



Rehearsal Guidelines

Welcome to the Messiah Choral Society's rehearsal season! In order to make this performance our best ever, we must use our limited rehearsal time wisely, both individually and as a chorus. Our Rehearsal Guidelines will help insure our success!

- Only **3** absences are allowed during each rehearsal season in order for you to sing in performance. Additionally, you may miss only 1 of our 2 orchestra rehearsals. If you miss more than 3 rehearsals or 2 orchestra rehearsals you may appeal to the Board of Directors. The Board will consider each case on an individual basis. **Absences begin to accrue as of the first rehearsal.**
- **Be on time** and seated in your section **5 minutes before** each rehearsal begins. If an emergency makes you late, please wait until there is a break between choruses to enter the rehearsal hall.
- Stay seated during the entire rehearsal unless directed to stand by the Conductor, have a medical condition which precludes prolonged sitting, or an emergency arises that cannot wait.
- **No talking** during rehearsal. Save your comments for after rehearsal.
- During every rehearsal, your focus should be solely on singing and paying attention to the Music Director's instructions (i.e., no reading, eating, correspondence, etc.) which distract others and hinder your ability to focus.
- **Cell phones** and beepers must be turned **off** during rehearsal.
- Each singer must have a score and pencil for score annotation, as per the Music Director.
- Hold your score and head up to maintain eye contact with the Music Director at all times.
- Sing your section's part **only**, unless the Music Director instructs otherwise. Many of you have sung in different sections over the years, but it's a distraction to those around you if you sing another section's part.
- No perfumes, colognes, aftershaves, lotions, body sprays, scented hair sprays, scented deodorants, or scented soap are allowed. Many of our singers are sensitive to these products.
- It is your responsibility to sign the **attendance roster** during each rehearsal. If you do not sign, you will be counted as absent.
- If you are ill with a cold or the flu, please do not come to rehearsal until you're well again so as not to infect anyone **or** sit away from other singers.

Thank you for adhering to these rehearsal guidelines. As our Music Director, John Sinclair, says, this is truly like a team sport in which each player's part is significant in making the goal and where consistency and uniformity are very important. In our case, the goal is an exemplary performance that moves the audience and stirs their emotions. These simple guidelines can go far in helping us get there, and the Board will do its part to help us all to follow them. We're looking forward to a great rehearsal season. Thank you for being here!

Board of Directors, Messiah Choral Society