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### **Membership Guidelines**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Fort Walton Beach Community Chorus! Whether you are a returning member or you are joining us for your very first season, we are delighted that you are here and have chosen to share your time and talent with us.

These guidelines are designed as a reference guide pertaining to all regular weekly rehearsals as well as dress rehearsals and concerts. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Section Leader or the Chorus Director. As a new or returning member you will be asked to complete a personal information membership card and sign an insurance disclaimer.

The Chorus is a non-profit corporation registered with the State of Florida and governed with by-laws guidelines. Copies of these by-laws are available upon request.

The cut off for new/returning members to join the chorus is the last Tuesday of February for the spring show and the last Tuesday in September for the holiday show.

#### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Chorus Dues are \$25 per year and are to be paid in full within 30 days from the first rehearsal at the beginning of the fiscal year (January). Seasonal singers, with prior Board approval, are required to pay the reduced amount of \$15. Prorated dues will only be accepted if a totally new singer is auditioned and is accepted before the cutoff date for the second concert.

#### **MUSIC**

A significant expense for the Chorus is sheet music, most of which is copyright protected.

A \$50 Music Deposit will be required. This deposit will allow the member to take the music packet home. If a music deposit is not given, the music packet cannot be taken home. The checks/cash will not be deposited into the chorus' bank account unless the music packets are not returned. Music packets must be returned before the last performance.

- All music remains property of the Chorus.

- A Chorus member is assigned a packet of music by number at their first rehearsal.
- Members are responsible for their music, both for maintaining its condition and replacement if lost.
- When marking, please use a soft lead (#2 or under) pencil.
- Please erase any and all marking before returning by the end of final seasonal show.
- During our concerts (in the auditorium) please return all music to the collection boxes placed in dressing rooms.

## REHEARSALS

On your first night the Director will audition you for proper voice placement in the chorus. We ask that you stay a few minutes after rehearsal to do this.

The rehearsals are for in-depth study of musical aspects of the selections we will be performing. The musical quality of our performances, the development of ensemble artistry, and the morale of the organization depend upon regular and prompt attendance at all rehearsals and concerts.

- *Rehearsals Times:*
  - 7:00pm to 9:00pm every Tuesday unless noted.
  - Additional rehearsals (at various times) may be scheduled at the discretion of the Director.
  - Ensemble practices are generally held before or after regular rehearsal times.
- *Rehearsal Location:*
  - First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ located at 201 St. Mary Ave. Fort Walton Beach.
- Please be seated and ready to sing at the rehearsal start time.
- Please no gum, candy or food in the rehearsal facility (sanctuary).
- From a liability insurance standpoint and to avoid unnecessary interruptions children should not be brought to rehearsals or to the auditorium during concert week.
- Please silence all electronic devices and refrain from using the device except in the case of an emergency or if you are recording your voice.
- Please attend all rehearsals. No more than three (3) rehearsals can be missed unless otherwise approved by the Director.
- If you need to miss a rehearsal, please notify your section leader or a board member in advance, if possible.
- If you miss a rehearsal, please obtain rehearsal markings and other information from your section leader or another chorus member before the next rehearsal.
- It is permissible and encouraged to record your part during rehearsals (electronic devices may be used for this purpose).
- There is a short break during rehearsal for announcements and for beverages.

*Change in Roster Information: please give any change of name, address, email address or phone number to the Recording Secretary.*

## CONCERT PERFORMANCES

Schedules for concert week are provided on the cover of your music packet and will be provided to you prior to concert week so that plans can be made for members to have a clear calendar. Members are responsible for knowing their music before starting rehearsal in the auditorium the week of the concert.

## ATTIRE

A Chorus member is responsible for furnishing their basic chorus uniform and also to add to this as required. The Board will insure that in no one year any member will be burdened with heavy expenses for uniforms. Payment for costumes is the responsibility of the member and must be prepaid before ordering unless other arrangements have been made with the costume committee.

## **ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES**

*Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in any location that we rehearse or perform.*

Please do not jeopardize our event by consuming alcohol. Failure to follow these guidelines could and would result in cancellation of our event and you will be asked to leave.