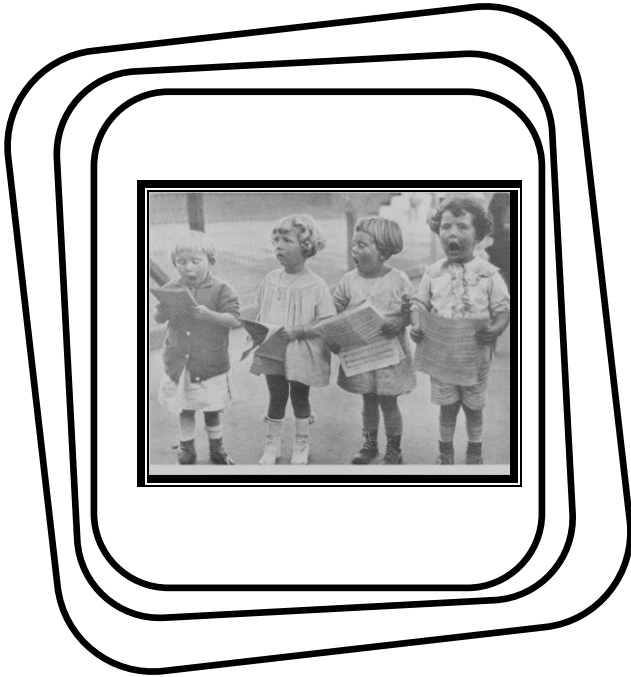


Missoula Community Chorus



Singer's Handbook

2017-18 Season

INSPIRING COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC

Contact Information

andrew@missoulachorus.org www.missoulachorus.org
Check the web-site for concert and ticket information, member news,
pictures, and more.

Staff, and Advisors to the Board:

Conductor ron@missoulachorus.org	Dr. Ron Wilcott
Associate Conductor jenny@missoulachorus.org	Jenny Skrivseth
Accompanist alice@missoulachorus.org	Alice Williams
Chorus Manager andrew@missoulachorus.org 406-493-9255	Andrew Morris

Missoula Community Chorus Board Members

President robbin@missoulachorus.org	Robbin Rose
Vice President kathy@missoulachorus.org	Kathy Hilberg
Secretary blakely@missoulachorus.org	Blakely Phillips
Treasurer jon@missoulachorus.org	Jon Rose
Director/Bookkeeper chris@missoulachorus.org	Chris Cain
Chorus Representative kathy@missoulachorus.org	Kathy Hilberg
Chorus Representative blakely@missoulachorus.org	Blakely Phillips

MCC History

The Missoula Community Chorus was organized over the summer of 2001, and began rehearsals September 13th that year. Our first public appearance was at Caras Park one week later, at Missoula's Memorial Service for 9/11. Those circumstances only increased our commitment to creating community through music-making.



Mission Statement

Inspiring Community through Music

Vision Statement

The Missoula Community Chorus (MCC) envisions:

- Empowering individuals through a pursuit of excellence in great choral music.
- A community where persons of all ages, cultural heritages, financial circumstances and musical ability are welcome as individuals.
- A community where all can feel nurtured and musically enriched.
- Inspiring community through joint projects with other local music, arts and non-profit organizations.

General Member Information

We encourage current singers to **register for sessions early** to “reserve” their seat in the chorus. While we are a non-audition choir, we do have a size limit, and space is on a first-come basis. Singers on the waiting list will be given seats as places become available.

Attendance at rehearsals is crucial to your success as a musician. Section greeters take attendance. We ask that you always let us know **in advance** if you will miss any rehearsal. Even last-minute phone calls letting us know you’re suddenly not well will be much appreciated. When we know not to expect you we’ll call these informed absences. By letting us know before-hand our conductor can anticipate any large numbers of absent singers and plan our rehearsal accordingly. Each time you have an uninformed absence (when you simply do not show up) you will receive a call or email so we’ll know if we need to send a get-well card.

The conductor may approach anyone with excessive absences during a session, informed or otherwise, to see if their musical preparedness is sufficient to remain in the chorus for that session. Please refer to the Policies and Procedures (available upon request or on our website) for more information.

Important: While attendance at scheduled rehearsals is essential, your attendance at Dress Rehearsal is **MANDATORY**; if you don’t attend, you cannot sing in the concert.

Preparation: Although this is a non-auditioned ensemble that encourages people of all musical backgrounds and otherwise to join we are a **performing ensemble**. It is expected each member takes personal responsibility for the preparation and mastering of their music to ensure our concerts are a positive experience for singers and audience alike. Mentors are available to assist any singer who would like a little extra help learning the music. Ask your chorus representatives, conductor, or chorus manager if you would like a mentor.

Participation: The success of this organization depends on the help of volunteers; we depend not only on your musical talents, but also your efforts to sell tickets, publicize performances, encourage patrons and donors, recruit members, serve on committees, and for special appearances, make costumes and collect props. It is important to understand, from the beginning, that this part of membership is expected

of each singer. You are invited to participate in setting up chairs, working with the music “police” to prepare folders, erase music etc..., as well as provide snacks for rehearsals.

Sections: You may select whichever section you feel most comfortable singing in. You may be asked by the director to sing a specific part for the good of the chorus.

Performance Department:

Walk on and off **RISERS** quickly with your music folder in your hand away from the audience. Do not talk! Open your music folder when the conductor walks on stage and signals for you to open your folder.



WATCH the conductor! Please hold your music folder so that it points towards our conductor and watch him over the top of it.

NO TALKING between pieces, or during rests! A “knowing glance” to your neighbor can throw you off; instead, beam those glances straight ahead to support the conductor’s sense of purpose.

If you are unsure of your note/entrance/ability, **MOUTH** the words until you can join back in. Enjoy the comfort of being supported by your musical cohorts. You will be their support next time.

TURN your pages QUIETLY! 100 “licked and flipped” pages are pretty darn noisy from the audience’s perspective. *Lift, turn, and gently place each page.*

At the end of each piece, do not talk! **Smile!** ☺ Enjoy the moment! Bask in the glow of the audience’s attention and rapture. Then, during the applause, gently lift, turn and place your pages to the next piece.

LOVE each piece you are singing! Be like the person who enjoys telling a good joke – and you have an especially good one to tell. Look forward to the audience’s pleasure; you have an enjoyable thing to share with them!

Reminders, Hints, & Tips

WHAT'LL I WEAR FOR CONCERTS?

Women: All Black dress or skirt, mid-calf length or longer or black pants, black tops with 3/4 length or full length sleeves, dark stockings and black shoes. MCC scarves for women will be available at concert call. No sleeveless tops, T-shirts, or jeans, please.

Men: Black dress pants and jacket. Tux jackets are ok. White shirt with collar, black socks and shoes. No T-shirts or jeans, please. MCC Bow-ties for men will be available at concert call. Cummerbunds are optional.

No perfumed anything (cologne, hair spray, deodorant, etc.) for dress rehearsals or concert appearances. Please shower ahead of time and use unscented personal products. Be sure watches, alarms/cell phones are turned OFF before performances and recordings.

Tickets: Tickets will be available for members to sell a month before the concert, as well as online and at Rockin Rudy's. Tickets are \$10. For each 4 tickets members sell they will receive one free.

Snacks are available at rehearsal break time through your generosity. Please sign up to bring treats once a year and put some change in the coffee fund once in a while! Bottled water is available at the refreshment table. Donations for water are gladly accepted (it's a fundraiser.)

Chorus Member Roster: A roster will be provided on the member page of our website your personal use. If any of your information changes, please let the Chorus Manager know so that the roster can be kept current. Please do not share the list with others.

Resignation: If you need to resign for any reason, please let the Chorus Manager (Andy) know by calling 406-493-9255 or emailing him at andrew@missoulachorus.org

Chorus Manager: Andrew Morris may be contacted at the chorus number 406-493-9255. You may also reach him at the chorus email: andrew@missoulachorus.org

Folder & Sheet Music Care:

We often borrow scores or octavos in order to keep participation fees low. It is our responsibility to return music in the same condition we received it. Our folders have been given over the years as a donation. Replacement folders cost \$50. You will be assessed fees to cover replacement costs for damaged music and folders. We have a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers known as the "Music Police" who distribute and organize our ever-growing library. Please let them know how much they are appreciated by following these guidelines:

- 1) Always use PENCIL to mark your music. A pencil is a musician's best friend. And, best of all, it erases! Keep one in your folder at all times. Please do not use high lighters or pen at any time.
- 2) Use PAPER CLIPS or STICKY NOTES if you want to mark a specific page to turn to. Please do not dog-ear pages.
- 3) If you notice the binding is wearing, please TAPE it carefully with a sturdy, clear tape. Do not use staples unless you are replacing previous staples.
- 4) Octavos and some scores can be inserted in your folders through the elastic cords. **NEVER** 3-HOLE PUNCH octavos or scores. Xeroxed music may be 3-hole punched and placed in the 3-hole binder.
- 5) Please, **NO STICKERS** of any type on your folders. Each folder is numbered. Remember your number! You can place your name-tag in the clear plastic pocket to keep handy for rehearsals.
- 6) If you wish to remove the 3-ring adaptor, here's how to do so without damaging your folder: Carefully lift the elastic cords attaching the adaptor, off the fingers at the top or bottom of the spine. Slide the adaptor off and replace the cord on the fingers. Be sure to turn in your adaptor with your folder! They cost \$1.50 to replace.
- 7) "Magazine holders" will be available this season for use in your choral folder. These have been donated to the chorus so please leave them in your folder when you return it. They fit the 3-ring adaptor and some people prefer these to the elastic cords. Please do not remove the elastic cords from the folder.

Rehearsals, Concerts, and Special Events

FALL SESSION 2017

Regular rehearsals Thursdays 7pm-9pm
September 14th - December 7th
(No rehearsal on Nov. 23rd)

Chamber Chorale Auditions September 22nd 6-9 pm
and September 23rd 9am-noon.
Chamber rehearsals begin Sept. 28th 6:00 – 6:50 pm

PERFORMANCE Dec. 12th at the Mall 7PM (6:30 call)
Dress Rehearsal Dec. 14th 7 PM (6:15 for CC)
CONCERT Dec. 15th 7:30 PM (sound check 6 PM)
CONCERT Dec. 17th 4 PM in Condon (1 PM call)

SPRING SESSION 2018

Regular rehearsals Thursdays 7pm-9pm
January 11th - April 5th
(No rehearsal on March 29th)

Dress Rehearsal April 12th 7 PM (6:15 for CC)
CONCERT April 13th 7:30 PM (sound check 6 PM)

A complete calendar can be found on our
Member's Website: www.chorusconnection.com

Our group website: www.missoulachorus.org

Missoula
Community Chorus,
Inc.

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