

The Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania

P.O. Box 665, Scranton, PA 18501

www.choralsociety.net

Symphonic Chorus/Choral Artists Handbook

Attendance:

Under normal circumstances, all chorus members are expected to attend rehearsal each week. If you are unable to attend a specific rehearsal, please notify a Chorus Officer in advance whenever possible.

The Artistic Director will be notified if any individual has missed three or more rehearsals in a semester. The Artistic Director will have final discretion as to whether or not those individuals will be allowed to perform in concert.

Attendance is mandatory at all dress rehearsals. Failure to attend a dress rehearsal disqualifies you from concert performance, without the express permission of the Artistic Director, obtained in advance of the final rehearsal prior to dress rehearsal, and with the approval of your section leader. No exceptions.

In the event that a rehearsal must be cancelled due to weather or any other emergency you will be notified by the means which you have elected on your registration form. If you are uncertain about whether or not a rehearsal will be held, please contact the Chorus President for confirmation before setting out for rehearsal.

Choral Artists are selected by audition from the Symphonic Chorus, and participation in Symphonic Chorus programs is a prerequisite for members in Choral Artists.

Tuition:

Symphonic Chorus members pay \$75 tuition per semester. There is no additional tuition fee for Choral Artists. Chorus members are expected to pay tuition for each semester, and to purchase music for performances. Choral Artists music is generally borrowed, and must be returned following the performance, otherwise an appropriate fee for replacement of the music will be assessed. Family tuition discounts are available when more than one immediate family member is actively participating in rehearsals and performances in a given semester. Discount is 50% of the tuition cost for second and subsequent adult members (immediate family member is defined as spouse/life partner, parent or sibling). If the other family member is in a Children's or Youth Chorus, the adult tuition will be paid at the full price and the child(ren) will be afforded the discount. Music fees *must* be paid at the first rehearsal of the semester. Tuition should be paid in full at the first rehearsal, but if this is not possible, it may be paid in up to three installments. Arrangements shall be made with the Chorus President at or prior to the first rehearsal. Tuition must be paid in full no later than the final weekly rehearsal (not dress rehearsal) prior to the first scheduled concert performance of the semester. Individuals who have not paid their tuition in full by that time may be prohibited from participation in the current concert.

Concert Attire:

Men shall wear a tuxedo (preferred) or solid black suit with white shirt and black bow tie. Shoes shall be black and shall be worn with black socks.

Women shall wear a mid-calf to ankle length black skirt with a long-sleeved black blouse, sweater or jacket (or a long dress which meets the same criteria). Loose-fitting black dress slacks (full length) are also acceptable. Three-quarter or elbow length sleeves are not acceptable. Attire should be free of glittery embellishment such as beading or sequins. Shoes shall be black with a closed toe. Women shall wear black hosiery (THIS IS NOT AN OPTION). Jewelry should be tasteful and modest.

Concert Protocol:

Music for concerts must be secured in a black folder or binder. There should be no obvious colors or markings on the outside of the folder. Music should either be punched or secured with some type of elastic/ties – it must not be stored in folder pockets. Music can fall out of pockets, and it does not promote a professional appearance to be seen removing music from pockets or stuffing it back in. All you should need to do on stage is to turn pages. When performing from several pieces, music shall be placed in concert order before taking the stage – no flipping back and forth between pieces, please. Pages with vocal or instrumental solos shall be clipped together; do not follow multi-page solos with the performer. Familiarize yourself with solos so that you know when to be ready for the conductor's next chorus cue. DO NOT EVER turn pages during a vocal or instrumental solo! The noise and motion distract from the featured performer(s). When entering the stage area, keep your music at your side in your upstage hand (away from the audience). The conductor will cue you (or tell you in advance) as to when you should raise and open your folder. At the end of the performance, keep your music in place until the conductor lowers his baton and turns to the audience. At that point, place your music in the hand opposite to the one you carried it in with, and place it at your side until you exit the stage area. Do NOT ever hold your music in front of you with both hands.

DO NOT WEAR WATCHES WITH ALARMS to performances. Cell phones and pagers should not be brought to the stage area. If you must bring a device with you, make certain that it is turned OFF before we process onto the stage or altar.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF SCENTED PRODUCTS SUCH AS PERFUME, AFTER SHAVE, COLOGNE, SCENTED HAIR SPRAY, SCENTED HAND LOTION, etc. at rehearsals and at concerts. Use of these products can have a disastrous affect on your fellow singers' abilities to breathe properly, and as we all know, proper breathing is paramount to a good performance!

Tickets:

Full payment of tuition entitles a singer to three complimentary tickets to be used within that semester for the Choral Society concert of their choice (this does not include tickets for performances with the NEPA Philharmonic or other groups where we are guest performers and not concert sponsors). Tickets will also be available to chorus members to purchase or sell for CSNEP-sponsored programs. Unless advised otherwise, ticket price is \$15 for general admission. A \$3 discount is usually available for senior citizens, students, WVIA members, current Lackawanna County Library System card holders, and members of the Raymond Hood Room at the Scranton Cultural Center. Children 18 years of age and under are admitted free of charge.

Tickets for NEPA Philharmonic events which feature the Choral Society are available only through the Philharmonic's customary outlets. As a rule, participating chorus members who identify themselves as such can purchase tickets for these events at a discount, but these tickets can only be purchased through the Philharmonic box office – other outlets such as Ticketmaster cannot honor that discount. The Philharmonic box office is supplied with a list of participating chorus members so that they can verify participation prior to purchase.

Privacy Policy:

Personal information such as addresses and phone numbers will not be shared with other members of the chorus except as needed for emergency contact lists. Anyone who requires contact information for another chorus member must obtain that information directly from the individual. No exceptions.

Misconduct:

All chorus members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Any individual who exhibits inappropriate behavior or threatens/harasses another chorus member will be subject to immediate and permanent dismissal from the chorus, without refund of tuition.

Rehearsal and Concert Venues:

The following locations are commonly used by the Choral Society for rehearsals and concerts. If you need directions, please ask a Chorus Officer or fellow singer.

Weekly rehearsals:

Langcliffe Presbyterian Church
1001 Main Street (US Route 11)
Avoca, PA 18641

Dress Rehearsals and Performances:

Covenant Presbyterian Church
550 Madison Avenue (Corner of Olive Street and Madison Avenue)
Scranton, PA 18510

First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street (Corner of School Street and Stone Avenue)
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

First Presbyterian Church
97 South Franklin Street (Corner of South Franklin Street and Northampton Street)
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701

F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts
71 Public Square
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701

Scranton Cultural Center
420 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
232 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

St. Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral
35 South Franklin Street
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701