

# **Membership Expectations and Agreement**

## **Mission Statement**

The Deer Creek Chorale (DCC) was established to provide an opportunity for choral artistry, community service, and personal enrichment. The Chorale seeks to develop the potential of singers at all levels of experience.

## **Objectives**

To support our mission, the Deer Creek Chorale will:

- Invite interested mature singers of all generations (15 yr. or older) to join without audition.
- Meet weekly during the season for rehearsals to learn and polish the techniques of choral singing.
- Sing repertoire from a wide variety of cultures, periods, and styles.
- Provide opportunities to work with renowned/ accomplished guest clinicians as funds permit.
- Present two concerts per season, with additional optional performances.
- Contribute to the general welfare of our local and global community through annual charitable partner activities.
- Build camaraderie and community within the Chorale.
- Pursue excellence in all of the above.

## **Season**

The DCC season consists of 2 semesters, with weekly rehearsals and a culminating public concert for each. Semesters generally run from late September through early December, and late January through early May.

## **Deer Creek Chorale Commitment to Members:**

- Provide a complete schedule of rehearsals and performances before each season.
- Begin and end weekly rehearsals on time as scheduled.
- Provide thoroughly prepared and professional choral direction and accompaniment, including guest conductors and professional instrumentalists.
- Program the very best of choral literature.
- Pursue additional opportunities to perform according to interest, ability, and availability.
- Provide opportunities to participate in service projects that will benefit local and global communities.
- Provide full disclosure of Chorale income and expenses, as well as opportunities to be involved with decision-making in the organization.

## **MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS**

### **Communication**

The Artistic Director sends a weekly email missive to the choir with announcements and rehearsal information – members are expected to read it prior to the next rehearsal. The DCC

website has a designated a *For Choristers* page where all necessary information is available and updated. Additional communication is done through email (including regular notices from the Director), and through our newsletter, *The Chorister*. Members are asked to support our efforts on social media as their comfort level allows (e.g., “like” us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter [@dcreekchorale] and YouTube).

### **Rehearsal Expectations**

For each rehearsal, members are expected to:

- Comply with established attendance policies.
- Bring music placed in a binder or choral folder, in announced order.
- Bring a pencil for notes and water for hydration.
- Turn cell phones OFF
- Be attentive and mentally engaged.
- Reserve conversation and socializing to pre- or post- rehearsal times.
- Arrive prepared: Practice the music as assigned, taking advantage of the online learning files on our website [www.deercreekchorale.org](http://www.deercreekchorale.org)

### **Attendance Policies**

- Attend each rehearsal or sectional as scheduled.
- Arrive on time. If late, join the rehearsal quietly without interruption.
- Notify the director, assistant director, or other designee prior to rehearsal when attendance is not possible.
- Learn what was covered if you miss a rehearsal prior to the next rehearsal.
- Consult with the director or designee if absent for more than 2 rehearsals in any semester
- Attend a Chamber Choir or Youth Choir concert at some time during the season

☞ PLEASE NOTE: Failure to meet rehearsal and attendance expectations may result in being excluded from a performance and is decided on a case-by-case basis after consultation with Artistic staff.

### **Annual Fund Campaign Participation**

Members are encouraged to participate in the Annual Fund Campaign to the extent that they are able (attend and/or volunteer and/or donate, etc.). Our goal is to attain 100% participation in the campaign, as this has a positive impact on our grant submissions and appeals to other donors.

### **Service and Charity Outreach Participation**

The mission and vision of the Deer Creek Chorale experience is service to the local and global community. This is experienced through a partnership with various philanthropic partner organizations (a different partner is chosen annually). In the past, we have supported such efforts as *Alzheimer’s Awareness*, *Pennies for Peace*, *Md Center for the Arts*, *Habitat for Humanity*, *Project C.U.R.E. Kits for Kids*, *Camp Sunrise*, *St. John’s Episcopal Church’s aid for Haiti*, *the Good Samaritan Home in Sri Lanka*, *Central Asia Institute*, and the *Harford Family House*. Members are asked to support these efforts to help those in need (e.g., serve on a DCC

committee, attend an event, offer volunteer hours toward the project, etc). This is a minimal commitment and opportunities abound to participate at your convenience.

**Performance Attire** is the sole responsibility of each member and is as follows:

There are two acceptable forms of formal concert dress: a tuxedo or the performance gown:

Tuxedo Formal black: tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, cummerbund or vest, black dress shoes (shined).

Performance Gown – Formal DCC performance gowns, purchased by each chorister. Approximate purchase price is \$91 (includes shipping). Contact the DCC office to order. Plain, conservative black shoes (small heel or flats). Jewelry should be discreet, e.g. small strand of pearls and small earrings. No glitter, jewels, or any color in concert attire unless specifically approved in advanced of performance date.

All members must have a black choral folder (easily found online or at music stores)

Note: In consideration of various singers' allergies and respiratory reactions to fragrances, do not use perfumes, colognes, or other scented items.

### **Membership Fees**

Each member is responsible for paying annual fees and music costs no later than the second rehearsal of the season. The dues for the 2017-2018 season are \$110.00. The music cost is \$40. Where a single payment of dues is a hardship, a payment schedule can be worked out with the treasurer. Student scholarships for dues are available by application. Adult financial assistance is available on a need-only, case-by-case basis by contacting the DCC Treasurer. All scholarship and financial assistance information is kept confidential. Membership dues are nonrefundable.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **DCC Chamber Choir**

The Chamber Choir, an A Cappella ensemble, serves as a community outreach arm of the larger choir. Membership is by invitation only. The Chamber Choir performs throughout the year at various venues in the community.

#### **DCC Soloist/Chamber Choir Selection**

At the discretion of the director, soloists and members of the Chamber Choir may be selected from present or past choir membership by appointment or audition. At times, soloists may also be hired from outside the choir membership. In addition to those expectations set forth in this contract, requirements for both soloists and members of the Chamber Choir include excellent vocal ability, quality of vocal tone, and ability to commit to and fulfill the additional responsibilities.

#### **Chamber Choir Concert Dress**

Formal attire: black 1) tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, cummerbund or vest, black dress shoes (shined) or 2) conservative all black, formal floor length dresses OR floor length skirts/dress pants and top. Minimal jewelry.

Less formal attire (as per director) 1) black dress pants (no jeans/Dockers) with a long-sleeve black shirt. Black shoes or 2) conservative black blouse and floor length skirt or pants. No jeans, short skirts, leather, leggings, sparkles, jackets. Conservative shoes, no boots or sandals.

The **Deer Creek Youth Choir (DCYC)** was established in 2016 and includes students from grades 4 through 6. Students rehearse on Tuesday evenings preceding the adult chorale. DCC members are welcome to sit in on rehearsals. Youth members learn musicianship and vocal technique and experience guest clinician opportunities similar to the adult choir. Please spread the word about this wonderful opportunity for area youth

### **Deer Creek Chorale Governance**

The Deer Creek Chorale is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors as laid out in the organization's constitution and by-laws. The Board and Artistic Director govern all activities of the Chorale. Various committees (e.g. Membership, Concert, Marketing, Development, Social) welcome members interested in getting involved. The DCC office is located in the brick house beside (to the west of) Bethel Presbyterian Church (weekly rehearsal location).

### **Photo Release**

From time to time, photos/videos are taken of performances, rehearsals, and other activities. By signing this membership contract you hereby give consent that requested or provided photos or video footage where you are involved may be used exclusively for promotional purposes for the Deer Creek Chorale, including internet website, video presentations, television advertising, and printed publications.

As a Deer Creek Chorale member, I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to:

- Read and comply with all membership expectations and policies as stated above.
- Uphold the mission and musical standards of the Deer Creek Chorale.
- Attend rehearsals regularly as scheduled, complying with established expectations.
- Follow the guidelines for performance attire
- Publicize performances and encourage family, friends, and neighbors to attend and/or support the Chorale.
- Support the choir by practicing and being prepared for rehearsal therefore
- maintaining and improving my vocal capabilities.
- Pay membership dues and music costs in full by established due date(s).
- Participate meaningfully in the officially adopted community service projects.
- Discuss any concerns with Deer Creek Chorale board members and leaders.

### **To Join:**

- On-Line here: Complete the Membership Application form in the box on the right side of this page and submit it with required fees using PayPal through this website OR
- By Mail: Read the Membership Expectations & Agreement
- above and then download the [Membership Application Form](#), complete it, and send it with the required fees (dues + music by mail to: Treasurer, Deer Creek Chorale, P.O. Box 1302, Bel Air, MD. 21014. Registrations by August 15th to ensure that music is available in time for the first rehearsal.
- Registration fees paid by August 15<sup>th</sup> will insure your music is available at the first rehearsal.

Registration fees must be paid no later than the second rehearsal.