member of the Performing Arts Choir BEFORE being accepted into Dance and/or Afro-Caribbean Drum**

## **Audition Brochure**

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.



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

The Toronto Children's Concert Choir and Performing Arts Company is an arts organization for youth ages 7 to 18 years. Founded in 2001 by the Rev. Denise Gillard, TC3's mission is to promote, develop and encourage the talents and gifts of youth in the musical arts through inspirational song and dance ranging from Spirituals to Hip Hop focusing on excellence, holistic development and world-class performance.

TC3 is committed to producing a unique world-class youth performing arts company reflective of our great city. Complimentary to this goal is that of developing social skills and global sensitivity in our young people so that they are prepared to compete and interact in our global, multi-cultural society. Presently, TC3 auditions youth from across the G.T.A. Through TC3 these youth have access to a broad scope of arts experiences including vocal instruction, West African dance and drum, contemporary dance forms including blends of Modern dance, Hip Hop and Step. 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 their participation in the development of their performing arts talents, TC3's youth are encouraged and supported in their quest for academic excellence. Our innovative "Music & Math" and "Literacy in Motion" programs are just two ways that TC3 supports the academic advancement of young people.

In November 2009 TC3's Performing Arts Choir debut CD "*Our Message*" was awarded a Covenant Award for "Children's Song for the Year".

## **TC3's Basic Components**

Performing Arts Choir  
Educational Tutorials- *Music & Math, Literacy in Motion*

## **TC3's Advanced Components**

Afro-Caribbean Drumming  
Afro-Caribbean Dance  
Band Development  
Additional Dance Genres: Urban, Contemporary, Modern

## **TC3's Optional Components**

Kuumba Classes (piano/keyboard, vocal & more)  
Electives: specialized workshops

## **TC3's Specialized Components**

National and International Tours  
Retreats  
Youth Development programs



## MEET THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rev. Denise Gillard is the C.E.O and Executive Artistic Director of The HopeWorks Connection, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing youth in the performing arts and relieving poverty. She is also the Director of Programming for the Weston Frontlines Youth Centre, a Christian community centre serving children and youth in the Weston area of Toronto.

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. 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). In the Spring of 2001, Rev. Denise published her first children's picture book, *Music From The Sky*. Described as a charming and whimsical book, *Music From The Sky* tells the story of a young girl and her grandfather who set out one morning to find the perfect branch for Grandpa to whittle into a flute. Rev. Denise Gillard uses an African-Canadian model of story telling, thereby taking the universal experience of the positive relationships possible between elders and children to motivate youngsters to hold on to and work toward their dreams. In October 2009, Rev. Denise's song "Show Me The Way To Go" won TC3 the Covenant Convent Award for Children's Song of the Year from the Gospel Music Association-Canada.

## TC3 INITIATIVES

- ❖ National & International Tours
- ❖ Music and Math Program
- ❖ Cultural, Contemporary & Classical Dance
- ❖ Vocal, Instrumental & Personal Development
- ❖ Youth Performing Arts Conference (YPAC)
- ❖ Supporting Youth In Africa Suffering Due To AIDS
- ❖ Community & Corporate Partnerships
- ❖ Festival Of Gospel & Inspirational Dance
- ❖ R.Y.S.E. (Raising Youth To Serve & Empower)
- ❖ Afro-Caribbean Drumming
- ❖ March Break And Summer Performing Arts Day Camps

## 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 it's 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.**

## WHAT FEES ARE INVOLVED?

The program cost per member is **valued at \$1170.00 plus per year**. This cost for all members is **subsidized** through the generous support of our community and corporate Sponsors and Partners.

### **Non-refundable Basic Fees: \$450.00**

**Basic Fees are due prior to first scheduled rehearsal with registration forms.  
HWC offers a variety of payment options**

**Through our partnership with Frontlines, there are 10 fully subsidized spaces available to youth who meet the criteria and live in the Weston Area**



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, Cheque or Money Order Payable to: **THE HOPEWORKS CONNECTION**

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

## REHEARSAL FORMAT

TC3 rehearsals are on alternating 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 (1:30pm – 5:30pm).

## 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
- ❖ Dedicated
- ❖ 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 judges can listen for tone, pitch, rhythm and expressive musicality. **Fourth**, the judges 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.

**Band Auditions:** TC3 is especially looking to developing youth musicians in the following areas: Keyboard/Piano, Saxophone, Acoustic Drum Set and Bass Guitar. **First**, Musicians must prepare a 2- 5 minute Jazz, Classical or Gospel piece. **Second**, Musicians will be taken through a variety of exercises (scales, ear training, theory) to determine their skill level.

## 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**

# TC3 Audition Form

**Please complete and mail along with Resume and/or Letter to:**

TC3 –The Toronto Children’s Concert Choir & Performing Arts Company  
c/o 1844 Weston Road  
Weston, Ontario M9N 1V8

## Indicate Core Program Auditioning For

\_\_\_\_\_ Performing Arts Choir or \_\_\_\_\_ Band & Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Home 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: \_\_\_\_\_

New Candidate: Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Resume \_\_\_\_\_ Returning Member Letter: \_\_\_\_\_