

# The Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania

P.O. Box 665, Scranton, PA 18501

[www.choralsociety.net](http://www.choralsociety.net)

## Adult Chorus 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 the Chorus President 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.

### Tuition:

Symphonic Chorus members pay \$75 tuition per semester. Chorus members are expected to pay tuition for each semester, and to purchase music for performances. 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, child 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.

***Please note: as a special introduction for the 2019-2020 season, tuition for new adult singers may be waived for their first semester with the chorus. This limited-time offer will be available only to individuals who have not sung with Choral Society in the past. Individuals who accept a waiver of tuition will still be responsible for purchase of music.***

### 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 are expected to purchase the approved common blouse ("Kennedy Twinset" from Stage Accents). The Choral Society will place a combined order when practical in order to minimize shipping costs. From time-to-time, gently used tops may be available for purchase at a prorated fee. Women shall wear a mid-calf to ankle length black skirt or loose-fitting black dress slacks (full length) to complete the ensemble. 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 two 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 \$2 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 to all programs except the Christmas with The Choral Society concert. For that program, 18-and-under are admitted for a charge of \$5.

***Please note: for individuals who accept the waiver of tuition for their first semester, complimentary tickets will not be provided.***

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

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

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

Peoples Security Bank Theater at Lackawanna College.  
501 Vine Street  
Scranton, PA 18509