

CALGARY ARTS ACADEMY
ADULT CHOIR



CHOIR MEMBERS' MANUAL

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Welcome to Calgary Arts Academy Adult Choir!

Calgary Arts Academy Adult Choir began 15 years ago by the gathering of community members who simply loved to sing. We have had our home at various local schools, currently Calgary Arts Academy. Our members number 52 and growing.

We perform at senior citizens homes, extended care facilities, public arts functions and schools. Our members have honorary memberships to the Calgary Arts Academy Society with full voting privileges.

The contribution of all members is valuable. The following dedicated individuals have volunteered their time to help make it all happen:

Dale Erickson, Director
Laura Shuler, Co-Director
Carol Burbank, Pianist
Cam Bourque, President
Yvonne Morley, Question & Suggestion Coordinator
Kevin Loftus, Communications
Libby Brownell, Communications
June Miller, Bookings
Robin Vilonyay, Music Production
Barb Reid, Treasurer
Sandra Low, Treasurer
Don Martin, Line Marshal
Joan Gasser, Pianist's Assistant
Vicki McNeill, Social Director
Mary Anne Desmeules, Social Director
Jackie Martin, Snack Coordinator
Lisa Grothman, Soprano Lead
Joyce Mann, Alto Lead
Dave Desmeules, Equipment Manager

We're excited to have had the opportunity to travel to China during the summer of 2007 and perform at various educational functions and on The Great Wall. The experience was invaluable. We now are recognized as an International Choir.

Calgary Arts Academy Adult Choir is:

1. An ambassador for Calgary Arts Academy;
2. An ambassador for the message of peace, growth and kindness.

Members of the Calgary Arts Academy Adult Choir are:

1. A family. We are kind to each other, respecting others opinions by allowing for open communication;
2. Excited to learn;
3. Performers. Not only do we sing, we have facial expressions, hand gestures and we dance;
4. Honorary members of the Calgary Arts Academy Society (a non-profit organization that is responsible for the operation of Calgary Arts Academy) with full voting privileges.

As our choir grows, we are finding it even more important that expectations and guidelines be clearly communicated to new and existing members. This manual is designed as a guide. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Question & Suggestion Coordinator.

New members

New members are accepted only at the beginning of each performing season, being January and September. This policy is in place to allow new members the time required to learn the music. In addition, we require that you read this manual in full prior to applying to be a member of our choir.

The Process:

1. Complete the application form;
2. You will be contacted to arrange a date and time for an audition with our director and/or pianist. This is required to determine where (alto, soprano, tenor, bass) you belong. This will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about the choir.
3. Join us at our next practice.

Additional Information:

Our choir has a yearly fee that is due within 30 days of joining (refer to the section “Yearly Choir Fees” for further information). If you wish, you are invited to “audit” the choir for the initial 30 days. During this audit period, we will not expect you to pay your choir fee. In addition, we will provide you with the required music for each practice, which you will be expected to return to us at the end of each session.

After the audit period, if you wish to become a permanent member, then simply remit your choir fees to the choir treasurer. We will then provide you with your personalized music book and the current music selections.

If you wish to join the choir immediately without an audit period, simply remit your choir fee to the choir treasurer and we will arrange for your personalized music book and current music selections.

Early Season Performances:

From time to time, the choir is requested to perform very early in the season. In these cases, we usually perform music from the previous season. We don't recommend that new members attend these performances, due to their unfamiliarity with the music. Of course, there are exceptions to this policy, and each will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Choir Expectations

Choir members are expected to attend at least 80% of practices and performances.

In addition, the following behaviour guidelines are expected of choir members:

1. Treat fellow choir members with respect, dignity and kindness;
2. Listen to the Choir Director and refrain from side-conversations during practices;
3. On-time arrival to all practices and performances;
4. Proper attire for all performances (see “Choir Dress / Attire”);
5. During performances, the following are not allowed:
 - a. Talking, unless requested to
 - b. Beverage bottles, including water bottles

Fees

The current choir fee is \$40.00 per year. The purpose of the fee is to cover the costs associated with securing printed music as well as other expenses.

For existing choir members, fees are due by the end of September. For new choir members, fees are due within 30 days of joining.

Choir Dress / Attire

Practices:

Attire for choir practices is casual.

Performances:

Our attire for performances will vary depending on the type of performance, formal, in-formal or performances at/for Calgary Arts Academy. The following are our policies:

Choir members are responsible to provide the following items:

- Ladies: Full length black skirt
 Black dress pants (optional)
 Black long-sleeved, shirt collar style blouse
 White long-sleeved, shirt collar style blouse
- Men: Black dress pants
 Black long-sleeved, shirt collar style shirt
 White long-sleeved, shirt collar style shirt

CAAAC will provide the following items:

- Ladies: Seasonal scarf
 Vest (optional)
- Men: Seasonal ascot or tie
 Vest (optional)

Attire for Formal Occasions:

- Ladies: Black blouse
 Seasonal scarf
 Full-length black skirt
- Men: Black shirt
 Seasonal ascot or tie
 Black dress pants

Attire for Informal Occasions:

There are two attire options for informal performances, black option and white option, and will be announced for each.

Black Option:

Ladies: Black blouse
 Seasonal scarf
 Black dress pants or full length black skirt

Men: Black shirt
 Seasonal ascot or tie
 Black dress pants

White Option:

Ladies: White blouse
 Seasonal scarf
 Black dress pants or full length black skirt

Men: White shirt
 Seasonal ascot or tie
 Black dress pants

Note that black jeans and short-sleeved and/or non-collared shirts are not permitted for performances.

Choir vests to be worn at performances as directed.

Performances at/for Calgary Arts Academy:

Attire for performances at the school will be announced for each occasion.

Volunteering

All choir members are expected to perform 10 hours per year of volunteer work either at Calgary Arts Academy or for the choir. As the members of the “Choir Executive” are also volunteers, they are exempted from this policy.

Choir members are expected to take their turn in bringing a snack for our practices, as arranged by our snack coordinator