



**Dr. Michael Hanawalt, Artistic Director
Annika Stucky & Ethan Murphy, Assistant Conductors**

2024-2025 SINGER HANDBOOK

with

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

All Singers are Required to read this Handbook

Chorus Mailing Address & Phone:

Post Office Box 13083

Tallahassee, FL 32317-3083

Phone: 850-597-0603

Website: <https://www.tcchorus.org/>

Contact the Membership Team:

membership@tcchorus.org

All-Singer App: Chorus Connection

<https://app.chorusconnection.com/>

2024-2025
37th Concert Season

Sunday, November 24, 2024 @ 4:00 pm

FALL: Rhapsody of Thanks

Sunday, December 8, 2024 @ 7:30 pm

FSU College of Music, Choral Dept. Seasonal Celebration

Sunday, January 26, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

UNITY 18: We are Phoenix

Sunday, April 27, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

SPRING: Psalms for the Soul

*Unless otherwise specified, all performances and dress rehearsals are
at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, Florida State University campus*

2025 SCOTLAND PERFORMANCE TOUR

June 16 ~ 24, 2025

Travel Information is available on Chorus Connection

Regular Season Subscription Prices:

\$65/\$55/\$20

Adult/Senior (62+)/Student

Call 850-597-0603 to order

Individual Ticket Prices:

\$30/\$25/\$10

Adult/Senior (62+)/Student

Single tickets go on sale [insert date], 2024

All Ticket Sales Final – No Refunds

Ticket Outlets:

<https://www.tcchorus.org/>

Box Office: 850-597-0603

WELCOME!

On behalf of The Tallahassee Community Chorus Board of Directors, Administrative and Artistic staff, welcome to our 37th season of filling Tallahassee with song! Whether you are returning to us from last season or seasons past, or you are joining us for the first time, we hope you will stick it out and learn some great music, renew some friendships, make some new friends, and enjoy the community that singing in a choir creates.

Your commitment to attend rehearsals and learn the music, along with your willingness to contribute to the success and sustainability of your Chorus, by donating financially or serving through volunteerism, will further enhance your experience. It takes the entire ensemble, along with our dedicated artistic and administrative staff, our volunteers, and the support of our patrons, sponsors, and friends to present the quality of performances our community has come to expect from an award-winning ensemble of our size. Your willingness to help with more than your voice is not only vital but is enormously appreciated by your volunteer Board of Directors!

We hope this handbook answers your questions about attendance requirements, rehearsals, performance etiquette, concert attire, and singer health and safety. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to ask any Board member (they are the folks with “Board Member” ribbons on their name tags) or Executive Director Maclain Hardin-Kurza! We welcome and appreciate your questions and your suggestions by email via our membership email box: membership@tchorus.org.

Please Read All Information In This Handbook!

Registration will be completed online by all singers prior to the first rehearsal, which is **Monday, August 26, 2024**. General information about rehearsals can be found on our website, [HERE](#). Dues must be paid online via your Chorus Connection account at www.chorusconnection.com or by sending a check, payable to Tallahassee Community Chorus, to PO Box 13083, Tallahassee, FL 32317-3083. Please include “Singer Registration” on the check Memo line.

We wish you a joyful and successful concert season!

Jan Smith, President, Board of Directors
Dr. Michael Hanawalt, Artistic Director
Maclain Hardin-Kurza, Executive Director
Karalee Poschman, Director of Membership
Marie Clewis, Assistant Director of Membership

“Singing is the quintessential bringer-together: Songs and choruses unite us in unique and mysterious ways.” ~Alice Parker~

Make the Most Out of Your Membership:

READ this Handbook all the way through!

READ the weekly email newsletter, “Monday Night Notes,”
and check www.chorusconnection.com regularly!

MARK & BRING your music to every rehearsal! (Bring a pencil if using a paper score!)

EMAIL our membership team at membership@tcchorus.org if you will be absent or late.

MEET the singers sitting around you and get to know each other!

RESPECT yourself & your fellow choristers.

TELL us about major events coming up for you and your Chorus friends/family by posting
on the bulletin board at www.chorusconnection.com

SPREAD THE WORD about our upcoming concerts & events!

ENJOY learning and performing the world’s greatest choral music!

*I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity... to see the faces of real people
devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel
optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.*

~Paul McCartney~

About the Chorus

Mission:

To present residents of Leon and the surrounding counties with live concerts of choral masterworks of the highest caliber, to provide educational opportunities in the community, and to showcase Tallahassee’s cultural distinction via national and international travel. The Tallahassee Community Chorus strives to maintain one of the finest non-auditioned mixed community choral ensembles in the nation.

Brief History:

Formed in 1988, the Chorus presents three concerts per season and performs in the annual FSU “Seasonal Celebration” concert. The Chorus is the only community chorus of its size and quality that does not require an audition for membership. The Chorus generally travels every alternate year, and this season, 2025 is a travel year!

In addition to being internationally acclaimed, in 2017, the Chorus received the American Prize

Award, Community Chorus Division, and a Second Place American Prize Award for Arts Marketing. The Chorus was honored to perform, by invitation, the opening concert of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) 60th National Conference, presenting the world premiere of *Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy*, composed and dedicated to the Chorus by former Artistic Director Dr. André J. Thomas. The Chorus has performed in various venues nationally and internationally and under the batons of such esteemed guest conductors as Krzysztof Penderecki, the late Sir David Willcocks, the late Robert Shaw, Simon Halsey, Dr. Anton Armstrong, and Dr. Rollo Dilworth.

Travel Experiences:

2004 Carnegie Hall Performance, New York City
2007 Beijing International Choral Festival, China
2008 Kennedy Center Performance, Washington DC
2011 Prague Choral Festival, Czech Republic
2013 Paris Choral Festival, Paris and Normandy, France
2015 Rome Choral Festival, Rome, Italy & the Vatican
2017 Limerick Sings! International Choral Festival, Limerick, Ireland
2019 ACDA National Convention, Kansas City, MO
2023 Lisbon Choral Festival, Lisbon, Portugal



Singer Membership Eligibility & Requirements

Access, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) Statement:

The Tallahassee Community Chorus welcomes singers of all musical abilities and ages, middle school age and above, and shall not discriminate or condone discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, physical and/or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, sexual orientation, military and/or veteran status, socio-economic status, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law or ordinance or regulation.

Download the “Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment, and Complaint Procedure” via Chorus Connection at www.chorusconnection.com

Singer Membership Eligibility:

The Tallahassee Community Chorus welcomes singers of the community of all musical abilities and ages, middle school-age and above, who commit to the purpose and principles. ***All Singers must sign a “Singer Commitment & Acknowledgment” statement when they register for the 2024-2025 Concert Season.***

No auditions are required to sing in the Chorus; however, the abilities to match pitch and follow directed tempos are important to the quality of performance and may be verified at the discretion of the Artistic Director.

Singer membership may be denied or revoked for failure to meet and maintain membership requirements, or for consistent failure to comply with Chorus policies or participation requirements.

Requirements to Maintain Membership:

1. Attend rehearsals and comply as required.
2. Complete all registration requirements.
3. Pay dues by third rehearsal as mandated by the Board.
4. Comply with all membership requirements as published and amended or updated.
5. Comply with ADEI policies and procedures.

Rehearsal Requirements:

1. Be on time, ready to begin at the designated start time; stay for the entire rehearsal. If you will be late or absent, report this to the membership team (membership@tcchorus.org) in advance, if possible, or as soon as possible after the absence or tardiness.
2. Permanent nametags on lanyards will be provided to each Singer. Returning members should bring their lanyard from previous seasons. New members will receive their nametag on the first night of rehearsal. It is each singer's responsibility to wear their nametag to each subsequent rehearsal and to all dress rehearsals. If you change voice parts or lose your nametag, please notify the Membership Team via email to membership@tcchorus.org and a new nametag will be issued.
3. The Membership Team takes attendance no more than 10 minutes after the start of each rehearsal. If you are not present when attendance is taken, you will be recorded as absent.
4. No gum, candy, or food is permitted in rehearsals. No beverages except water in your container with a secure lid or top. NOTE: we comply with all venue requirements. If the venue prohibits all beverages, then do not bring any beverage.
5. No homework is to be done during rehearsal.
6. Unless otherwise specified by the Artistic Director, iPads and tablets may be utilized to display music during rehearsals. Turn off all other unnecessary electronic devices. **NO texting, messaging, emailing, posting, or gaming on your phone or other device during rehearsals. It is disrespectful to the conductors and to each other. Photography, video, or audio recording is not allowed without permission.** Your phone or device may be held until the end of rehearsal for continued violation, which may result in you losing access to your music! It is not worth the risk!

Rehearsal Time & Location:

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm every Monday. Rehearsal times and dates may be changed, and additional rehearsals may be called by the Artistic Director.

Location: Alfriend Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church (Corner of Monroe & Call Streets, entry from Calhoun Street). **Parking:** Check [HERE](#) for parking information. *Please Do Not Park In Restricted, Permit Only Tow-Away Lots Or The Bank Drive-Thru Lot! You Will Be Towed!!*

Concert Etiquette:

1. No cell phones on stage or backstage.
2. No gum, candy, or food. No water onstage; water in a secure container backstage only if permitted by the venue.
3. No perfume or cologne.
4. No talking.
5. No clapping for fellow performers.
6. No waving to the audience.
7. No smoking during intermission.
8. Comply with all venue requirements.
9. **All music must be in a black folder or tablet with a black cover, unless otherwise specified.**
10. Do enjoy the experience – you earned it!

Concert Attire Requirements: (See the visual aid after the Health Guidelines)

Regulated concert black is the required attire for the Chorus. Attire will include:

1. Black dress shirt; cap-sleeve length or longer.
2. Black bottom of singer's choice to include ankle-length pants or full-length black skirt.
Leggings, jeans, capris or short skirts are not allowed.
3. Close-toed black dress shoes
4. Black knee highs or black socks.
5. No neckwear, dangling earrings, flashy or large jewelry/hair-wear is allowed.
6. Those who already own previously required dresses/tuxedos may continue to use them, provided they comply with the current requirements. Please check with Membership.

Chorus Participation Requirements*:

1. Be a member in good standing.
2. Attend all regular rehearsals with no more than three absences per semester. After three absences, concert participation will be at the discretion of the Artistic Director.
3. Be punctual for all rehearsals with no more than five late arrivals per semester.
4. Attend **all** dress rehearsals (those at the concert venue) for the specific performance (unless **prior** approval is granted by Director of Membership or Artistic Director).
5. Wear the required concert attire.
6. Behave in a manner that is not detrimental or distracting to other performers at rehearsals and performances.
7. Make a musical and artistic contribution to the chorus (at a minimum, you must be able to match pitch and maintain directed tempo).

*Items 1, 2, 3, shall be determined from attendance records of the chorus. Items 4, 5 & 6 shall be determined by the Artistic Director, the President and two other voting members of the Board of Directors. Item 7 shall be determined by the Artistic Director. *Any person who does not fulfill all 7 requirements will not be allowed to perform at the discretion of the Artistic Director, and membership may be revoked or denied by the Board upon consultation with the Artistic Director.*

Support Your Chorus with More Than Your Voice!

DONATE! (The Chorus is a Florida registered, IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit organization)

Support your Chorus with a donation! Ask your employer about their donation matching program. Is this your RMD year? Ask your financial/tax adviser about the benefit of donating a distribution to the Chorus! Donate over time with a modest monthly recurring donation. Donations to the fund of your choice can be made at <https://www.tcchorus.org>

Promote Your Chorus!

Volunteer to help with marketing! Ask a local business you support to support your community chorus by sponsoring a rehearsal or a concert! (Email membership@tcchorus.org to find out how!) Share the Chorus social media posts and let us know if you would like an eblast sent to your school, group, club, church, or organization! Encourage your friends, colleagues, and family members to buy tickets to our performances!

Follow Us Online and Share Our Posts!

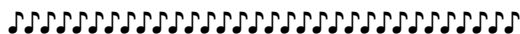
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/TheTallahasseeCommunityChorus>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tcchorus> or @tcchorus

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/TheTallahasseeCommunityChorus>

Volunteer!

Your skills and abilities are needed! Answer the call to help your fellow singers and your community by volunteering! Contact us for upcoming opportunities at membership@tcchorus.org.



Your Board of Directors & Staff

Dr. Michael Hanawalt, Artistic Director
Annika Stucky, Assistant Conductor
Ethan Murphy, Assistant Conductor
Dr. Judy Arthur, Collaborative Pianist
Maclain Hardin-Kurza, Executive Director
Jan Smith, President
Barbara D'Annunzio, Past President
Gail Weathersbee, Treasurer
Donna Smithey, Secretary
Vanessa Pinto, Director of Fund Development
Karalee Poschman, Director of Singer Membership
Marie Clewis, Assistant Director of Singer Membership
Dora Thomas, Director of Outreach/Engagement
David Young, Director of Logistics
Todd Hinkle, Director of Ticket Sales
Christopher Gorsuch, Librarian
Jamie Kocur, Member At-Large
Arts Administration Interns (to be announced)



"Choral music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls." ~Sir John Rutter

THE TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY CHORUS

2024-2025 HEALTH GUIDELINES

Introduction

The following guidelines are designed to create a safe environment where all members, regardless of age or ability, can feel secure in pursuing their love of music. By adhering to these practices, each of us plays a crucial role in maintaining the health of our fellow singers and ensuring the continued vibrancy of our chorus. Our chorus is more than just a group of singers; we are a community that thrives on togetherness, shared passion, and mutual respect. The strength of our performances and the joy we bring to our audiences stem directly from our collective health and ability to rehearse and perform together safely.

Remember, the actions of one can impact many. In a group as diverse as ours, we must be mindful that some members may be more vulnerable to illness than others. By following these guidelines, you are not only protecting yourself but also showing care and consideration for every member of our musical family.

We ask that you read through these guidelines carefully and commit to following them. If it becomes necessary to revise or update these guidelines, you will be notified of any such revisions or updates. Your cooperation is essential in creating a healthy, supportive environment where our music can flourish.

Thank you for your dedication to our chorus and to each other's well-being. Together, we can ensure that our voices remain strong, our community remains united, and our music continues to inspire.

Health Guidelines for Tallahassee Community Chorus Members

1. Stay Home When Unwell

- If you're experiencing any symptoms of illness, especially respiratory symptoms, fever, or general malaise, please stay home and rest.
 - If you have tested positive for COVID-19, consider following the CDC isolation and precaution guidelines found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html>.
- Inform the Membership Team via membership@tcchorus.org if you will be absent due to illness.

2. Vaccination

- We strongly encourage all members to stay up-to-date with recommended vaccinations, including annual flu shots and COVID-19 boosters as advised by health authorities.

3. Hand Hygiene

- Wash your hands thoroughly before rehearsals and performances.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all rehearsals; please use it regularly.

4. Respiratory Etiquette

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Dispose of used tissues immediately and wash your hands afterward.

5. Personal Space

- To the extent it is reasonably possible, respect others' personal space during rehearsals and performances. Please refrain from moving or rearranging the chairs in the rehearsal hall, and notify the Membership Team, a board member, or the Executive Director if a seat change is needed.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with fellow chorus members.

- Please notify the Membership Team (membership@tcchorus.org) before inviting any visitors to attend a Monday rehearsal.

6. Shared Items

- Avoid sharing water bottles, music, or other personal items.
- If sheet music must be shared, use hand sanitizer before and after handling.

7. Mask Wearing

- Follow current local health guidelines regarding mask-wearing.
- Members are welcome to wear masks at any time if they feel more comfortable doing so.

8. Ventilation

- When possible, rehearsals will be held in well-ventilated areas.

9. Health Disclosure

• If you test positive for a communicable disease after attending a chorus event, please inform the Membership Team immediately via email to membership@tcchorus.org, or by text or call to 850-597-0603 for contact tracing purposes.

10. Respect for Individual Choices

- Be understanding and supportive of members who may need to take extra precautions for their health.

11. Stay Informed

- Keep yourself updated on local health guidelines and any chorus-specific updates.
- Attend any health and safety briefings provided by the chorus.

12. Mental Health

• Prioritize your mental well-being. If you're feeling overwhelmed, don't hesitate to reach out to chorus leadership for support.

If you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines, please don't hesitate to reach out via email to membership@tcchorus.org. Your health and safety are our top priorities

Let's work together to keep our chorus healthy, vibrant, and harmonious!

"Choral music allows this communion of people that dignifies their relationship to one another, as well as to what mankind might be." ~Robert Shaw