



COME JOIN THE MASTER SINGERS OF WORCESTER!

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The **Master Singers of Worcester** (MSW) has openings for new singers in all voice parts for its 2024-25 season. Come try us out! There is no formal audition, but please note the membership information listed below.

MSW is a chorus of approximately 40 singers under the direction of Artistic Director Edward Tyler. We specialize in, well... in not specializing. MSW is a versatile group of community singers who are equally at home with Bach, Bartok, or The Beatles! And, there are TWO Chapters of MSW, one based in Massachusetts, and one in Connecticut, which combine forces for concerts, and make it easier for you to make MSW part of your weekly schedule. Tuesday rehearsals are held at Manchester High School (134 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT), and Wednesday rehearsals (and all concerts) are at Trinity Lutheran Church (73 Lancaster Street, Worcester, MA). All rehearsals are from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Our 2024-25 Season:

Voices, Piano, Strings - November 23

(Rehearsals begin September 3/4)

Complete Bach (at Mechanics Hall) - March 23

(Rehearsals begin December 3/4)

Stranger Sings... - May 17

(Rehearsals begin March 4/5)



Member Responsibilities

Dues

\$150 for the season or \$50 per concert, plus \$35 each concert for the purchase of music. To keep our fees lower, MSW members are encouraged to help with fundraising efforts. Except for music borrowed from other sources, all music may be kept by the MSW members.

This is a TREMENDOUS value at less than \$5.00 per week! Payment plans and financial aid are available. Please note - the \$35 music fee is due at the FIRST rehearsal.

Concert Dress

Women: All black dress clothes. Optional “pop” of color

Men: All black dress clothes. Colored tie. Jacket is optional.

Preparation

All members are expected to practice outside of weekly rehearsals. Practice tracks are available, usually from the first rehearsal. Regular rehearsal attendance (once per week) is expected, and members are encouraged to take advantage of both Chapter rehearsals to make up absences and/or get extra help on difficult pieces. Members who miss more than two (2) rehearsals during any concert preparation period may be asked by the Artistic Director to show mastery of music, or may be excluded from the concert performance.

We combine forces on the Wednesday before each concert (there is no Tuesday rehearsal that week), and again for a Saturday morning “dress” rehearsal on the day of the concert. Except under extreme circumstances, combined rehearsals are mandatory.

For more information, visit our website at MSWMA.ORG.

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Membership FAQs

Who are the Master Singers of Worcester?

The Master Singers of Worcester (MSW) is a non-profit, volunteer-run community chorus which performs high quality choral music for the enjoyment of both its members and audience. Founded in 1976, MSW has distinguished itself by presenting a diverse repertoire, including familiar masterworks, lesser known sacred and secular works, as well as many world and area premieres, often in collaboration with other choruses, musicians, and cultural groups. Recent examples include Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard*, Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, and a concert in tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Beginning in March 2025, MSW will be a proud partner of the eleven-year *Complete Bach Project* with Music Worcester at Mechanics Hall.

The chorus ranges in size from 32-40 men and women, from young adults to seniors, and draws its membership primarily from central MA and CT. MSW performs three concerts annually, in addition to occasional community outreach events. Weekly rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at Manchester High School in Manchester, CT, and Wednesday evenings at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, MA. Edward Tyler took over as Artistic Director in July 2017 after the retirement of Malcolm Halliday.

Do I have to be a great sight-reader to become a Master Singer?

NO. Weekly rehearsals include note review and/or sectional rehearsals. However, you are expected to review the music on your own so you can learn it in a timely manner. Singers should also be actively engaged in improving their skills by seeking out individual coaching or by regularly using digital media resources, like our practice tracks.

What are my financial obligations to the group?

Membership dues are currently \$150 per season (Sept – May), plus \$35 per concert for the purchase of music. The \$35 Music fee is due by the first rehearsal of each concert. Members can also pay \$50 per performance, and/or make arrangements to spread out dues payments. All members are asked to participate in fundraising efforts. If you need to pay in installments, please see our Treasurer to make those arrangements. MSW also offers financial aid. Please see our Vice President to apply. All financial aid applications are managed confidentially. Payments can be made online on the [MEMBER RESOURCES](#) page of our website.

Are there attendance requirements?

YES. To ensure the highest level of performance, members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals in their entirety. Attendance is taken weekly. The maximum number of absences for any concert performance, for whatever reason, is two (2). If a member is absent from rehearsal more than 2 times prior to any concert, permission needs to be obtained from the Artistic Director to perform in that concert.

Members should notify the MSW Artistic Director of planned absences well in advance. Unforeseen absences (illness, emergencies, transportation issues, etc.) should be reported to the Membership Coordinator prior to rehearsal. Members are responsible to obtain all markings from missed rehearsals. Members can remove absences from the record by attending rehearsals at the other Chapter, and all members are encouraged to take advantage of this to help with any music that they find especially difficult.

Note: Chronic tardiness or early departures from rehearsal may result in exclusion from a concert event. Also, the combined rehearsals before any concert performance are considered mandatory rehearsals for all members without exception.



Membership FAQs (cont.)

Does MSW require certain concert attire?

YES. MSW has established the following standards for concert attire so that singers have a uniform, professional appearance (exceptions are soloists and special costuming). Members must conform to the concert dress policy to appear in the concert. If you have trouble getting the required concert dress, PLEASE let us know so we can assist you.

Please: NO perfumes, scented hair spray or after-shave lotions. Some of these products can cause allergic reactions or act as irritants to others.

Women/Upper voices:

- Black ankle-length dress, or black skirt/slacks & blouse, discreet jewelry
- Colorful scarf of your own choice, solid or print

Men/Lower voices:

- Long-sleeve button-down plain black shirt, full length black slacks, black socks & shoes
- Colorful tie of your own choice, solid or print

Clarifications:

- Slacks are not: leggings, jeans, sweatpants, etc.
- Gray is not black; blacks should be crisp & dark, like a tuxedo.

Am I expected to participate in fundraising events?

YES. Members are expected to sell tickets to our concerts, participate in fundraising events, and may be asked to sing in a small group for a paid gig. Ticket sales and member dues account for less than half of our operating budget, so additional fund raising is a necessity. Our major fundraising events include a wreath sale in the Fall, a basket raffle, an online popcorn sale, and a donation drive during the Summer.

How else can I support MSW?

As a non-profit organization, MSW relies on its members and other volunteers to operate. Therefore, your talents beyond an ability to sing are crucial. If you have a skill, we definitely need you! All members are also encouraged to attend Board meetings, and to consider becoming a Board member. It doesn't take much time to have a big impact on our continued success!

2024-2025 MSW Board Members

President – Lorraine Cote, letoc622@gmail.com

Vice President – Jon Nelson, jondavidnelson@comcast.net

Clerk/Treasurer – Mary Wright, mtwscribe@gmail.com

Social Media - Sydney Bridgeman, sydneyrbridgeman@gmail.com

Members at Large - Vince Aquilino, vince.aquilino@gmail.com Erika Glass, Erikalouise@icloud.com

Gloria Goguen, gjgoguen@comcast.net Mary Gorry, gorrymaj@gmail.com

Polly Kean, pkean635@gmail.com Irv Spenadel, ledaneps7@aol.com



2024-25 Season

Voices, Piano, Strings

Concert: Saturday, November 23, 7:00 pm

Rehearsals

September: 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25

October: 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 29 & 30

November: 5 & 6, 12 & 13

Combined: Wednesday, November 20

Dress: Saturday, November 23 - 11:00 am

Complete Bach – Cantatas 40 & 64

Concert: Sunday, March 23 (afternoon)

Rehearsals

December: 3 & 4, 10 & 11

January: 7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22, 28 & 29

February: 4 & 5, 11 & 12, 18 & 19, 25 & 26

March: **4 & 5, 11 & 12**

Combined: Wednesday, March 19

Dress: Saturday, March 22 (morning - Mechanics Hall)

Stranger Sings...

Concert: Saturday, May 17, 7:00 pm

Rehearsals

March: **4 & 5, 11 & 12**, 25 & 26

April: 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 29 & 30

May: 6 & 7

Combined: Wednesday, May 14

Dress: Saturday, May 17 - 11:00 am

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