

Loudoun Chorale

Frequently Asked Questions

(as of August 2023)

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 of each semester, 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. (See also the Rehearsal section in FAQ.)
- Help identify potential members.
- Perhaps provide light refreshments for a post-concert reception if asked.
- 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 an in-person rehearsal.

Rehearsals

When are rehearsals? Sundays, beginning at 6pm until 7:30-8pm, in the Sanctuary of **Leesburg Community Church, 835 Lee Ave, SW, Leesburg**, from late August through the spring concerts. (After the early December concerts, we take a break until after New Year's Day.) When the situation warrants (e.g., Easter) there is no rehearsal; when major events conflict (e.g., The Big Game Sunday), the rehearsal time is changed.

What is proper rehearsal attire? Comfortable clothing.

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 (there is a water fountain at the church).

What is the snow policy? When there is snow, or the significant 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 in-person 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. **With the evolution of YouTube rehearsals through the COVID pandemic, in-person rehearsal may be cancelled but virtual rehearsal may still occur.**

What are the Chorale's COVID policies? **(These are subject to change)**

- The current policy requires proof of vaccination to participate in in-person rehearsals/ concerts/ events. No vaccination required for virtual participation. Boosters are not currently required.
- Masks are not currently required but singers may wear one if they wish.
- Do not attend in-person rehearsal if you are feeling unwell, and if you test positive for COVID within a few days of attending an in-person event, please let your Section Leader know.

Performances

When are Chorale concerts? Spring performances are in late April/early May, and Fall performances are in early December. The number and locations of concerts vary based upon the availability of venues, Chorale programming, 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 (where chairs are available) and stand when directed to do so.
- Do not applaud; not even for the Director upon his/her entrance or afterwards for the accompanist(s), musicians, soloists, etc.

Does the Chorale perform at other times? Yes, but these are optional and vary each year. For example, we have hosted the Lift Every Voice and Sing Choir Festival numerous times, conducted several summer sing-ins, and sung the National Anthem at a sporting event.

Does the Chorale record its concerts? Not officially but recordings have been more prevalent through and since the COVID pandemic.

Attire

What is concert attire? (casual for dress rehearsals)

- All black (including shoes)
- Full- or tea-length bottoms – pants, skirts, dresses
- Short to long-sleeve tops (or dresses); no bare shoulders; jacket optional
- No colorful jewelry – please stick to gold or silver tones, diamonds, or pearls
- No scents (perfume/aftershave)
- Music is carried in a black binder/folder

Formal concert attire may be selected, which would include dressier tops and bottoms, longer sleeves, and potentially black tuxedo with white shirt and black bow tie.

What is informal concert attire? Performance-dependent but typically concert black (neat but more casual).

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; all Chorale members are welcome to attend and contribute. If you have a question or issue regarding the Chorale, please contact a Board member. The Board is elected at a rehearsal in mid-April.

Your 2023-2024 Board:

- President: Sharon Sadler (president@loudounchorale.org; 804-516-6171)
- Vice President: Amy Newton (vicepresident@loudounchorale.org)
- Secretary: Erin Llort (secretary@loudounchorale.org)
- Treasurer: Diane Van Dyke (treasurer@loudounchorale.org)
- Music Librarian: Michelle Pinkney (librarian@loudounchorale.org)
- Development: Sue Breen (development@loudounchorale.org)

- Members-at-Large:
 - Tony Pangilinan
 - Manny Njomo
 - Michelle Nelson
 - Jennifer Swain
 - Sue Ligas
 - Gary Pritchard
 - Mike Meyer-Gardner
 - Theresa Corcoran

- 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. Committees include: **Facilities, Finance/Development, Hospitality, Publicity, Choir Festival, 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. Section Leaders also forward information from the President, Librarian, and others.

Your Section Leaders:

- Soprano: Anita Ault (neetzee@aol.com; 703-309-0941)
- Alto: Michelle Nelson Cruz (cruz.nelson@gmail.com; text 703-843-3524, or messenger on Facebook)
- Tenor/Bass: George Garlick (ggarpetchr@aol.com; 703-729-2135)

How is the music we perform selected? Our Music Director, Max Nolin, develops our musical programs and works with the Board on budget-related items, 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, and our Loudoun Chorale YouTube channel.

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 for the year. Those who join for only one semester/concert, \$60 per individual.
- Contributions [Individual contributors and Corporate sponsors are recognized]. Your support is appreciated if you know someone who would like to contribute. If you have questions, please contact our Treasurer.
- We apply for grant funds.

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? While traditionally each member purchases and keeps their own, which the Librarian orders, the Loudoun Chorale is currently paying for music.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask a Board member or your Section Leader! Welcome!