



VALLEY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION CHORUS Membership Policies and Expectations

Katy Kristoffersen, Conductor

Dear VSA Chorus Members,

I am very much looking forward to the 2024-2025 season! We have some fun and fulfilling music to learn this year. The purpose of this document is to emphasize how important this chorus is to each of us. For us to be the best possible version of the VSA Chorus, we need three important ingredients: *a strong work ethic, a strong connection to the team, and a love of music*. I think it is helpful to use these overarching goals to help break down the necessary guidelines that I require for membership in this chorus. Please read through these expectations carefully and sign the final page to confirm your commitment to this exceptional choir!

With deep gratitude for this opportunity to serve you and make music with you,

Katy Kristoffersen
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Valley Symphony Association Chorus Member Agreement and Requirements

1. A Strong Work Ethic: Rehearsal Policy and Expectations

- Prioritizing Rehearsal Attendance
 - All members must prioritize and commit to attending all rehearsals
 - There will be an attendance roster at every rehearsal for member check-in
 - Of course, life happens! There are likely to be times when some of us must miss a rehearsal. Here's what to do if you need to miss a rehearsal:
 1. **Notify us!** (Katy - vsachorus@gmail.com and Bonnie (our fabulous librarian - koehler1762@gmail.com) by email as soon as you know you will be missing a rehearsal.
 2. **Practice at home!**
 - Look through your music, use recordings, etc. to keep up with the efforts of your team.
 - Email me if you have specific questions about what to rehearse/what was missed during rehearsal.

- **If you are missing more than two rehearsals in a concert period and are not able to keep up with the work at home, I will reach out to you personally to determine if you are able to perform with us in the concert.**

2. A Commitment to Learning

- Each piece offers a new opportunity to learn something new about the choir's abilities, the choir member's abilities, music history, and of course new emotional, expressive, and technical components.
- The conductor is no different. We will all strive to be open to growth, embrace our mistakes with love, and expect the same of our choir team members. Therefore, we will grow as a team that values supporting each others' learning, rather than focusing on breaking each other down or nit-picking each others' weaknesses.
- **Your rehearsal behavior matters!** I expect that all members, myself included, will support the growth of the group through positive, respectful, and kind behaviors in rehearsal. This is super important to me and to the musical process, and I expect all of us to honor this requirement to the best of our ability.

3. A Strong Connection to the Team

- Rehearsing, even when my section is not rehearsing
 - Even when the conductor is not actively working with your section, the choir member is always participating in every part of rehearsal.
 - We are only as good as the group, collectively, so members are expected to listen and take any relevant notes, even when they might be directed at a different section.
 - Members are also expected to sing along in their heads, or work to familiarize themselves with that section's part, to increase their understanding of the piece
- Respectful support of other sections
 - **It is never okay to have cell phones out during rehearsal.** This is disrespectful to the group and the conductor and sends a message that the member is not invested in the choir's progress. **This will not be tolerated.**
 - Rather, the conductor expects that each section participate in all parts of rehearsal - cheering on the progress of each person and each group as we grow together as a team

4. A Love of Music

- Remember *why* we do this work
 - You are here because you love music and singing
 - Singing in a choir is an incredibly unique human experience: you are a part of a team that requires trust, sharing, listening, and heart. It is amazing. It is an expression of joy!
- Connection to the joy of "building" a piece of music together
 - When we start learning a new piece, we begin the process of putting it together - all of the many parts and details, as well as our own emotional expression. Brick by brick, it becomes the VSA version of the music - our personal expression of something the composer bravely put out into the world.
- Connection to the joy of a shared musical dialogue with our audience

- Music is absolutely meant to be shared. We have the gift of talent, commitment, and work ethic to help us create a memorable musical experience.
- Our audience is hungry to participate in this sharing - to receive our work and our joy! So, when we think about this relationship, it helps us to understand why doing our best and working together well is so important for that incredible concert experience.
- Respect for the future
 - Receipt of the music from the library implies a sacred trust. Therefore,
 1. **Never** hole-punch your music to fit it into your folder (no exceptions)
 2. Music should be marked **only in pencil with all marks erased** prior to returning your music to the library.

A few more important notes:

Members will be required to attend the dress rehearsal to participate in the final concert. Dress rehearsal is an event that is important as a gathering of minds and ears to finalize before the final concert. If a member is unable to attend due to serious illness, family emergency, etc. the conductor must be notified. If unable to attend the final concert due to similar situations, please notify the conductor. Even one member can make a difference in the final concert.

Rehearsals begin promptly at 7:00 and please, **no electronic devices on stage or in rehearsal at any time.**

It is a privilege to sing in this chorus. Membership and concert participation depend on rehearsal attendance. There are consequences to the entire group if rehearsals are missed, which is why this document is so crucial.

-Please sign and return the following page to the conductor -

Valley Symphony Association Chorus

Expectations Signature Page

I have read and understood the expectations for the 2024-2025 VSA Chorus Season. I agree to the policies and will follow them to the best of my ability.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

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Name: _____ Part: S1 A1 T1 B1
S2 A2 T2 B2

Mailing Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____ Year joined chorus: _____

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Membership Agreement on File: Y / N

Home/Business Number: _____ Music # Assignment: _____

Permission to share my info with the chorus: Y / N