

Choral Foundation Protocols for Rehearsals & Concerts

Health & Safety Protocol for the Start of the 2020-2021 Concert Season

Rehearsal Policies

Pre-Rehearsal Health Self-Check: Every member will be asked to **self-check** health according to the health screening guidelines prior to leaving for rehearsal. **Members having a temperature, cough, or any hint of illness** are excused from in-person rehearsal and requested to stay home.

Health screening questions will be reviewed, and temperatures (using no-touch infrared thermometer) **will be taken from every member before admission to rehearsal** via appropriately distanced temperature stations. Members are requested to maintain distancing and mask guidelines during the health check. Sanitizer will be available.

Members who have been exposed or have been identified by health professionals as part of a contact investigation, must contact the Choral Foundation immediately and not attend live rehearsals or events for **14 days**.

Members who feel unwell for any reason are requested **not** to attend rehearsal in person. A remote attendance option is provided.

Contact Tracing: Attendance for in-person rehearsals will be recorded and retained for contact tracing. Members must maintain current contact information with the Choral Foundation at all times.

Communications: Newsletters, emails, and texts from the Festival Singers will alert singers of rehearsal changes up to minutes before scheduled rehearsal.

Virtual Rehearsal Attendance

All rehearsals during the fall semester will be live-streamed on a non-public Facebook link to members. Members who are committed to the 2020-2021 season, but who may not feel comfortable with in-person rehearsals may attend rehearsal remotely.

Live Rehearsal Attendance

A waiver indemnifying the Choral Foundation, and each of our rehearsal and concert venues will be required from each member before attending the first rehearsal.

No paperwork will be completed at rehearsals. Registration will be available to complete online or by return postal mail only. Members must maintain updated contact information at all times.

Facial coverings are required during all rehearsals. Individuals must wear masks fully covering one's mouth and nose when in common areas and when within six (6) feet of another individual. **We will be reviewing special "singers masks"** to allow good breath without drawing in fabric, resonate singing voice, and efficient articulation.

Tuition for performers will be reduced for the 2020-2021 concert in consideration of the additional expenses some members will encounter for PPE for rehearsals and concerts.

Rehearsal time frame: Initial rehearsals will be limited to 90 minutes though we ask members to reserve the traditional 7:00-9:30 time-frame in their schedules.

The Rehearsal Venue:

Multiple entrances/exits will be open for member use. Singers must maintain physical distance upon arrival and at all times. **Singer dismissals will be staggered.** We request singers to depart through 2 or 3 different doors.

Sanitizer will be available at the entrances and an information table.

The Information Table will have a greeter but no materials. All materials will be distributed by postal mail or electronically.

Singers will be asked to bring as few items into the building as possible. Please bring only the items you will need for the actual rehearsal.

There will be no food or drink provided or consumed at rehearsals.

Use of Restrooms & Water Fountains: Sanitized wipes will be provided. We ask all singers using the restroom to take personal responsibility to wipe down any surfaces touched during the restroom visit. **Water Fountains** will not be available until further notice.

No sectionals, meetings or events will happen before 7:00. Every activity will be contained within the 7:00-9:30 (or earlier) time slot to allow the rehearsal venue to be prepared.

All or a portion of many rehearsals will be conducted outside on the grassy area in front of the garden. Even though we will be outside for those portions of rehearsal, we ask members to maintain 6-foot distance and wear masks.

Masks will be required every minute singers are in the building or singing outside. We ask members to either a) refrain from having a water-bottle (to avoid removing the mask) or b) using a straw that will not require the mask to be removed.

Safety Goggles are recommended to protect eyes, but the decision to use goggles is up to each singer. Good choices are available for less than \$5 each. Recommendations will be provided later.

The conductors for each rehearsal will wear a mask and face shield and a personal mike/amplifier system.

The fans in the HVAC system in the rehearsal venue will run to circulate air throughout every rehearsal. The rear windows of the nave will be fully opened, and fans will ventilate air into the narthex and out the door leading to the street. Additional fans will ventilate air out the back of the chancel area.

HEPA Filter in Rehearsal Area: The Choral Foundation is reviewing the Alen 75i Breath Smart Classic HEPA Purifier for rehearsal areas. This device exchanges air in a 1300 square foot area every 30 minutes. We will be seeking funding to install two units in each rehearsal area.

Rehearsal Models

We will employ a variety of rehearsal arrangements and configurations to be announced in consideration of weather, musical preparation goals, and safety considerations.

Model One

Choral Training and First Half of Rehearsal on the Grass Outside **Weather Permitting*
Second Half of Rehearsal in the Nave

Model Two

Half Chorus Rehearses 7:00-7:45 in the Nave
Nave Cleared of All Singers 7:45-8:30
Other Half Chorus Rehearses 8:30-9:15 in the Nave

Model Three

Full Chorus Rehearses in Nave 7:15-8:45

Model Four

Chorus Rehearses in Three Locations
For example, in 3 SATB groups; or Sopranos/Altos/Men Rehearsing Separately
For example, Nave of CCC; Choir Room of CCC; Sullivan Library

Full Chorus Rehearsal Arrangement

When rehearsing as a full chorus, singers will be spaced in pews with only five singers per row, spread 6+ feet

apart front to back and side to side. An empty row will be maintained between each occupied row. The director will be on the platform, 20-30 feet from singers.

Season Schedule

No live or virtual performances are currently scheduled before November 1. As the season progresses, each performance will be evaluated for current safety conditions.

Considerations for Public Concerts

Every attendee will be asked to self-check health according to a list of questions prior to leaving home for performance.

Temperature will be taken from every attendee upon arrival. There will be 3-4 temperature stations to ensure attendees maintain 6' distancing during the temperature check. Each station will have a no-touch infrared thermometer. Sanitizer will be available.

We will strictly adhere to CDC recommendations and the instructions of government officials to restrict available seating to recommended percentages.

Water fountains will not be available at concerts. Audience members will be asked to use provided wipes to wipe-down all touched areas of restrooms.

Sanitizer will be provided at all entrances and exits.

Audience members, spaced 6+ feet apart will be admitted through one door. Exit will be through other doors. The same doors will not be used for entry and exit.

Tickets will only be available for purchase online. In venues with chairs, only enough chairs will be placed to accommodate patrons who made advance reservation and ticket purchase. In venues with pews, seating will be limited to ensure 7+ feet between each family group in attendance and within attendance limitations.

Concert programs will be only in electronic form until further notice.

In live concert, the chorus will be separated from the audience by a minimum of 30 feet and the separation of performers will be governed by CDC guidelines for physical distancing at the time of the event.

Chorus members will perform wearing masks as regulations stipulate at the time of the performance.

Concerts will be limited to 60 minutes before December 1, and 90 minutes before January 1.

All concerts through December 31 will be live-streamed on Facebook to accommodate patrons who do not wish to attend in person.