

FRESNO COMMUNITY  
CHORUS  
MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

*FRESNO COMMUNITY CHORUS (FCC)* is a group of musicians as diverse as the community it represents joined together to more completely understand and perform great choral literature (from masterworks of previous centuries to more contemporary works). Our goal is to provide the best possible musical experience for FCC members and to share performances of the highest quality with our audiences.

As an active singer, one of your most important contributions is **being there**. Arriving early for set-up before performances or other special events or staying after to help clean up, helping out with publicity and promotion by stuffing mailings, sealing envelopes, helping to design and create promotional materials or draft grant proposals - these and other possibilities are all ways in which you can support FCC and its mission.

If you or your friends or family or colleagues have any special talents that you think we could use, donating them to the group would be tremendously supportive.

We try to undertake at least one fund-raising activity each year – from direct mail solicitations to a scheduled event. We count on your volunteer efforts (in a myriad of capacities . . . watch for announcements) to help make these efforts successful to help underwrite our budget for the coming season, to develop audience interest and participation, and to help meet our mission statement.

### GOALS: THE NEXT TEN YEARS

- to continue presentation of an annual series of concerts
- to perform on tour
- to create an endowment fund
- to create an outreach program
- to enhance the professionalism of the group by paying Section Leaders and hiring professional management which could include a Development Director and an Executive Secretary

Some information on the mechanics of how we actually accomplish these goals follows in this handbook. If you have any questions, please ask.

## EXPECTATIONS

This is a volunteer group. One of the specific things that you have volunteered for is the *pursuit of excellence*. To that end, **Tuesday evening rehearsals are for in-depth study of the musical aspects of the repertoire. Time will be spent "wood shedding" notes during sectional rehearsals.** Rehearsal tapes may be made available at the beginning of each semester for that semester's concert. It is also extremely helpful to obtain recordings. The Artistic Director will have recommendations.

**\*\*\*Being an ACTIVE member of FCC means you have committed to participating in all Season concerts.\*\*\***

## AUDITIONS/OPPORTUNITIES

CHORUS Auditions are required for initial placement in FCC. In addition, each member is reauditioned every four years. The four-year audition cycle is conducted alphabetically (alto, bass, soprano, tenor) beginning with the Fall 2006 season.

CORO PICCOLO Individuals interested in singing in *Coro Piccolo* are auditioned and chosen on the basis of reading skills, intonation and overall balance of the particular group for the particular occasion.

SOLOS Soloists are chosen by the Artistic Director, who considers many factors (range, timbre, musical insights, projection, balance with ensemble, etc.). Individuals who are interested in singing solos should prepare a piece to audition for the Artistic Director. If appropriate, we prefer to choose soloists from the group. Some occasions and literature allow us the opportunity to include some voices not regularly available to us.

## FEES

Dues are \$50 per individual. In addition, FCC members may be required to purchase music. This is outlined in the annual letter sent to FCC members prior to the fall semester.

## REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 7:30 pm to 9:40 pm, in the Vocal Performance Hall at Fresno State University.

Bring music and a pencil for rehearsal notes to every rehearsal!

Water is permitted in the Vocal Performance Hall. No other food or drink is allowed.

## **PARKING**

Parking is available in Parking Lot C off the Maple Avenue entrance to campus. PARKING PASSES are required and are distributed at the first rehearsal.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

You may miss no more than two rehearsals for any given performance to be eligible to participate in that performance. **Exceptions may only be cleared with the Artistic Director.**

Please call or e-mail your Section Leader if you have to miss a rehearsal.

You are responsible for obtaining information and music notes that may have been given during your absence.

## **A GENERAL NOTE OR TWO ABOUT REHEARSAL**

**Learning notes and texts:** Music and texts will be worked on during rehearsals and sectionals. If you need additional help, please see your Section Leader.

**Please keep conversation at a minimum during rehearsals.** We have a lot to accomplish during the time set aside for rehearsal. Please do not talk during rehearsals.

Occasionally there are added solo or small ensemble rehearsals immediately before or after a regularly scheduled rehearsal. Please respect these rehearsals and take your conversations outside of the Vocal Performance Hall.

We encourage you to find times to get know your fellow singers during the break and outside scheduled rehearsal times and spaces...it's one of the perks of this kind of community.

## **MUSIC**

We use a combination of library resources, including music we buy, music borrowed from other choral groups, and music from the Fresno State Music Department library.

### **The library policies are simple and critical:**

- At the beginning of each semester you will be given a packet of music for that semester's performance. **You are responsible for returning borrowed music.** Music you have purchased is yours to keep or you may donate it to the FSU library.
- **USE ONLY PENCIL TO MARK BORROWED MUSIC WITH REHEARSAL NOTES.** Please erase your notes prior to returning music at the end of the semester.

## **PERFORMANCES AND PERFORMANCE DRESS**

Specific details regarding performances will be announced prior to each concert.

### **Performance dress for women –**

- Floor length black dress, skirt or evening pantsuit, preferably with long sleeves
- Black shoes
- No excessive jewelry

### **Performance dress for men –**

- Black tuxedo (not tails), black bow tie
- White tuxedo shirt
- Black shoes

### **\*\*ABSOLUTELY NO PERFUME, COLOGNE or SCENTED HAIRSPRAY!!!!\*\***

**Music folders for performance.** Black folders are required for performances. If you do not have one, or would like a new one, you may purchase The Black Folder. The cost is approximately \$20.00. Announcements will be made during one of the rehearsals regarding purchase of these folders.

### **Performance etiquette reminders:**

- when entering or exiting the stage, music is carried in the hand away from the audience;
- don't follow the soloists in your music;
- don't wave at your friends and family;
- and once again, thank you in advance for not wearing perfumes, colognes or fragrances of any kind including hand and body lotion, shaving lotion, etc. \*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\*