



# **Program Handbook Policies and Procedures**

**Parents review this handbook thoroughly and make sure you are comfortable with all aspects of the contents before registering for a Summit Choral Society Program.**

Contact the office if you have questions regarding the material set forth in this document,  
[scocchiola@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:scocchiola@summitchoralsociety.org) or 330-434-7464.

330.434.SING (7464)  
[www.summitchoralsociety.org](http://www.summitchoralsociety.org)

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **Overview of Summit Choral, page 4-5**

#### **Overview of programs**

Statements

Board of Directors

General Information

Expectations, Rehearsal Procedures, Cancellations, Financials Information,  
Ticketing, Musical Repertoire Selections, Participant Recognition

#### **Expectations, PG 5-6**

Attendance Expectations

Tardiness

Early Arrivals

Behavioral Expectation and Policy

Care of Summit Artspace

#### **Rehearsal Procedures, PG 6**

SCS Drop Off and Pick Up

Parent Waiting Information

Inclement Weather Procedure, Cancellations

SCS Office Parking and Security Information

#### **Financial Information, PG 6**

Tuition and Fees Policies

Financial Assistance

Ticket Sales

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR PROGRAM, PG 7-10**

**Class Offerings:** The Preparatory Division, The Training Division,  
Ensemble Division, Extension Choirs, Music Theory  
School Choir Commitment

#### **Advancement Expectations, Concert Attire Information**

### **METROPOLITAN CHORUS, PG 11-13**

AUDITIONS

ABSENCES

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

CONCERT ATTIRE

SINGER RECEPTIONS

STEERING COMMITTEE

CHORAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM

**Liability Waiver, PG 14 – Sign and return before classes begin**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FORM, PG 15**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Office and Rehearsal Location:** 140 E. Market Street, Akron OH 44308

**Office Phone:** 330.434.SING (7464)

**Website:** [www.summitchoralsociety.org](http://www.summitchoralsociety.org)

**General Email:** [summitchoralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:summitchoralsociety@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/summitchoralsociety](http://www.facebook.com/summitchoralsociety)

**Twitter:** @SummitChoral

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**Executive Artistic Director:** Shara L. Cocchiola, [scocchiola@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:scocchiola@summitchoralsociety.org)

**Principal Conductor (Performance Choir and sing with me)**

- Heather J. Cooper, [hcooper@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:hcooper@summitchoralsociety.org)

### Children's Choir Program

**Advanced Choir Director:**

- Emily Garlock, [egarlock@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:egarlock@summitchoralsociety.org)

**Bel Canto Choir Director:**

- Jessica Bell, [jbelle@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:jbelle@summitchoralsociety.org)

**Music Teacher:**

- Steven Cocchiola, [cocchiolas@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:cocchiolas@summitchoralsociety.org)

**Pianists:**

- Julie Lehman, Mario Buchanan

### Summer Camps:

- Jessica Bell, [jbelle@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:jbelle@summitchoralsociety.org)

### Metropolitan Chorus:

- Dr. Britt Cooper, Director
- Lisa Maddafer, Pianist

### Sing With Me:

- Heather Cooper, Director

### Director of Marketing, Events and Fiscal Management:

- Rachel Jervis-Baker, [rbaker@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:rbaker@summitchoralsociety.org)

### Choral Scholars:

- Laura Kupper, Alyssa Cocchiola

Complete bios and Board of Director information is available at [summitchoralsociety.org](http://summitchoralsociety.org)

## **Overview of Summit Choral Society**

### **Board of Directors**

The Summit Choral Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 educational and performing arts organization. We are governed by a Board of Directors which guides all facets of this unique arts establishment.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Summit Choral Society is to provide a continuum of musical training for young children through senior adults, produce exceptional choral performances, and preserve the art of choral music for the enrichment and enjoyment of the Greater Akron community.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

To provide valuable musical experiences and opportunities based in the rich history of choral music, heritage songs and music education to the greater Akron Community.

### **BELIEF STATEMENT**

SCS believes these services impact the community and its stakeholders by contributing positively to the general health and well-being of greater Akron.

### **STATEMENT OF EQUITY**

SCS is committed to serving a diverse population representative of greater Akron's broad demographic by providing access to high-quality music education and performance programs that complements and enhances a thriving, vibrant community that is equitable and inclusive for all.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT**

Summit Choral Society does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family status, or political beliefs.

## **Programs**

**sing with me** is a comprehensive early childhood music program for caregivers and children from birth to 5 years of age. Sessions run from April – October.

**Summer Music Camps** are one-week camps for school age children that explore a variety of musical themes.

**DrumSing** is an innovative hybrid musical experience for high school age youth and young adults, combining traditional drumline with vocalized melodies. The musical programming is incredibly diverse ranging from traditional drumline cadences to various pop & rock influences with multi-cultural tones, techniques and vocalizations. May - September

**Metropolitan Chorus** is a traditional community choral experience focusing on intimately-performed that provides relevant, inspiring and ingenuitive programming throughout the community. Representing diverse backgrounds, cultures and beliefs, these multi-generational singers are brought together by their love of the choral arts and a shared dedication to preserving artful music experiences. October - April

**Choral Scholar Program** is an opportunity for area college students to experience hands-on training in management and administration while sharpening their administrative and professional skills. SCS is proud to engage these emerging future leaders. Program Depending.

**Children's Choir Program** is a leveled musical arts education and performance program for children in grades k-12, based on the Zoltan Kodály method of attaining musical literacy. September - May

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Program Placement**

Children ages birth through five years of age are placed in sing with me. Singers in grades ages five through eighteen (grade 12) are served by SCS's Children's Choir Program, with singers in grades eleven (11) and twelve (12) being promoted up through the program. Auditions or internal recommendation are required for Performance Choir. Due to the common core of knowledge required and specific training of incoming singers within the Children's Choir Program structure, singers who are in grades one (1) through ten (10) are eligible to audition for placement. Students in grades eleven (11) and (12) are ineligible for newly auditioned placement in the Children's Choir Program and should plan to audition for the Metropolitan Chorus, which serves adults eighteen (18) years of age and older, when they become of age. Metropolitan Chorus does not require an audition to sing but may ask for a placement audition for those wishing to sing soprano. Music literacy is inherent in keeping up in rehearsals in the Metropolitan Chorus. Individuals are advised of this before registering. DrumSing consists of youth and young adults, ages 14-24, with no previous experience necessary. Sing With Me serves children and their caregivers ages birth through 5 years old in sessions throughout the season. Registration through the website is available for all programs.

### **Expectations**

#### **Attendance Expectations**

Every effort should be made to attend classes, rehearsals and events as scheduled.

**\*Attendance Expectations for Performance Choir and Metropolitan Chorus are listed in the choral sections for those specific choirs in this document.**

**Absences** Please notify Summit Choral Society online at <https://www.summitchoralsociety.org/absence-report.html>

#### **Behavioral Expectations**

All singers in the program can expect to be treated with the utmost respect and professionalism by all members of the SCS staff. SCS's choral arts program is built on teamwork where every member of the choir works toward the highest level of musicianship possible. In order to accomplish this goal SCS must maintain an environment that is safe, positive and productive at all times and free from behavioral distractions, therefore:

- **Singers** are required to be respectful of each other and all SCS staff.
- **Singers** are expected to be on time for all scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and community performances
- **Singers** are expected to be responsible musicians.
- **Singers** are expected to represent SCS in a positive manner.
- **Singers** must act in accordance with the current health and safety rules.
- **Singers** are expected to read SCS emails
- **Singers** should be positive and engaged at all times - stay focused, listen, and follow directions.

**NO SOLICITATION WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR.**

SCS singers represent a diverse group of individuals from many demographic backgrounds with talent in many areas, both work and play! Those with talents and other talented ensembles outside SCS wishing to

communicate those opportunities to Summit Choral Society members must have express permission from Shara Cocchiola. This includes especially, but is not limited to private lessons and printed material.

### **Behavioral Policy**

Directors are responsible for the safe and productive learning environment for all singers. All Directors/Conductors are degreed professionals with years of experience in music. Behavior that is not in the best interest of the choral ensemble will not be tolerated. If you are aware you/your child has difficulty in a formal rehearsal or learning setting and/or has a history of behavioral problems, please make this known before registering for a SCS program. The behavioral expectations at Summit Choral Society EXCEED those in the traditional public setting. Behavior problems, disruptions, disrespectful comments/behavior, bullying, disregard for health and safety protocols, etc. are not tolerated under any circumstances. Singers who exhibit these behaviors may be expelled immediately without a refund.

### **Dress Code**

Singers are expected to dress appropriately when at rehearsals and/or events. Programming that does not include concert uniforms, attire should be clean and in good shape, without substantial/ revealing rips, tears or holes or inappropriate drawings or sayings. No "Belly" shirts, halter tops, etc. If you have to question whether or not you should wear it - you should not.

### **Care and Respect of Summit Artspace**

Summit Artspace is a functional, working art building. Singers are forbidden to touch gallery art paintings, sculptures, exhibits or other artistic expressions of art throughout the building. Singers that engage in destructive behavior towards the art on display may be immediately expelled from Summit Choral Society. Summit Choral Society is not responsible for damages done to art in the building.

### **Rehearsal Procedures**

**PARKING:** Free parking is available in the attached lot located off Summit Street.

### **ENTERING THE BUILDING**

Singers should enter through the main doors off Summit Street.

### **SCS PARENT/ACCOMPANYING GUEST WAITING PROCEDURE**

All guests are required to wait on floor 2 in the waiting area provided. Attendance in a rehearsal/classroom is only through special pre-arranged circumstances.

### **EXITING THE BUILDING**

Adults singers should exit in an orderly manner. School age singers will be picked up at a pre-determined place.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER/CLASS CANCELLATION PROCEDURE**

In the event that Summit Choral Society needs to cancel an event/rehearsal this information will be communicated via email, the website, social media and through WKYC's *ialert* system.

### **CANCELLATIONS**

In person events are cancelled and immediate alterations from on-site to virtual rehearsal may occur when mandated by authorities. If a known health crisis or exposure is documented at SCS, appropriate measures will be taken in accordance with recommendations of the Summit County health department.

## **Financial Information**

### **Tuition and fees policy**

**Tuition** is due and payable by the first rehearsal

Credits for cancelled classes by SCS without a digital option will be pro-rated and applied to the next semester.

Tuition and Singer Fee payments can be made at [summitchoralsociety.org](http://summitchoralsociety.org) In the event SCS cancels more than one rehearsal in a semester without a digital or a make-up, a pro-rated refund may be requested.

Refunds may not be provided in the case of individual withdrawal or expulsion.

#### **Multiple Sibling Discount** (Youth Programs)

Third registered child (sibling) = half-price tuition and registration (like programs)

Four or more registered child (siblings) = free tuition with paid registration (like programs)

#### **Refer a Friend Discount** (Youth Programs)

Summit Choral Society may offer discounts for referrals from time to time. These are at the sole discretion of the Executive Artistic Director.

#### **Financial Assistance**

Demonstrated need-based financial assistance is available by application for all SCS programs. This form is available in this handbook and for download at [summitchoralsociety.org](http://summitchoralsociety.org)

### **Ticketing**

Concerts and ticketing policies are independent for each concert and largely are based on individual venues. For questions on a specific concert, please contact the office. Gathering and performance restrictions may be implemented without notice at any time..

### **Musical Repertoire**

Musical repertoire will be chosen by the teacher, director, conductor or other musically trained personnel. All music selections are vetted by professionals and represent the highest quality in age appropriate repertoire. Choral music contains text. As a vocal performer in an SCS program it is important to understand that music of all genres, languages, religions, sects, nationalities, etc. may be chosen by SCS at any time with the expectation that enrolled singers will participate. Sacred, secular, and patriotic songs are an integral portion of the choral curriculum and literature base of choir music. If these types of selections represent a challenge or impediment to you/your singer's music performance/education, other musical opportunities should be considered before registering with Summit Choral Society.

### **Participant Recognition**

Summit Choral Society strives to learn each participant by name. This is quite an undertaking as there are over 300 registered participants in SCS programs each year, many of which "grow-up" through the programs, encountering different SCS directors, staff, conductors, directors and volunteers during their time at SCS. For this and legal reasons, all written recognition and identification of participants will be in the participant's legal name. Instances where a participant would prefer to be verbally addressed by a nickname, alternate preferred name, etc. should be communicated directly to the participant's conductor/director/teacher of the class for reasonable accommodation each season.

## **The Children's Choir Program (CCP)**

The CCP endeavors to enrich the lives of children and youth from all religious, racial, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. The educational and performance activities are representative of the core of SCS's program. Each facet of the program is designed to help choristers grow musically, personally and socially by promoting musical literacy, aural training, and good vocal techniques as well as instilling each singer with enhanced self-esteem, a sense of accomplishment.

## **Class Offerings**

### **Divisions of the CCP Program**

The CCP is made up of educational and performance focused divisions. All divisions, choirs and classes emphasize an individual understanding and development of musical skills.

- **Preparatory Division** emphasizes the joy of making music through song & movement. (Bel Canto)
- **Training Division** emphasizes music education and performance.

(Advanced Choir)

- **Ensemble Division** emphasizes advanced music performance and high-level music theory applications and education. (Performance Choir)
- **Extension Experiences** expand the music skills of the singer.
- **Music Theory** emphasizes music theory, musical skills and developmental understanding.

### **Community Service Credit Hours**

SCS offers high school students *Community Service Credit Hours* from time to time. These hours may be available for assisting in a variety of service areas. Please let the office know if your singers are interested in earning community service credit.

### **Preparatory Division**

#### **Bel Canto, Choral Director - Jessica Bell / Assistant Director, Steve Cocchiola**

These classes emphasize the joy of making music through song and movement, and are ideal for beginners who love to sing who turn at least 5 years old by September 1st, and mainly consist of singers in grades k-2.. This level provides a learning experience by trained, professional vocal educators and is the foundation of good choral technique. This allows the choir to be large enough that these young singers are comfortable experimenting with their voices without feeling like they are singing alone and reaping the benefits of a low pupil/teacher ratio. No audition is necessary for this level. A singer should expect to be in this class for at least 2 years. These singers expand their musical knowledge, understanding, and talent each rehearsal night as they participate in Extension Experiences (Tiny Pops).

#### **Advanced Choir (AC), Choral Director - Emily Garlock / Assistant Director, Shara Cocchiola**

This choir represents the advanced training level of instruction for grades 3+. Singers are placed in this choral ensemble via a non-competitive audition based on a combination of their current demonstrated vocal range and ability, age, grade level and maturity level. In addition to individual singing and choral ensemble techniques, this choir provides singers the opportunity to grow as well- rounded musicians. Singers should expect to become fluent in 3-part harmony and will be exposed to harmonies in 4 parts. A singer should expect to sing with this choir for 2-3 years. These singers expand their musical knowledge, understanding, and talent each rehearsal night as they participate in Extension Experiences.



## **Ensemble Division**

### **Performance Choir (PC) & Principal Conductor - Heather Cooper**

This group of talented and proficient choral ensemble members focuses on the art, nuances, and complexity of choral music performance in many forms. Performance Choir singers are held to an extremely high standard of musicianship in the classical choral arts. These auditioned singers learn and grow as musical individuals, ensemble members, performers and as mentors to the younger children in the program as musical family leaders. This group is the flagship choral ensemble of the Children's Choir Program and should expect to perform multiple additional performances throughout the season as they arise. It is important that singers in this ensemble understand the level of dedication required to this choral experience, as each voice counts in rehearsals and performances. The Performance Choir attendance policy can be found in this document, where, due to the demands and expectations of this choir, it is different from the general Children's Choir Program attendance policy. Through their gift of song, Performance Choir provides inspiration throughout the community and the nation! In addition to the Performance Choir expectations, these singers expand their musical knowledge, understanding, and talent each rehearsal night as they participate in Extension Experiences.

#### **Attendance Policy - Performance Choir**

Retreats, dress rehearsals and core concerts are mandatory.

Core concerts include all concert events listed on the calendar provided at Munday Funday registration. If more than 6 hours of rehearsals/events are missed, the singer will be required to submit a recording ONE WEEK prior to the concert you wish to sing. The recording must include all Performance Choir songs that will be performed on the concert. Singers who do not meet this requirement will not be allowed to sing on the concert.

●**Optional Annual Performance Choir Tour:** Tours are carefully crafted musical experiences consisting of education and performance opportunities that singers would not otherwise experience. It is highly recommended that singers in Performance Choir participate in the annual tour, however, due to the additional cost of touring, tours are optional, as the family of each singer sees appropriate. Rooming on tour is at the discretion of the parents/guardians and the SCS staff. Students wishing to room together must have permission from the aforementioned entities.

●**Optional Senior Solo Opportunity:** Seniors have the opportunity to audition to sing a solo on a spring concert. Repertoire should be chosen that is representative of the core choir learning experience. Possible pieces include folk songs, art songs, arias, songs in a foreign language, hymns and traditional faith based songs, solo and ensemble selections, etc. Genres that should be avoided include Broadway tunes, pop and country music, contemporary christian songs, etc. Singers should come to the audition prepared to sing with 4 copies of printed sheet music in the correct key (one for the pianist, 2 for the directors, one for themselves) The audition does not need to be memorized, however, the performance on stage for the Senior Solo does. A final hearing of the Senior Solo will be scheduled on the same day as the Senior luncheon before the final concert. Failure to adhere to any of the rubric requirements above may result in disqualification of the performance. A professional standard will be adhered to by the singer to ensure a positive experience. Questions regarding the Senior Solo opportunity should be directed to the Executive Artistic Director.

●**Optional Senior Prom/Formal Attire:** Seniors are invited and encouraged to wear their prom/formal attire to the Splendid Serenade concert, where graduating high school singers are featured. A picture of

the singer wearing the intended garment is required at least one week before the concert for dress code approval. Approval is at the sole discretion of the Executive Artistic Director.

### **Extension Experiences**

SCS's unique curriculum and performance model provides singers the opportunity to study, rehearse, explore, and perform various styles and genres of music. Extension Experiences are offered on a rotation so that every singer experiences each class several times each semester. These classes further enhance their individual understanding of the world of music in many forms. Extension Experiences may include: recorders, drumming, pitched percussion (xylophones, glockenspiels), *Boomwhackers*, Mindful Wellness (Dalcroze), dance, or be based in different vocal styles such as jazz, a cappella, Broadway, Movie Music, World Music, etc.

### **Music Theory**

SCS excels in maintaining and promoting music educational excellence through a core music curriculum through musicianship. Music theory is included in all choirs and the curriculum is designed to provide comprehensive music instruction tailored to the specific ability and knowledge level of the SCS singer. This curriculum has been chosen specifically for Summit Choral Society and is strongly rooted in the Kodály method of music education. Music theory book completion and progress may be used in evaluation at the end of each year and subsequent choir placement. Books are consumable products, one of which is included in the tuition cost. **Replacement books are \$20.**

### **Choir Advancement Expectations**

Singers are initially placed in one of the four core curricular choirs (Bel Canto Choir, Advanced Choir, Performance Choir) SCS promotes musical stability throughout the CCP with singers who return and expand their choral abilities for multiple years in the same core choir. Singers should expect to move, on average, to the next level choir every two to four years. A number of factors influence a director's decision to place a singer in another choir; vocal ability, age, behavior, maturity level and vocal timbre and color as it relates to a child's developing voice and blending cohesively in a given ensemble are some influences and musicianship progress and demonstrated understanding. This creates a hierarchy of singers within each choir, representing how many seasons that singer has been a member of each core choir. Singers may gain more responsibility each season as they work their way through the levels below and take on vocal leadership positions in their choir. When a singer is recommended to a new core choir, that singer begins as an Apprentice in the new choir.

- **Apprentice** – First year core choir member
- **Scholar** – Second year core choir member
- **Master** – Third year core choir member
- **Luminary** – Fourth year core choir member
- **Luminary + (#)** – Fifth year and beyond

### **School Choir Commitment**

The success of CCP depends largely upon the support and partnership it has received from music teachers in the greater Akron area. It is expected that CCP singers will be active participants in their school choirs (if available), and that each SCS singer is a leader in their school's musical ensembles – both vocal and instrumental.

## **Uniform Information**

In order to keep the focus of the SCS concerts on the choral artistry of singing and to avoid any visual distractions, all singers will adhere to the following performance attire guidelines at performance events.

### **Uniform Requirements**

**Bel Canto and Advanced Choir:** Singers wear non-faded dress black slacks (fitted at the waist- NOT JEANS!), black long-sleeved button-down oxford-style collared shirt, black socks, closed-toe black flat dress shoes.

**Performance Choir Dress, Option 1:** Available for purchase from SCS, \$100. These long black crepe dresses with red satin sashes need to be ordered through SCS directly from the manufacturer.

Tailoring/alterations must be made post purchase and are the responsibility of the singer.

**Performance Choir Dress, Option 2:** These singers wear non-faded dress black slacks (fitted at the waist- NOT JEANS!), black long-sleeved button-down oxford-style collared shirt, black socks, closed-toe black flat dress shoes. Accessories are TBD.

**SCS base pin and year bar(s):** are considered a basic, essential part of the uniform and are provided once at no additional cost to singers each season. **These will be made available to singers once a semester, on a designated night.** Singers may be excluded from participating in an event if they are missing these important items. Replacement bars and pins are available for purchase, \$10 each.

### **Hair Requirements**

Singers with longer hair wear their hair in an inverted ponytail centered in the middle of their head, in line with their ears. If hair is too short to pull into a ponytail it should be pulled back from the face and secured with bobby pins. Bobby pins and hair bands should match hair color. Only naturally occurring hair colors are allowed on stage so as to not distract from the performance.

### **Jewelry and Make-up**

Singers may only wear small diamond stud or pearl earrings. No facial jewelry. Watches covered by sleeves are allowed. Singers may use make-up only to accent and highlight natural features. Nails should be natural looking, either unpainted or with a natural color French manicure.

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## **METROPOLITAN CHORUS**

The Metropolitan Chorus is a multi-generational adult ensemble comprised of singers from many different walks of life who share a passion for the choral arts. These men and women are dedicated to providing outstanding and inspirational performances to audiences in the Greater Akron community.

### **PLACEMENT AUDITIONS, SECTIONS ON ROTATION**

Auditions are not required to sing with the Metropolitan Chorus, however, those wishing to sing may undergo a placement audition. This placement audition assesses the ever-changing qualities of the human voice. Singers will be asked to sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (first verse) in a key representative of their range. The anticipated rotation is: Fall 2022 - Soprano, Fall 2023 - Tenor, Fall 2024 - Alto, Fall 2025 - Bass, with this rotation repeating in perpetuity. Singers new to the choir in a year or session subsequent to placement audition for that section will be asked to audition for placement within that specific section. Placement auditions are held annually on the Tuesday evening 1-2 weeks prior to the Metropolitan Chorus start (fall). Appointment slots will be available during the normal rehearsal time.

**VIBRATO** is a technique used by many singers and can be a beautiful addition to solo and small ensemble singing. The subtle oscillation between different pitches can provide a warmth, depth and resonance to a note which enhances performances in certain settings. While this technique and its variation in pitch can be a fantastic addition in many solo settings, it can be a hindrance in a classical choral setting. Competing renditions of vibrato in the higher register does not let singular composed pitches reconcile within the section or the choir. It is imperative for the overall tone and structure of classical choral chords that each note be sung in tune, with little pitch fluctuation. This creates the intended chords and intricacies intended by the composer of the repertoire without obstruction. **Plan to sing placement auditions with no vibrato.**

## **ABSENCES**

Singers are allowed no more than two excused absences per session. Absences should be reported.

## **MUSIC PICK UP**

Music will be available for advance pick up the Tuesday evening, 5:30-8:00 PM, the week prior to Metropolitan Chorus start each session. You do not need to pick up the music early as it will also be available at the first rehearsal.

## **REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE**

In order for the ensemble to perform well, singers need to be independently well prepared for rehearsals and performances and also support and listen to each other. The following will help to ensure that rehearsal time is used efficiently and effectively.

- Singers should be in their assigned seats with their music and a pencil, ready to warm up prior to the start of rehearsal.
- Cell phones should not be used during rehearsals, including for texting. Please be sure that they are put away and silenced.
- In deference to the singers around you, do not wear fragrances.
- No food or drink, besides water, are permitted in the rehearsal area. You are encouraged to bring a water bottle.
- The conductor will provide markings which you are required to write in your music. Markings should be done in pencil.
- Do not talk during rehearsal.

## **CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

- Arrive in your concert attire prior to call time for the performance.
- Do not wear fragrances, especially since performances are usually in tight quarters.
- Do not talk or gesture to audience members anytime you are onstage
- Enter and exit the stage quickly, carefully and quietly.
- When entering or exiting the stage, music is carried at your side in the hand away from the audience. Keep your folder at your side until the director gives the cue to raise it.
- Turn your music as quietly as possible. Avoid page turns during breaks or lower volume points

in the singing or accompaniment.

- Music should be organized in concert order in your black folder.
- Tabs to mark music are recommended. These are especially helpful to quickly find the appropriate song or section after your folder has been closed between performance sets or when a section of written music is planned to be skipped during the performance.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

The rules and guidelines below are to ensure a professional and unified appearance for the chorus.

**Music Folder** All music must be in a black chorus folder for all performances. Three-ring binders are *not* acceptable. For your convenience, Summit Choral Society has folders available for purchase. (\$30.00)

**Hair** Only naturally-occurring hair colors are permitted, as non-natural colors detract from the unified and professional appearance of the chorus.

**Singer Pin & Bars** SCS celebrates the years of dedication to choral arts by providing all of its singers with a pin that has bars representing landmark years and accomplishments. All Metropolitan Chorus singers will receive a singer bar plus additional bars for every five years of singing with SCS. The pin is to be worn on the left lapel/upper chest at all concert events. Service bars should be worn alongside other SCS bars earned from Board of Director, alumni, children's choir programs.

## Concert Dress

- Full-length black dress pants/slacks hems should reach the floor
- Black formal dress/gown (full-length) hems should reach the floor
- Black skirt (full-length) – hems should reach the floor
- Black suit or tuxedo with white shirt and black bowtie, hems should reach the floor
- Black top/blouse
- Long-sleeve black dress shirt or black blouse – necklines should be modest, hems should reach the floor
- Black tie/bowtie
- Black dress shoes or flats – no high heels
- Black socks or hosiery
- Not permitted: spaghetti straps, open shoulders, open-toed footwear, denim or excessive jewelry

**\*No exposed ankles with dress slacks.**

## SINGER RECEPTION

A singer reception for the Metropolitan Chorus may be held once each concert session restrictions permitting. SCS will provide apps and beverages. This is a great time for singers and conductors to mix and mingle!

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Metropolitan Chorus steering committee consists of a lead committee chair and section leaders. The section leaders are responsible for answering questions in their section and providing assistance in rehearsal, noting and communicating difficult parts and/or leading rehearsal during sectionals. These leaders also help guide choir priorities, including organization and general operations, and influence tour/travel opportunities.

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### **CHORAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM**

The Summit Choral Society Choral Scholars Program provides college students with opportunities for professional experiences with a community choir organization that go beyond what they experience in a college setting. These unique experiences further their leadership, music, and organizational skills while providing service and superb musicianship skills to the choirs.

**Participants review this handbook thoroughly and make sure you are comfortable with all aspects of the contents before registering for a Summit Choral Society Program.**

Contact the office if you have questions regarding the material set forth in this document, [scocchiola@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:scocchiola@summitchoralsociety.org) or 330-434-7464.

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## SUMMIT CHORAL SOCIETY (SCS)

### LIABILITY AND PERMISSIONS WAIVER

Summit Choral Society (SCS) may observe reasonable guidelines and protocols issued by governing authorities regarding public health. These steps may include the requirement of social distancing at rehearsals/classes/programs/events and the use of signage to denote where participants should sit or stand, a health check-in system before attending programs, and the requirement that employees wear masks when interacting with participants (as recommended). SCS cannot prevent the exposure to, contracting or spread of any virus/disease during its programs. Therefore, if the undersigned chooses to participate and/or chooses to allow his/her child or ward to participate in any of SCS's programs, such choice increases the risk of contracting or spreading any virus/disease.

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that SCS may revise health and safety procedures at any time based upon updated recommended guidance and protocols issued by governing authorities. The undersigned further understands and acknowledges both the known and potential risks of participating in any SCS program, which participation may, despite SCS's reasonable efforts to mitigate such risks, result in exposure to any virus/disease, which may in turn result in quarantine requirements, serious illness, and/or death.

The undersigned, by his/her signature, certifies that he/she has read and understands this Waiver of Liability and, that by participating in any of SCS's programs, he/she voluntarily assumes and accepts the risk of themselves or a child/ward contracting any virus/disease.

I, the undersigned, agrees on my behalf and on behalf of my child/ward, to forever release and waive my and my child/ward's right to bring suit against SCS, its employees, board members, volunteers, or agents for any loss, liability, damages, or costs I may incur as a result of participation in SCS's programs, including as a result of exposure to or contraction of COVID-19. I understand that this Waiver of Liability means that I give up my right to bring any claims against SCS, including for personal injury, death, disease, or property losses, or any other loss, including, but not limited to, claims of negligence, and I give up any claim I and/or my child/ward may have to seek damages, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen.

Tuition and fees policy: Enrollment in SCS choirs is an annual commitment. The registration fee and SCS Accessory Fee are non-refundable under any circumstances. Tuition is an annual commitment and non-refundable, regardless of payment format, and will be drafted as indicated on this document. Questions about this policy can be obtained by calling the office. By signing below you agree to the terms of this document.

Media release: I hereby grant permission for photographs, video, sound and/or written or verbal accounts of my child to be used in any media outlet so chosen by Summit Choral Society. This consent shall be retroactive, in that any photograph, video, sound and/or written or verbal account attained previously or in the future may be used by Summit Choral Society in any media outlet. Summit Choral Society promises not to use any account of a child in a negative, false, or destructive fashion, By signing below I agree to the above stated terms.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL PROVISIONS OF DOCUMENT INCLUDING WAIVER OF LIABILITY, TUITION AND FEES POLICY AND MEDIA RELEASE.  
I FREELY AND KNOWINGLY ASSUME THE RISK AND WAIVE MY RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF MY CHILD/WARD CONCERNING LIABILITY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE:

Name of Child(ren) or Ward(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian/Adult Singer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

New _____
Renewal _____
Date Received: _____

## Summit Choral Society

### Music Programs

#### Financial Assistance/Scholarship Application

Singer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Choir Ensemble \_\_\_\_\_

Years in SCS \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of persons in household \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain any situations that you feel are relevant to your request for financial aid/scholarship assistance.

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Approximate Annual Household Income \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you qualify for government assistance such as food stamps, HUD, WIC, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Office Use Only

Worksheet
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Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Aid      OR      Scholarship Fund

Reduced % Offered \_\_\_\_\_ Reduced \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted \_\_\_\_\_

Declined \_\_\_\_\_



**Notes:**

Return to: [scocchiola@summitchoralsociety.org](mailto:scocchiola@summitchoralsociety.org)