

Island Community Chorus: A Singer's Guide

Welcome to the Island Community Chorus. The following guidelines have been created to enhance the enjoyment and comfort of all singers.

Rehearsal Attendance and Dues

Regular attendance at rehearsals is vital to the quality of our performance in concerts.

Singers may join the Chorus no later than the third rehearsal of a concert term. **You may miss no more than three rehearsals in order to participate in the concert. Attending the dress rehearsal is mandatory.**

Chorus rehearsals have been described as “the shortest two hours in the week.” Try to arrive a few minutes before the starting time so that warm-ups can begin promptly. If you are late, please seat yourself quietly.

Dues are \$40 for each term of concert rehearsals. *Dues help pay for rehearsal and concert space, music personnel and guest artists, sheet music, and operating expenses.*

Caring for Your Music

The sheet music we use is owned or rented by the chorus, and loaned to you. It must be returned after each concert.

Use pencils only for notations — no highlighting of original copies, please! Put your member number on the top right corner of the front of each piece. Use a three-ring binder to protect music during rehearsals; for the concerts, you will move your music into a performance folio provided by the Chorus. After concerts, simply hand in that binder with all music.

Learn Your Music

Look over your music between rehearsals, and work on sections that are troublesome for you. Get familiar with your part as soon as possible so that rehearsals can focus on musical interpretation rather than just getting the notes right.

Know Your Section Leader

Section leaders help the Music Director by keeping track of contact information and notifying singers when there's a change in rehearsal schedules. They are a great source of notes and instructions if you have missed a rehearsal and may be able to answer questions when the Music Director is unavailable.

Concert Dress

As we blend our voices in performances, so do we blend our appearance on stage.

Holiday and Spring Concerts (tenor/bass): Long-sleeved white shirts, black slacks, long ties of subdued color, black shoes. Please, no bow ties.

Holiday and Spring Concerts (soprano/alto): Long black dresses or black tops (3/4 length or long sleeves) and long black skirts or slacks, and dress black shoes.

Summer Concerts (men and women): White tops (short or long sleeves, not sleeveless) and khaki-colored slacks or skirts.

Discreet jewelry only, no scarves or accessories, and please no heavy cologne or perfume.

Welcoming Newcomers

Everyone who loves to sing is welcome to join the Island Community Chorus. A big effort is made to be especially welcoming to newcomers and being flexible about seating. Try to remember that there are no “reserved seats” at rehearsals, and be gracious if someone finds their way into your accustomed spot.

Above All, Have Fun

The tradition of the Chorus is to be serious about its music-making, while remembering that our gatherings are also an important social time. Catching up with friends is best done before and after rehearsals; during our work together, enjoy the music with your fellow choristers, but be respectful of the Music Director as he strives to get the most out of every minute with us.

Keeping in Touch

The Chorus relies on email for communication. Please add **islandchorus@comcast.net** to your email address book so your system will recognize Chorus messages. If your contact information changes, please notify your section leader as soon as possible.

If you do not use email, find a Chorus buddy who does and keep in touch with them. Urgent information, such as last-minute schedule changes, will be communicated via email. Required notifications, such as news of the annual meeting, will be sent by postal mail to those who do not use email.

Our website **www.islandcommunitychorus.com** has more information about us.

Miscellany

As a member of the chorus, you have a vote at the annual meeting, which is held during the fourth rehearsal of the fall term.

As concert dates approach, volunteers are always needed to help with the many preparations and as ushers at the performances. Please consider volunteering when the Music Director or a board member asks for help.