



A word from our Music Director:

Welcome to the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra! All are welcome to join us. Our singers range from the highly skilled and experienced to those with a love for music and an eagerness to try something new. Working and learning together, we can perform concerts which are both musically and emotionally gratifying.

~ Joshua W. Rohde

Singer Information

Communications

Weekly emails are sent from our Constant Contact account and will show in your inbox as coming from “**RI Civic Chorale & Orchestra**”. These messages usually contain instructions from Joshua on preparing for our next rehearsal and other important information. **Please be sure to check your email at least once a day!** On occasion, you may also receive emails from your section leader or from Peggy Menna who serves as the singer coordinator/onboarding mentor for new singers.

Please be responsible in notifying your section leader (by email or text message) if:

- you are going to be late to rehearsal (be sure to check in when you arrive so your attendance can be recorded);
- you need to leave rehearsal early;
- you need to miss a rehearsal – please text your section leader before 6:00 PM; you have questions about material from a missed rehearsal; or you have any change in your contact information.

Contacts

<i>New Singer onboarding/inquires and Soprano Section Leader</i>	Peggy Menna
<i>Alto Section Leader (Spring 2024)</i>	Betsy Labeledz
<i>Bass Section Leader</i>	John Campellone
<i>Tenor Section Leader</i>	Andrew Foster

Please do not send any emails to RICCO’s ‘info’ email address – this is for general questions only.

Rehearsals and Concert Dates

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 10:00 pm at St. Sebastian’s Church, 67 Cole Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02906. Prior to each concert, we may have additional rehearsals on different nights of the week in addition to our Wednesday rehearsal. Please print out the rehearsal schedule or check it on our website at www.ricco.org and *add these dates to your paper and /or online calendars.*

Dues

Each member of the Chorale pays \$100 in dues for the full season. This amount remains the same regardless of when you start singing with us in a particular season (which runs from September – May). If you have questions or need an accommodation, you may confidentially contact our Treasurer, Cathy Laverty, at claverty325@gmail.com.

Music Scores

Prior to the beginning of the season/concert, our librarian will order music which singers then purchase at the first night of rehearsal. Occasionally, singers have the option to purchase their own music, as long as they are using the approved version per the Music Director. Rehearsal CDs are usually available for an additional fee.

Concert Dress

Singers should wear formal black attire that includes one of the following options:

- A black tuxedo or suit with a white shirt, black tie/bow tie, and black shoes.
- A black dress, skirt, or slacks with a long-sleeved top, black stockings, and black shoes.

You are encouraged to choose the option that best aligns with your comfort and expression.

Singer Expectations

Be respectful at all times!

- **Be on time** by allowing for traffic, parking, greeting friends, getting settled so we can start on time.
- **Be accountable** by keeping yourself informed of rehearsal dates, concert dates, and other important events. Check your emails, empty your inbox so you don't miss an email from the Chorale or your section leader; be sure to let your section leader know if you will be absent, late, or need to leave early.
- **Learn your music!** While we don't require auditions to join, you are expected to come to rehearsals prepared to sing. Be sure to look at your emails for helpful tips from the Music Director, make use of rehearsal CDs and other resources, and practice, practice, practice!
- **Mark your music!** Bring a pencil, use it to note instructions given by the Music Director. If markings are sent by email, be sure to transfer them to your score prior to rehearsal; *Clip or Flag* pages or sections of a large score. Place your music in a black folder, in concert order.
- **Represent the RI Civic Chorale honorably** in the community.
- **Do not endanger the RICCO Corporation** by acting in a manner that could lead to liability for RICCO.
- **RICCO is a volunteer-run organization.** Singers are expected to help with concert set-up and to volunteer in other administrative capacities. Information will be provided throughout the year on how you can help.

Singer Policies

- Attendance at all rehearsals is required. If a singer cannot attend a rehearsal, he/she must contact the section leader **before the rehearsal**.
- If a singer misses **two** or more rehearsals, the Music Director will determine whether or not the singer may participate in the concert.

- Rehearsals the week of a concert are critical, as they often include details and rehearsal with the orchestra. If a singer is unable to attend one of these rehearsals, they must be in touch with their section leader or the Music Director *in advance*.
- Conversation during rehearsals should be music-related only. Social conversations are to be limited to the break.
- Singer dues are \$100 for the season. Dues should be paid in September by cash or check. A payment plan will be offered to any who need it.
- According to RICCO Bylaws (copies available upon request), the Music Director may, at any time, require a singer to re-audition as a condition of continued participation
- Singers are welcome to attend all Board meetings. Please contact a singer-Board member (found on our website) for dates and venues.
- Singers must abide by Covid-19 policies which are subject to change.

Respectful engagement is expected by everyone. If you have an issue with another singer, please speak to your section leader, the Music Director, or any Board member directly. ***The Music Director and/or Chorale Board reserve the right to permanently dismiss or suspend a singer for any conduct that is considered disruptive and not in accordance with the policies set forth in this guide.***