



FEAST OF CAROLS COSTUME RESOURCES

Each Madrigal Dinner performer is responsible for his or her own costume. The following pages contain resources, directions, and samples of possible items used in the past. We have also attached a resource page listing websites that will give you some idea of appropriate costume ideas, and a listing of rental outlets in our area.

The show is set in the late Medieval/early-Renaissance era, basically late 1400's to mid-1500's. It is a time of knights, jesters, princes, princesses and the like. Your costume form indicates a number of checkpoints you have to meet in order to assure that your costume is in progress or that rental plans have been made. Please consider all instructions carefully.

COSTUME RESOURCE PAGE

Websites There are many great sites if you Google Renaissance Costumes for Men or Women. Very affordable costumes are available for purchase.

www.renfaire.com discusses proper attire and behavior for Renaissance faires, has links to other sites, and gives additional information.

www.milieux.com gives links to costumes, armor, and accessories; good for ideas.

www.mccallpattern.mccall.com follow links to Halloween or Historical costumes for ideas and current pattern numbers.

www.butterick.com follow links to Halloween or Historical costumes for ideas and current pattern numbers.

www.simplicity.com follow links to Halloween or Historical costumes for ideas and current pattern numbers.

Costume Rental Shops

Rose Costumes – Rental price on tag is 3 day rental, but for school production extended to full week. Wait to visit them until early November after Halloween rentals are returned.

5800 I-35 N at Loop 288

Suite #508

Denton, TX 76207

940-566-1917

www.rosecostumes.com

The Backstage Closet – by appointment only NEW SHOPPE!

Located in Fairview at Highway 5 and Stacey Rd. Call 214-383-6707. If no answer, leave a message. Calls returned within 24 hours. Recommended appointment deadline Saturday, Nov. 29

Norcostco – Texas Costumes

1231 Wycliff Avenue

Suite 300

Dallas, TX 75207

800-657-1887

www.norcostco.com

MHS Choir has a limited supply of costumes for rent for \$20.

Shops with costumes for purchase:

Dallas Vintage Shops

1855 N. Central Expressway

Plano, TX 75075

972-422-7256

http://dallasvintageshop.com/

Mens' Hats, Capes, Cloaks, Shoes, and Leggings

Men's tights can be purchased at dancewear shops. They are cut a little different than the opaque hose that is available in the department stores. If you will be at the head table, the color of your hose cannot be white.

Sweatpants may be worn with some costumes. They need to have a rectangular piece of fabric wrapped around the calves and secured with laces. The laces should be tied in a criss cross manner to give a better effect. These laces can be strips of leather or long dark shoelaces.

Shoes may be chosen from many styles. Boots are appropriate for peasants and soldiers. Felt can be sewn to give the appearance of a boot. House slippers may be worn that are high around the ankles.

Hats come in a variety of styles. They are easy to make and add to the overall effect of the costume. Hats can be trimmed with feathers, fur, or jewels. Dancewear stores carry long feathers.

Cloaks are overcoats that extend to the floor and were used for warmth. Capes are overcoats that extend to the bottom edge of the pants. Capes and cloaks that are cut using a circle give a better effect.

Fabric

Colors—Dark rich colors: burgundy, dark teal, royal blue, crimson, rust, gold, olive, brown, and black. AVOID pastels, neons, calicos, and white.

Fabrics – Damask, velvet, brocade, tapestry, and silks for nobility and merchants. Velveteen and velour can also be used. Peasants should wear cottons, corduroy, and suede like material. Gauze is great for peasant shirts. Examine both sides of the fabric. The reverse side of a fabric may be used to create a different effect.

Costume Rental or Purchase Shops

Rose Costumes - price on tag is 3 day rental, but for school production extended to full week. Wait until after Nov. 3 so Halloween rentals are returned to reserve.

5800 I-35 N at Loop 288, Suite #508, Denton, TX 76207, 940-566-1917

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PURCHASE SHOP

Dallas Vintage Costumes – on southbound service road on west side of US 75/Central Expwy between Park and 15th Streets.

1855 N. Central Expwy. Plano, TX 75075, (972) 422-7256

<http://dallasvintageshop.com>

There may be other costumes shops with which you are familiar, feel free to rent from any place that rents Renaissance costumes.



WOMEN--Hair, Hats, and Shoes

Ladies hats should be worn to compliment the style of dress. (Cone hats are not allowed because they create a “sight” problem.) A French or English Hood can be worn. Styrofoam circles can be covered with fabric, ribbons, flowers and jewels. Bridal headpieces can be covered and decorated with trim, jewels, and ribbons. Flowers can be formed into a wreath and worn on the head.

Hair can be worn loose, braided, or a combination of both. Hair can be braided with ribbons, pearls, flowers, or cording.

Ladies shoes should look like ballet slippers. Isotoner slippers work very well. No heels should be worn. If your shoe has no arch support, it is highly recommended to purchase sole supports to slip into your shoes. The biggest complaint at the end of each night is aching feet. Do whatever you can to prevent this.

This time period emphasized low cut bodices. Since our ladies will be bending over to serve tables, necklines need to be adjusted to a more modest cut.

Fabric

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Fabrics – Damask, velvet, brocade, tapestry, and silks for nobility and merchants. Velveteen and velour can be used. Peasants should wear cottons, corduroy, and suede like material. Gauze is great for peasant shirts. Examine both sides of the fabric. The reverse side of a fabric may be used to create a different effect.

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