



Things to Know About Singing with the Choir

September 2014

Musical Experience:

- The choir members have a wide range of experience and musical training and we are all friendly. Anyone with an interest in singing is welcome. Bring your commitment to learn and your willingness to trust yourself and musical leaders.
- Please ask for help if you are confused or feeling overwhelmed with rehearsal pacing. Don't think you are the only one; your comment will help many to learn.
- Singers are required to have a private voice placement with the Music Director, who will assign your part based on your tone colour and range. This is not an audition.
- Singers are required to have an open, positive attitude to develop their singing voices and prepare polished performances.
- Be brave when trying new vocal techniques, learning new repertoire and polishing music. All of the Conductor's suggestions are designed to build ease with your voice and guide the choir to a unified sound.

Rehearsals:

- Singers are expected to do their best to attend rehearsals and concerts on time. It is important for the whole ensemble to be ready at the designated time. If you are unable to arrive on time, please notify your Section Captain or the Music Director.
- Regular attendance is crucial. If you are unable to attend a rehearsal, please notify your Section Captain. Please discuss your situation with the Music Director if you need to miss more than three rehearsals per term.
- Rehearsals are closed. Guests are not allowed to listen without discussion with and advanced permission from the Music Director.
- Rehearsals are not social time. Talking over the Music Director's instructions or while another section is rehearsing is distracting and counter-productive to the choir's goals.
- Please be patient if another section is learning its part. Take the opportunity to listen carefully to the line. Use the time to rehearse your own part in your head or sing along with the practising section so that when we sing together you can hear the balance.
- Sometimes, internal discussions about the music can be so succinct as to help the section fix a problem on the spot, but if you think the problem is deeper, let the conductor know so that it can be worked into the rehearsal schedule, .

- Dress Rehearsals do not require Singers to come in uniform but all concerts require a uniform. Stay tuned for details. Our uniform for performances is black bottoms and black tops. STSS provides colourful accents. In case of a different requirement, we will let you know in advance.
- Please, no perfume, strong scented soaps and lotions or "noisy" jewellery during rehearsals or concerts. Respiratory allergies make it difficult to sing.
- Smoking is a terrible habit for singers, but we all have some vices. If you do smoke, please avoid doing it directly before rehearsals. If you must smoke at the break, please stay at least 3 metres away from the doorway.

Social and Communication:

- A short break is built into rehearsal time to socialize. Keep conversations to this time.
- Members take turns to bring juice or goodies. Please check the calendar for your number to see when it is your turn.
- Important messages and changes will be sent by e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, it is your responsibility to check the notice board in the hall or to set up a "buddy" who can pass on messages to you. Changes to the schedule will be discussed at rehearsals and posted on the web site calendar. We are also on Facebook. We have a closed group for social invitations, music links and messages.

Music:

- All new members are assigned a number upon registration. The hanging folders are numbered to hold all of your music. If some music arrives after the start up date, you will find it in your folder.
- The music is the property of the choir (or on loan from other choirs). You will need a binder/folder to keep it organized. Please do not hole punch any music. Any markings must be made in pencil. Bring a pencil, as you will need it! The music must be returned once the term is completed. If you want to leave the choir before the end of term you are responsible for returning music to the librarian.
- All music (with all marks erased) and silver accessories (scarves or ties if issued) must be returned after the final concert of the term

Other:

- The Sea to Sky Singers participates in the BC Federal of Choirs annual raffle. The Sea to Sky Singers commits to sell 50 books of tickets (10 tickets in each book). Each member is required to sell one book (more if possible). This fundraising effort helps us keep our registration fees low.
- We also do singing gigs as a way to earn extra money for the Choir. If you are available to participate in these performances this gives you the opportunity to sing more often for the community and ensures the Choir has the funds needed to buy music. Our Conductor will inform us of the dates that we get booked.