



An Introduction to the Heritage Chorale

Proud Tradition

In our 2021–2022 Season, the Heritage Chorale celebrates its 85th anniversary. Though much has changed over the past decades, the Chorale's commitment to bringing the joy of music to our communities remains unchanged. An enthusiasm for classical, popular, and unique choral experiences drives our selection of music. Programs have included the works of such contemporary composers as Daniel Pinkham, Morten Lauridsen, and Randall Thompson, as well as the music of Mendelssohn, Mozart, Haydn, Brahms, and Vivaldi.

In honor of our 85th season we are looking forward to performing a commissioned piece by Kevin Siegfried. Pride in what the group has accomplished over the course of many years motivates each Chorale member to continually strive for musical excellence and to value being a part of a talented ensemble.

Open Rehearsals and Auditions

You will be given music that will be used during the open rehearsal. This music must be returned immediately after rehearsal, so please do not mark the score. An audition appointment can be made at the registration table following rehearsal. Should the appointment need changing, please email our Membership Lead at membership@heritagechorale.org.

Auditions are designed to help you shine. They include three elements performed in the presence of the Chorale's Music Director, Section Leaders, President and Membership Lead: 1) Singing a set of warm-up exercises to provide a sense of your vocal range; 2) Singing a solo of your choosing — such as a hymn, aria, show tune, even “My Country 'Tis of Thee” — which can be accompanied by piano; 3) Sight-reading or learning one of the pieces of music already practiced in rehearsal.

Regular, Dress and Special Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held every Tuesday from 7:30 – 10:00 pm from September through May. Mandatory dress rehearsals are scheduled prior to each concert and occasionally a special rehearsal may be held at the request of the Music Director. Rehearsals offer a unique opportunity to learn concert music together, as an ensemble, with the goal of preparing the Chorale to provide audiences with the very best concert experience possible.

Attendance – Members should miss no more than two (2) rehearsals while practicing for a single musical program and are encouraged to arrive at rehearsals on time. For singers with more than two absences, a meeting with the Music Director to establish preparedness may be required.

Concert Attire

Women's Concert Attire: Women may select their own concert attire within defined guidelines to create a dressy, blended appearance that encourages audiences to focus on the musical ensemble rather than on individual singers.

Men's Concert Attire: Men's concert attire is a black tuxedo, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black shoes and socks.

Funding

Much of the organization's costs, but not all, are covered by member dues. For new members joining in September the annual dues of \$135.00 are reduced by 50% (\$67.50) in the 1st year of membership. There are two payment options: by check or online using PayPal (with credit card access). Members also pay for each concert season's music. For most of its funding, however, the Chorale depends on income from ticket sales, donations, advertisements, an annual craft fair, silent auction and grants provided by local companies and cultural councils.

Governance

Volunteer members of the Chorale serve on an elected Board of Directors and manage day-to-day and performance responsibilities, including development, finance, governance, membership, production, marketing, and programming activities. The Music Director is an ex-officio Board member.

Please visit heritagechorale.org for more information about our very special Chorale.