

Master Chorale of Flagstaff



**MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION**

2009-2010 Season

Welcome to the Master Chorale of Flagstaff

The following information will help you to become an informed member of our organization.

History

Master Chorale of Flagstaff, organized in 1978, is a community chorus comprised of singers of all ages and occupations from Flagstaff and surrounding communities. Our common goal is to grow collectively as an organization and individually as musicians.

Master Chorale has an average membership of 100. The Chorale sings a variety of music including major works such as Handel's *Messiah*, Broadway show tunes, gospel, music from around the world, and works by local composers.

Each year Master Chorale presents several concerts in Flagstaff, including the much anticipated annual Christmas concert. Frequently we present concerts in other communities, including Kingman, Winslow, Verde Valley, Page and Scottsdale.

Master Chorale frequently joins the Shrine of the Ages Choir, the top mixed choir at NAU, to perform with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra. Works we have done together include: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and a fully-staged performance of Verdi's opera *Macbeth*. Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* both featured the Chorale's Musical Director Dr. Copley as guest conductor.

Master Chorale of Flagstaff has performed abroad in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Australia, and New Zealand. Master Chorale strives to present diverse concerts that build individual musicianship for its members and offer interesting and inspiring performances for our community. The organization is proud of past accomplishments and is eager to continue its tradition of quality choral music performances in Northern Arizona.

Master Chorale organized Children's Chorale of Flagstaff in 1997, and although CCF is now under its own leadership, Master Chorale continues to foster the future of choral music in Northern Arizona by sponsoring a scholarship to the Children's Chorale every year. Master Chorale also gives a scholarship to a deserving junior NAU Choral Studies student each year.

Since its inception, the Chorale has flourished under the musical leadership of founder Mel Kinney, (1978-83), John Taylor (1983-85), Jo-Michael Scheibe (1985-93), and currently Dr. Edith A. Copley, Director of Choral Studies at NAU (1993-present).

Audition and Admission

Admission to Master Chorale of Flagstaff is by audition only. As a member, you have been selected based on quality, range and agility of your voice, your sense of musical pitch and interval as well as sight-reading ability.

All current Chorale members may be required to do a full audition every other year, one section per semester. In the semester that all members of a section are auditioning, all seats are open.

Dues

Members pay dues as established by the Board of Directors. For the 2009-2010 Season, dues are \$60 per semester, or a discounted \$110 for the entire season. Dues are payable in advance or on the evening of the first rehearsal. Music will not be issued until you have paid dues. Dues are non-refundable and are not pro-rated for any portion of the performance season. Your dues are an important part of the funding for our season!

Membership Commitment

Acceptance of our invitation to join Master Chorale should reflect your desire to participate in the creation of quality choral music. This acceptance implies a commitment to meet rehearsal requirements, and to sing in all scheduled concerts for the season. It is the responsibility of each member to make a commitment for the full season, and to take that commitment seriously.

If you have other commitments that will make you consistently late to rehearsal or cause you to miss a significant number of rehearsals, you should decide which commitment is more important to you and honor that one whole-heartedly.

Membership Roster

All new and renewing members must complete an admission form, including all contact information. Should any contact information (address, phone, or email) change, please notify the Business Manager and your Section Leader. From time to time, last minute musical notes, changes to rehearsal times and other information will be emailed to you. Please make sure your email address is up to date!

Attendance Policy

While 100% attendance at all rehearsals and concerts should be your goal, this may not be realistic. We feel that each member must attend a minimum of 85% of the rehearsals in order to be adequately prepared to sing in the concert. In a typical semester of 12 – 14 rehearsals, this allows for only 1 or 2 absences. If you know in advance that you will miss more than two rehearsals or that you will miss a Dress Rehearsal or concert, please consult with the Musical Director as soon as possible.

Please notify your Section Leader at least one week in advance of any missed rehearsal. If a last minute emergency or illness necessitates the absence, you must contact your Section Leader as soon as you know you will be absent.

If you have missed a rehearsal, you should get all rehearsal markings and other information from your Section Leader prior to the next rehearsal.

Please note: Laryngitis is not a reason for absence. You are strongly encouraged to come, listen, and mark your music. If you have a contagious illness, however, please do not attend rehearsal and spread germs throughout your section.

Rehearsals

Regular rehearsals are held weekly during the academic year, Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:30 pm in the Choral Room (#147) in the Performing and Fine Arts Building on the campus of NAU. Attendance is taken at every rehearsal. Should you ever be in doubt that rehearsal will be held, please contact your Section Leader or the Business Manager.

Special Rehearsals may be called by the Musical Director when additional performance preparation is needed. Members are expected to attend even at great personal inconvenience.

Attendance at Dress Rehearsals is mandatory. Exceptions may be made **ONLY** at the discretion of the Musical Director.

The announced starting time for a rehearsal is the time you are to be seated and ready to sing. Please plan your travel, parking, and other tasks so that you are seated and ready to begin promptly at the downbeat.

Leave of Absence

A leave of absence may be granted to a member in good standing for reasons such as business, travel, schooling, or personal or family illness. All requests must be submitted in writing to the Business Manager.

Short Term – if you know you will miss more than 15% of the rehearsals for a particular concert, you may request a leave of absence for that concert.

Long Term – you may request a leave of absence for one academic semester. You will be readmitted to the Chorale if a position is available or at the discretion of the Musical Director.

You will be required to **Re-Audition** if you do not participate in Chorale for more than one semester, unless waived by the Musical Director.

Music

Music will be issued at the beginning of the season as soon as you have paid your dues. You will be required to verify and sign for your set of music. You are responsible for your music, both for maintaining its condition and replacement if it is lost. Boxes will be set up backstage or in the Choral Rehearsal room for returning music after the final performance. Music must be returned after the final performance. You will be billed for any damaged or unreturned music.

You are required to purchase your own copy of Handel's *Messiah* for our annual seasonal performance and from time to time you may be required to purchase other music scores. Usually, scores can be purchased through Cedar Music.

Scores owned by the Chorale or NAU may be marked in pencil and may be hole punched for three-ring binders. Music borrowed from other institutions may be marked lightly in pencil; it may not be marked in ink, highlighted, three hole punched or cut in any way.

BLACK Music Folders

You are required to have a black, 3 ring binder for performances. Your own copy of the *Messiah* may be bound in black at Kinko's, if you prefer.

Rehearsal Protocol

Arrive in plenty of time to be seated by the downbeat, 7:00 pm for regular rehearsals or the pre-established call time for dress rehearsals and performances.

Section Leaders will take attendance at every rehearsal. Please make sure your Section Leader is aware of your presence, especially if you arrive late.

If you know ahead of time that you will be late, or will have to miss the next rehearsal, please let your Section Leader know the preceding week. If your absence is unexpected, please call or email your Section Leader as soon as possible.

Please be sure to have with you, **and use!**, one or more #2 pencils at all rehearsals. Singers who have missed a rehearsal should get all rehearsal markings and other information from their Section Leader prior to the next rehearsal.

Water is strongly encouraged at all rehearsals; other beverages, food and chewing gum are not allowed.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TALKING DURING REHEARSAL!!!

Onstage Rehearsals

Please be in your assigned seat on stage 5 minutes prior to the announced start time of rehearsal. When risers are used, please be in assigned places on the risers when instructed to do so.

Refrain from talking when the conductor takes the podium. If the rehearsal is with an orchestra, please do not talk while the orchestra is tuning or playing.

Singers never volunteer comments or suggestions to any conductor.

Please do not bring food or beverages, other than bottled water, on to the stage for rehearsal.

Only the music being rehearsed is allowed on stage; magazines, books, needlework, *etc.* are strictly forbidden.

Please remain on stage while rehearsal is in progress. Personal needs should be taken care of before entering the stage.

Please remain seated at break times and at the conclusion of a rehearsal until dismissed by the Musical Director of Master Chorale.

Performance Protocol

Pre-Concert - A warm-up is normally scheduled from 45 to 90 minutes prior to the performance. Please plan to arrive in sufficient time to park, sign-in, *etc.*, and be on stage, or in the warm-up area, for the downbeat.

No purses, food, or beverages (except for small inconspicuous bottles of water) may be brought on stage for a performance. Purses and valuables may be locked in the Choral Library prior to going on stage. The choral rehearsal room itself remains unlocked during performances.

Stage Entry - Walk quickly to your designated position, carrying your black folder in your upstage hand (the hand away from the audience). Remain standing until given a cue to sit. Keep music folder closed on your lap until time to stand and sing. Refrain from acknowledging family or friends in the audience or otherwise draw attention to yourself. Please do not talk while you are on the stage. Do not read the program or other literature (*i.e.* music notes) during the concert!

During the Performance - Stand when signaled by the Conductor, keeping your music folder at your side until the conductor raises his/her baton or upon a pre-designated cue.

At the completion of a section of a large work, or the end of an individual selection, turn the music quietly to the next movement, choral entrance, or selection. As necessary, use paper clips so that you can turn directly to the next choral entrance. You may sit upon a cue from the Conductor or a pre-designated spot in the musical score. Please sit quietly, music open to the next choral movement on your lap. **Do not follow the soloist(s) or instrumentalist(s) in your score.** The turning pages are very distracting to the audience.

Please turn your pages quietly while singing.

At the conclusion of the performance, close your music and return it to your side as the conductor lowers his/her arms. This will usually be as applause starts and the conductor turns for acknowledgment.

At the end of the concert, smile and look pleased that you have been able to entertain our audience, especially as the Conductor acknowledges the Chorale during curtain calls. If pre-arranged by the Conductor, the Chorale may be directed to bow simultaneously as a group.

Please do not applaud or whistle. Singers generally acknowledge soloists, conductor, and orchestra through a discrete amount of foot tapping (not stomping).

Please do not talk until you have fully exited from the stage.

Stage Exit - If we are performing with an orchestra or large instrumental ensemble, wait to exit until most of the instrumentalists have left the stage. Watch out for (expensive!) instruments.

Leave the stage in reverse order, with your music once again held in your upstage hand (away from the audience). Keep moving forward off stage, to make room for others exiting behind you.

We can never be reminded enough not to talk until fully off stage and away from our audience. Sound from the wings of the stage can carry quite far.

Concert Dress

Women – You are expected to purchase your own black dress through the Costume Chair (Marge Johnson - see contact information below). The cost is about \$45 for a new dress. Some used dresses are available for \$30. There are also some dresses which can be loaned for the season. Please see the Costume Chair for all the details. Plain black shoes and hose are to be worn. Bead necklaces will be available for each concert. These need to be returned afterwards so they are available for future concerts.

Men – You are expected to furnish your own black tuxedo (personal, borrowed or rented). You must also have your own white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, and black shoes and socks. Check with the Costume Chair for the best places to buy tuxedos and shirts. A few “loaners” may be available. We wear red bow ties for our Christmas program, which the Chorale supplies. They must be returned after the concert.

Everyone – Please do not wear perfume, cologne, after shave, or strong-smelling hair spray. Fragrances, combined with heat and closeness on stage, can lead to breathing or other asthmatic problems for some of your fellow singers. Use of deodorant and breath fresheners are appreciated by all.

Contact Information (2009-2010)

(Area Codes are 928 for all phone numbers unless given explicitly)

The latest information about the Master Chorale can be found on our web site:
masterchorale.net

Our By-Laws can also be found on the web site (click the “for Members” button).

Staff

Music Director: Edith Copley	(h) 774-1201 (w) 523-2299	edie.copley@nau.edu
Asst. Music Dir: German Aguilar	(c) 602-320-9055	german.andres.aguilar@gmail.com
Business Manager: Kay Jean Poulson	(h) 526-2698 (c) 607-0307	kjmusic5@yahoo.com
Accompanist: Stephanie Galloway	(h) 527-4526	stephjyg@npgcable.com

Board of Directors: Officers 2009-2010

President: Katherine Pastor	(h) 226-9339	katherinepastor@gmail.com
President Elect: Tom Phelan	(c) 699-7094	Tom@T2gc.com
Past President: Sally Krueger	(c) 853-2540	krueger@unedspeed.net
Treasurer: Barbara Soderblom	(h) 779-0030 (c) 600-5370	barbara@soderblom.net

Board of Directors: Section Leaders

Soprano: Marge Johnson	(h) 526-6899	mcjaz9@msn.com
Alto: Deb Roberts	(h) 774-2139 (c) 699-1124	DRoberts@awdlaw.com
Tenor: David Shaffer	(h) 779-1161	shaffer@alumni.caltech.edu
Bass: Jamey Hasapis	(c) 310-8660	finhas20@msn.com

Board of Directors: Singer-Members at Large

Jeannie Dustman	(h) 526-2885 (w) 523-2198	jeanne.dustman@nau.edu
Dawn Sutherland	(h) 266-1879 (c) 593-0604	artbydawn@mac.com

Board of Directors: Community Members (see the contact sheet)

Jerome Calahan	Neils Mickelson	Shirley Pastor	Brian White	Rosalyn Williams
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