



Salt Lake Men's Choir Member Manual

Our Mission and Values

Mission of the Choir The Salt Lake Men's Choir is dedicated to musical excellence.

The purpose of the choir is to:

- Promote, perform and expand men's choral literature as an art form.
- Cultivate skills in choral singing.
- Provide opportunities for self-expression.
- Build bridges of understanding and tolerance among diverse communities through music.
- Provide positive social and spiritual support for its members.

The Salt Lake Men's Choir strives for:

- a safe haven of friendship, support and unity
- a high standard of musical excellence
- a high level of commitment
- opportunities to learn and grow through choral music

What We Do

Concerts

The choir typically performs two major concerts per year; one in the spring and one for Christmas.

Other Performances

In addition to the scheduled seasonal concerts, the choir performs at other events such as the Salt Lake Pride, devotional services, and other community activities. Your commitment to participate in these other activities is strongly encouraged and appreciated.

Tours

The choir will occasionally go on tour. Financial obligations for these trips vary. You will be given advance notification before any trip is planned. Participation requirements will vary.

CHOIR ORGANIZATION

Choir Council - Administrative Committee

The choir is governed by an administrative committee composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Artistic Director, and other members as assigned.

The President and Vice President are elected while other members of the Administrative Committee are selected or appointed.

Choir Council - General Body

The Choir Council is composed of the Administrative Committee plus other members appointed by the Administrative Committee. The Choir Council assists the Administrative Committee in managing the day-to-day operation of the choir and meets semi-monthly.

Artistic Director

The Artistic Director is the principal conductor of the choir and is responsible for selecting the repertoire and supervising all artistic/musical projects of the choir.

Section Leader

Each section is led by a Section Leader who communicates information, records attendance, coordinates section activities, and assists section members. Section Leaders are appointed to the Choir Council by the Artistic Director to represent the needs of their section.

Membership in the Choir

The membership of the choir is diverse. Some have been classically trained—others have no experience other than singing in their car or shower. The choir has included everything from doctors and lawyers to cowboys and cops (sounds a bit like the Village People, doesn't it?). Gay, straight, young, not-so-young, rich, or barely making rent—our people are as varied as the music we perform.

All members agree to abide by rules and regulations as formulated by the Administrative Committee, relating to such matters as attendance, conduct, scheduling of rehearsals, membership dues and other costs. There are several categories of membership in the Salt Lake Men's Choir:

Performing Members

Singers wishing to join the choir or former members wishing to rejoin must enroll during the first two rehearsals in January or August. Although auditions are not required, you will be asked to sing briefly for the artistic director so that he may get to know you and your voice. We ask that performing members plan to sing with us for at least 12 months and dues will be assessed on a semi-annual basis, beginning the third week of each new enrollment period (usually January and August). Performing members have voting privileges.

Associate Members

We welcome members who wish to support the choir in a non singing role, such as setting up risers, hosting a reception, selling tickets, ushering and general office support. Associate members may join anytime throughout the season by contacting the Choir President. Associate members do not pay membership dues but are asked to volunteer for at least two concerts or fundraising events each season. Associate members do not have voting privileges.

Membership Status

Joining the Choir

Membership is open to all who support the mission of the choir, regardless of age, color, physical or mental ability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Choir membership enrollment is open year round, but eligibility to perform at a given event is limited to the first month of the new season in order to provide enough time to master the musical selection. Performance approval for all new, and returning, performing members is at the sole discretion of the Artistic Director.

To join, simply attend a weekly rehearsal and enroll with the Choir Secretary.

Leaving the Choir

Resigning from the choir

Should you decide to end your membership in the choir, please submit your decision in writing to the Choir President and return your folder to the Librarian. Annual dues will be prorated and billed, if necessary, through the date that your request is received. Replacement cost for music that is not returned may also be assessed.

Suspension or Removal from the choir

Membership in the choir may be suspended or you may be removed from the choir for failure to:

- meet financial obligations,
- failure to adhere to artistic or performance standards
- failure to support the choir's mission and policies.

If the member is experiencing financial hardship, he may contact the President and ask that the obligation be waived or have other arrangements made. Once the financial obligation is paid, waived or satisfactory arrangements are made, the member may be reinstated by the President.

For a suspension or removal for reasons other than financial, a majority vote of the Choir Council Administrative Committee will be held at the semi-monthly meeting. The President and Artistic Director, if needed, can place a temporary suspension of membership until a vote can be held.

A recommendation from the Artistic Director and a majority vote of the Administrative Committee is required to reinstate a performing member suspended for non financial reasons.

Suspended members may appeal the suspension to the Choir Council Administrative Committee; who may override the suspension by a two-thirds vote. Suspended members may not exercise the rights and privileges of membership and, unless the suspension is resolved, may not be allowed to renew membership in the choir.

Rehearsal Venues

The majority of our rehearsals are held at

First Baptist Church
777 S 1300 E SLC, Utah.

Since the church allows the choir to utilize their facilities at no charge, please observe the following requirements:

- Respect the altar space.
- No food or open beverage containers are allowed in the sanctuaries.
- Restrooms must be left clean and orderly.

What's Expected

Respect for Choir Members

The choir membership is diverse and our members come from many different backgrounds and lifestyles. Acceptance of each choir member's individuality, his beliefs and his musical abilities is absolutely crucial for the success of this organization.

Some members would prefer to maintain their privacy, please be sensitive to their wishes.

The choir is a social arts organization, and we understand that personal conflict may arise from time to time. The choir expects that these conflicts will be dealt with discreetly and with respect. Please solve your problems with each other directly. Your personal issues with fellow members must not interfere with rehearsal, or performances in anyway.

In extreme situations as a last resort, for the betterment of the choir, the Administrative Committee may remove one or all parties in conflict from the choir following suspension and removal guidelines. This should never be the norm, please be adults and treat each other with kindness and respect.

Financial Obligations

Dues

Performing members are required to pay dues of \$90.00 semi-annually. Payments can be made to the Treasurer at the weekly rehearsal.

Membership dues begin the third week of each new enrollment period (usually January and August). If paying dues is burdensome to any choir member, he may request a waiver from the choir President or make payment arrangements with the treasurer.

Associate members do not pay membership dues, but are asked to volunteer for at least two concerts or fundraising events each season.

****September 2019* dues were increased by 30\$ per season, in order to pay for an assist accompanist****

Attendance Policy

The purpose of the attendance policy is to:

- Ensure musical excellence for all performances
- Engender team spirit in the choir
- Set a fair and reasonable commitment level for all singers

Members who fail to adhere to the attendance policy will be ineligible to perform at the next concert and may be suspended until reinstated by the Administrative Committee. Please plan ahead and if you find that you will be unable to meet attendance requirements during a concert period, work with your section leader to determine your options.

Weekly Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held every Thursday and begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Performing members, regardless of musical ability or preparation, are expected to attend all weekly rehearsals, but are allowed two excused absences per concert period for personal needs.

For the purposes of this policy, there are two concert periods per year, preceding the two major concerts (typically presented in April and December.)

For an absence to be excused, a member must inform the section leader prior to taking an excused absence and follow up with him afterwards to find out what announcements or information may have been missed. Please note that members must be present for the entire rehearsal to receive attendance credit.

Sectional Rehearsals

You may be asked to attend "section only" rehearsals in addition to the regular Thursday rehearsals. Section leaders will make every effort to schedule sectional rehearsals in a timely manner to meet your personal availability. Attendance at sectional rehearsals is strongly recommended.

Choir Retreats

Typically a musical retreat is held for each concert. The retreat allows for extra rehearsal time, music education and gives members a chance to socialize. Retreats are typically held on a Saturday and last 8 hours. Attendance at the choir retreat is strongly recommended. Members will be notified in a timely manner so they may make the necessary arrangements to participate.

Dress Rehearsals

In order to perform with the choir in a concert, participation at Dress Rehearsal is mandatory. The Artistic Director must approve an excuse from Dress Rehearsal. Failure to Adhere to

Performances

Participation in a concert series is all or nothing. Most choir performances are multiple nights. Members must be available to sing all nights of the concert series or they will not be allowed to sing at all. Very rarely, and only under extreme circumstances, may the Artistic Director excuse a performing member for a singing in all performances.

Music and Folder

Sheet Music

The choir's sheet music is a substantial financial investment. Proper care of this music and folders are required. Please adhere to the following rules regarding the sheet music provided to you:

- Musical notations should be made using a pencil.
- Do not use colored highlighter or markers.
- Please do not make notations in the music that are not applicable to the learning or performance.
- Make every effort to avoid spilling food or drink on the music.
- A charge of no less than \$25.00 will be levied should you lose your folder.
- When requested, please clear out any personal items return in your music and folder to the Music Librarian.

Music Folder

New members will be provided a temporary red music folder, at the beginning of rehearsal and is to be returned to the Librarian at the end of rehearsal.

When a new member has attended weekly rehearsal for three consecutive weeks they will be provided with a black book, that they may take home.

Rehearsal Etiquette

The choir has limited rehearsal time, only meeting once per week for 2 hours. To get the most value of each rehearsal please adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Be on time to rehearsal
2. Be prepared; with music and a pencil
3. Come ready to learn
4. Follow all directions of the Artistic Director
5. Turn off your phone. If you need to make or receive calls, do so before/after rehearsal or during the break.
6. Listen more, talk less. Socialize during break or at dinner after rehearsal
7. No drugs or alcohol. Self explanatory.

Performance Attire

Occasionally, it may be necessary for a choir member to rent a tuxedo or purchase another item of clothing such as a t-shirt or necktie. In such cases, information on resources and costs will be provided as early as possible. Though not all costumes will be used for every performance, choir members should own or obtain the following standard costume items:

- Black slacks
- Khaki pants
- White long-sleeved dress shirt
- Black long-sleeved dress shirt
- Solid color pullover sweater
- Black socks
- Black shoes
- Black belt

Miscellaneous Duties

Assistance with various chores will be assigned (but volunteering never hurts) for all choir activities. These chores may include:

- Moving the pianos
- Setting up the rehearsal and performance spaces
- Producing and hosting concerts
- Fundraising and other events
- Cleaning up rehearsal or performance spaces
- Marketing and Promoting choir events
- Selling concert tickets

<http://www.saltlakemenschoir.org>. Choir Merchandise—The choir has produced several compact disc recordings, which are for sale at a nominal price. The choir also has t-shirts for sale with the choir logo on them and will, from time to time, make other merchandise available for sale.