

Deer Creek Chorale

2025-2026 Membership Expectations

MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Communication

- Formal communication is done primarily by email.
- Our Membership Directory is available in electronic format and includes member photos, emails and phone numbers.
- The Artistic Director sends a weekly (Friday) 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 *Choristers* page (under Members Login) where all necessary information is available and updated. The username and password are both *dcc*.
- Members are asked to support our efforts on social media as their comfort level allows (e.g., “like” us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram [@deercreekchorale], Twitter [@deercreeksings], YouTube and LinkedIn).
- The Director of Administration for DCC is Melissa Sweeney (mwsweeney@deercreekchorale.org). The DCC phone number is **410-575-3221**. Feel free to reach out to her anytime with questions.

Rehearsal Expectations

- 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. OFF means 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 <http://www.deercreekchorale.org/>.
- Each section (voice part) has a Section Leader (announced each season).

Attendance Policies

- Attend each rehearsal or sectional as scheduled.
- Arrive on time. If late, join the rehearsal quietly without interruption.
- Notify the director and/or assistant director prior to rehearsal when attendance is not possible.
- If you miss a rehearsal, obtain score markings and notes on what was covered 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 (invite audience members, attend activities, 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.

Community Service/Outreach Participation

The mission and vision of the Deer Creek Chorale experience is service to the local and global community. Annual partnerships with various philanthropic partner organizations allow the membership to devote time and effort to the charitable partner. In the past, we have supported such efforts as *First Fruits Farm, Camp Sunrise, LASOS Inc. and Project C.U.R.E.* This year's partners are the Harford County Humane Society (Fall 2025) and the Humane Society of Baltimore County (Winter/Spring 2026). 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.** The camaraderie is awesome.

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.

Deer Creek Chorale Performance Attire

This is the sole responsibility of each member. Formal concert dress should be:

All Black – Black dress shirt with black tie and pants or long black dress/black blouse with long skirt/pants. 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, please do not use perfumes, colognes or other scented items.

Deer Creek Chamber Choir Performance Attire

Formal attire: 1.) black 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 or jackets. Conservative shoes, no boots or sandals.**

Membership Fees

There are two options for membership:

1. **Annual fee** (\$175.00) – includes registration for both semesters. We offer a payment plan of 3 payments (\$75.00, \$50.00 and \$50.00) each due the first of each month (September, October and November).
2. **Single semester fee** (\$100.00) – includes registration for one semester. If you know you will only be able to sing for one semester, you'll want to choose this option. You may also choose this option if you plan to sing for both semesters, but would like to split up your membership fees. (Your total for the year would be \$200.00 with \$100 due September 1st and \$100 due January 1st.)

There is also an additional music fee of \$65 (full season) or \$35 (fall) and \$30 (spring). If you are having difficulty with paying the dues entirely, please contact us to inquire about tuition assistance. For students, funds are available through the Betty Banghart Scholarship fund (application available on our website). Membership dues are non-refundable.

Photo Release

From time to time, photos/videos are taken of performances, rehearsals and other activities. By signing the membership agreement, 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 our website, social media, video presentations, television advertising and printed publications.