

Loudoun Chorale **Frequently Asked Questions** (as of August 2019)

Membership

Who may join the chorale? Membership is open to all who have a love of singing. The ability to read music is not required. There are no auditions, but the director may ask to hear new members sing for section placement. (After the first few rehearsals for the spring or winter concert, joining for that series of concerts is at the discretion of the director; he evaluates whether or not these latecomers can catch up.)

What is expected of members? (If you have any question or problem, contact your section leader.)

- Conscientiously attend rehearsals and concerts for Christmas and the Spring. (See also the Rehearsal section in FAQ.)
- Wear your nametag at rehearsals to help others learn your name.
- Help identify potential members, especially in sections that need bolstering.
- Help identify and solicit individual contributors and corporate sponsors, and ads for our concert program. (The development committee will gladly follow up leads, especially for potential major sponsors.)
- Provide light refreshments for a post-concert reception at Christmas and in the spring.
- Ensure the Secretary and your section leader have your current email address and phone number, as these are used to contact you, especially should bad winter weather force cancellation of a rehearsal.

Rehearsals

When are rehearsals? Sundays, 6-8 pm, **Leesburg Community Church, 835 Lee Ave, SW, Leesburg (a change for August 2019)**, from late August through the spring concerts. (After the Christmas concerts we take a break until after New Years Day.) When the situation warrants (e.g., Easter) rehearsal is cancelled; when major events conflict (e.g., The Big Game Sunday) the rehearsal time is changed.

What is proper rehearsal attire? Comfortable clothing (no dress code). We rehearse in a medium size church so be prepared for warm (in spring and fall) or cool (winter) indoor temperatures.

What is proper rehearsal etiquette? Arrive early for warm-up exercises beginning promptly at 6pm. Turn off cell phones. Pay attention to the music director's instructions (recommend you write his notes on music in pencil [instructions are always subject to change] and highlight your part and/or important information, like dynamic markings). You might want a bottle of water to wet your whistle during rehearsal (there is a break mid way through rehearsal and a water fountain at the church).

What is the snow policy? When there is snow, or the threat of it, where our members reside (i.e., in Loudoun County or environs to the west and east), check your email, the Loudoun Chorale website, or the Loudoun Chorale Facebook page to see if rehearsal is cancelled. The Loudoun Chorale will follow Leesburg Community Church's snow policy. You can also get a call from your section leader if you arrange it. Not sure; contact your section leader.

Performances

When are chorale concert series? Spring performances are in late April/early May, and for Christmas in early December. The number and locations of concerts vary owing to the availability of venues, chorale funding for soloists and musicians, and other factors. The board sets the exact dates and venues.

What is proper concert etiquette?

- Carry black music binder in left hand to proceed in and out.
- Open music when directed to do so. Close music when you sit down.
- Sit and stand when directed to do so.
- Do not applaud; not even for the director upon his entrance or afterwards for the accompanist(s), musicians, soloists, etc.

Does the chorale perform at other times? Currently, the Martin Luther King Choir Festival is the only other scheduled performance, and we have conducted a summer sing-in now for two years. There could be opportunities for additional performances but these may be conducted by a smaller group of Chorale members.

Does the chorale record its concerts? Not officially or in their entirety.

Attire

What is formal concert attire? (casual for dress rehearsals)

- For women: Full- or tea-length, long-sleeve black dress or long black skirt/flowy pants and non-glittery black blouse; black hose; black shoes; pearls optional (no other jewelry)
- For men: Black tuxedo with black bow tie; black shoes and socks; white shirt; shirt ruffles, studs, cummerbund optional
- For both: no scents (perfume/aftershave); music is carried in a black binder

What is informal concert attire? Performance-dependent.

Chorale Operation

How does the chorale operate? A board attends to day-to-day affairs: budget, concert dates, music selection, etc., in consultation with our music director. Meetings are held periodically and announced in advance at rehearsal; all chorale members are welcome to attend and contribute. If you have a question or issue regarding the chorale, contact a board member. The board is elected at a rehearsal in mid April.

Your 2018-2019 board:

- President: Sharon Sadler (president@loudounchorale.org; 804-516-6171)
- Vice President: Amy Newton (vicepresident@loudounchorale.org)
- Secretary: Misty Simon (secretary@loudounchorale.org)
- Treasurer: Diane Van Dyke (treasurer@loudounchorale.org)
- Music Librarian: Jane Miley (librarian@loudounchorale.org)
- Development: Sue Breen (development@loudounchorale.org)
- Members-at-Large:
 - Tony Pangilinan
 - Manny Njomo
 - Evie Manuel

- Pam Wilson
- Jenn Swain
- Sue Ligas
- Gary Pritchard
- Ainsley Hendershot
- Music Director (non-voting): Max Nolin (director@loudounchorale.org)

The chorale also has several committees to carry out essential functions. You are encouraged to join a committee and help out. Committees include: **Facilities, Finance/Development, Hospitality, Publicity, MLK, and Technology** – please see a board member if interested in joining!

How does the chorale communicate? Section leaders are your conduit for information. They have been in the chorale for a while and know the answers to your questions or know how to find the answers. For example, if you miss a rehearsal, your section leader can provide a summary of the director's instructions (e.g., diction, dynamics). Section leaders also forward information from the president, librarian, and others.

Your section leaders:

- Soprano: Anita Ault (neetee@aol.com; 703-309-0941)
- Alto: Michelle Nelson Cruz (cruz.nelson@gmail.com; text 703-843-3524, or messenger on Facebook)
- Tenor: George Garlick (ggarpetchr@aol.com; 703-729-2135)
- Bass: Mike Garner (mikeg.programmer@gmail.com; 443-506-8315)

How is the music we perform selected? Our music director, Max Nolin, develops our musical programs and works with the board on budget-related issues, such as what the chorale can accommodate for soloists and additional accompanists (e.g., small string and/or brass ensembles).

Does the chorale have a web site? Yes. It's www.loudounchorale.org. Also check out our Facebook page and Twitter under Loudoun Chorale.

What governs the chorale? Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. To see a copy, ask a board member.

Funding

How does the chorale fund itself? The chorale relies on several sources to pay for the director, accompanists, professional soloists and other musicians, publicity, rental for churches where we rehearse and perform, etc.:

- Membership dues (July-June): \$120 per individual. Those who join for only one semester/concert, \$60 per individual.
- Contributions [Individual contributors and Corporate sponsors get listed in concert programs]. The donor fills out a donor card and writes a check to the Loudoun Chorale; it's that simple.
- Amazon Smile donations if Loudoun Chorale is selected as the non-profit.

Are donations to the chorale tax deductible? The chorale is an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, so donations are deductible to the full extent of the law.

How is music paid for? Each member buys her/his own (which the chorale librarian orders).

Should I solicit ads/contributions? Definitely; we need every member helping *at the beginning of the season* (August-October) to bring in revenue for ensembles and soloists that enhance our major performances in December and the Spring.

The process is easy.

- If you have a business in mind, check the list of past advertisers at rehearsal first. If yours is not on the list, add it and include your name; if it is on the list but there is no chorale member identified for contact, add your name. We want the same person making contact each fall.
- Pick up a form and program from a previous year at rehearsal.
- Visit the potential advertiser.
- Invite them to contribute and their name/ad will be displayed in our program. Explain that their contribution would support the arts and get visibility by those attending our concerts in December and in the spring. One contribution or ad will get their name in both the December and spring programs!
- Explain that our broad repertoire ranges from classical, e.g., the *Messiah* every couple years at Christmastime, to gospel, folk, and contemporary (but not avant-garde).
- Hand them the form and ask for their business. Ask them to complete the form—it's got all the details—and provide ad copy that is in a JPEG or PDF file if applicable.
- Get payment when you return to pick up the completed form (and ad copy if purchasing a full-page ad). Ensure the form is *completely* filled out. It is important for bookkeeping, following up should there be questions, and contacting them next year to advertise again.
- Return the form, ad copy, and payment at the next rehearsal to the treasurer.

Got a question? Send it to a board member for an answer and inclusion in the next version of these FAQ!