

Chorister Information

1. Annual Schedule

The annual calendar is established as far as advance as possible and practical, including rehearsals, concerts, retreats, dress rehearsals, workshops, and other events. The choir expects to add these to choristers' calendars, while respecting commitments they have made elsewhere. To facilitate planning, the music director should be informed at the beginning of the season of any potential conflicts.

Regular rehearsals are every Wednesday evening from 6:45 to 9:00 pm at Black Creek United Mennonite Church, 2277 Enns Road, with arrival 5-10 minutes early. Carpool options are usually available.

Events proposed in mid-season will be presented to the choristers for their additional commitment, which is encouraged, but not required. If it is determined that enough singers can accommodate it, the choir can accept such an invitation and add it to the calendar.

Regular attendance is expected, yet illness or other unforeseen circumstances do occur. Support is available to make up preparation time, but cannot replace the benefits of corporate rehearsal. Leaves of absence are also granted at the discretion of the conductor, and in most circumstances, need several months' notice.

2. Personal Practice and Sectionals

Choristers practice their parts on their own, using whatever resources they find helpful. There usually is support for keyboard, vocal, or recording materials.

Each section chooses a sectional time (usually monthly) early in the season. This allows full rehearsals to focus on the ensemble, rather than specific parts.

3. Fees

The choir fee is \$155 per term, due by the second rehearsal, or \$310 for the year. In consultation with the treasurer, installment payments can be organized. If assistance is needed, some limited bursaries are available.

Additional costs would be for regular retreats or any additional special events that would be brought to the choir.

Donations are, of course, welcome and further the cause of the choir.

4. Administration

Choristers, particularly after their first year, are needed to take on some formal or informal role beyond singing. Possibilities include board or committee membership, choir leadership, administrative responsibilities, set-up/strike for performance, retreat, or rehearsal, etc.

5. Materials

Please bring your music, a pencil, and your calendar to rehearsals, as well as water, sanitizer, or other personal items as needed.

Music scores are provided by the choir and distributed as efficiently as possible. Scores should not be hole-punched, highlighted, or marked in pen. (Pencil is not only okay, but encouraged) The librarian will assign music numbers which should be marked on all scores in the top right corner. When taking numbered music from a pile, be sure to find your numbered part.

Performance attire and a black folder is the responsibility of each singer. Men wear a long sleeved black shirt, choir tie, and black pants, shoes, socks. Women wear black tops with short or long sleeves, black skirt or pants, a choir-owned wrap, black shoes, stockings. Ties or wraps are provided by the choir. Please do not use scented products at rehearsals or concerts.

6. Communication

Island Voices has a web site www.IslandVoicesChamberChoir.bc.ca. Choristers, audience members, patrons, and other interested parties are encouraged to use it. Contact the Webmaster for questions or suggestions.

Choristers can access members-only documents with the requisite password. Those documents usually include:

- An up-to-date choir schedule

- An up-to-date repertoire list with appropriate links to public recordings and scores

- An up-to-date singers roster with relevant information, respecting the privacy and use of information for choir purposes only.

Regular emails are used for communication between rehearsals. Choristers are encouraged to be in touch with the musical director, section leaders, and fellow choristers.