

Magnolia Chorale Tells All – Spring 2024

Who we are and how we sing together

WHO are we? We are people who love to sing together. We enjoy the challenge of learning traditional choral music, show tunes and new arrangements. Fellowship and friendship are fundamental. Our rehearsals are fun!

WHAT do we sing? We perform two concerts early in December and two in late April. In winter we sing holiday music, both sacred and seasonal. In spring we tackle something lighter and different. We often engage instrumentalists or soloists who give added richness to our musical experience.

WHAT is the approach? Dedicated, disciplined, and light-hearted. We care about our music, and we want everyone to feel included, comfortable, and at-home. We are motivated by positive reinforcement.

WHAT level of expertise do I need? We are seeking singers with previous choral experience. Basic knowledge of music reading is preferred, and we will provide opportunities to strengthen your skills. There is no audition, but you will sing briefly for our director so you can be placed appropriately. Tenors and basses are especially welcome.

WHAT ABOUT diversity, equity, and inclusion? Magnolia Chorale is committed to inclusion and action to combat racism and inequity. We welcome singers from less-represented communities. We ask for your help in broadening our outreach and deepening our understanding. Read our commitment to inclusion at magnoliachorale.org/inclusion. We also offer scholarships to high school and undergraduate students. (See magnoliachorale.org/student-scholarships)

WHERE do we sing?

- **Rehearsals** We rehearse in spacious Pilgrim Hall at the Magnolia United Church of Christ (MUCC), 3555 W McGraw St, Seattle, WA 98199 on Sunday evening from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- **Performances** We perform at MUCC or at Magnolia Church of the Ascension, just a few blocks away at 2330 Viewmont Way W, Seattle, WA 98199

WHAT do we ask of our members?

Follow COVID and other health protocols. We ask that participants be fully vaccinated. Decisions about masking at rehearsals and performances will be

made based on public health conditions. If members are sick, do not attend rehearsal, but stay home to recover.

Show up. Members commit to regular attendance. If your schedule means you will miss more than two rehearsals, discuss your situation with the Music Director.

Be on time. Having everyone in place and ready to go at 7:00 pm makes a big difference. Arriving by 6:50 pm is strongly suggested. Parking can be challenging for late-comers.

Pay attention. Everyone listens to the music director and keeps quiet when they are speaking, or other sections are singing. During the break, we encourage members to mingle, rather than engage with their phones, so we can get to know one another better. During the rehearsal itself and at concerts **put your phone away** (or switch to vibrate if you are in an emergency situation).

Sectional rehearsals. Make the most of our small-group rehearsals, which provide the opportunity to engage more deeply with trouble spots in the music.

Set up, snacks, and water. Each section has a turn at setting up chairs for 4 rehearsals. You'll need to arrive 15 minutes early on those nights, no later than 6:45 pm. Members bring their own water bottles.

Care for your music. Mark your music lightly in pencil only. Take care of it and return it promptly when no longer needed. We sometimes borrow music and must return it in excellent condition to the choirs who lend it to us.

Music folder. For your first semester you may borrow a black music folder. Continuing members purchase a folder from us at cost.

No scents. Do not use perfume or strongly scented personal products when we meet. Some of our members are allergic and strongly affected by these.

Practice at home. Our Music Director provides light homework each week. Doing the homework will improve your performance—and ours! We provide YouTube links to the songs and other aids to help out.

Use ChoirGenius. All members log into our choir management software, ChoirGenius. We can help if you would like coaching on how to do this.

Service. Each singer is also a team member. You will have a choice of tasks to keep the Chorale running.

Money. Members pay \$130 dues per semester. This fee covers the following:

- Music instruction
- Accompanist and special performers at concerts
- Rental of rehearsal and performance venues
- Use of sheet music
- Marketing
- Insurance and other administrative costs

Dues are payable at the beginning of the semester and may be paid in two installments. If you drop out, refunds will be made during the first month (less an administrative fee). No refunds are given later.

Fee waivers are available for members with fiscal limitations—just talk with any board member.

CONCERT DRESS? Presenting a consistent appearance is important for the pleasure of our audience. Members wear black trousers, a long skirt, or a knee-length skirt with plain, opaque black stockings or tights. We wear black long-sleeved tops in winter and white long-sleeved tops in spring. Footwear is plain and simple black dress shoes or boots.

WHO supports us? Members pay dues and we sell tickets to the concerts. We also depend on generous support from Friends of the Chorale and businesses in the Magnolia community. We also apply for competitive grants, and for the 2023-24 year we have support committed from 4Culture, ArtsWA / NEA, and the Washington State Department of Commerce. We welcome your ideas for additional sources of funding and support. We are a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.