Our Mission
To engage singers and audiences in the performance of choral music.
To encourage singers of all ages and experiences to participate.

Rockbridge Chorus Welcome Brochure
2019/2020 Season

Welcome to the Rockbridge Chorus. We are a community chorus that aspires to have fun performing a wide repertoire of serious (and not so serious) music ranging from Appalachian folk music to Mozart’s Requiem. This Welcome Brochure introduces you to What You Need to Know, our Organization, and our Funding sources.
*Introduction*

Formed in 1976, the Rockbridge Chorus is a community chorus of amateur singers performing in and around the historic town of Lexington in the lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Its performances are frequently augmented by a professional chamber orchestra and soloists with instrumentalists and singers from across the region and the country. The Rockbridge Choral Society is the parent organization for the Rockbridge Chorus, the Rockbridge Youth Chorale and the Rockbridge Chamber Singers. Together, these groups bring to the area’s audiences an eclectic repertoire of vocal literature from Renaissance to contemporary.

*What You Need to Know*

**Season and Repertoire**

The Rockbridge Chorus typically performs two concerts each season, a Holiday Concert in December given with the Rockbridge Youth Chorale and a spring concert in April. The Holiday concert repertoire is mostly short pieces from the folk, popular, jazz and classical traditions with winter holiday themes. The spring concert repertoire may include a major choral work. Frequently, concert performances are supported by hired professional instrumentalists and soloists. Periodically, the Rockbridge Chorus sings a third performance, typically in January or February.

There may be opportunities for members from our chorus to perform in smaller groups for seasonal community events. Past performances have included caroling during the holiday season, singing for Hospice memorial services, church funeral services, and singing for various churches in the area.
Rehearsals
The Rockbridge chorus rehearses at the Lexington Presbyterian Church Monday evenings between 7:30 and 9:00. Rehearsals for the Holiday concert start in September. Rehearsals for the April concert start in late January to early February. In the last week leading up to the concert we will rehearse as many as 5 days. When there is an orchestra supporting us we will have practices before the Sunday concert, a Friday evening practice and two long practices on Saturday. When needed, sectionals are scheduled both before and after the Monday practice, usually starting at 7:00 and ending at 9:00 with an abbreviated full group practice in the middle. Each sectional includes two singing parts, with tenors and bases in one sectional and altos and sopranos in the other.

Section Leaders
Each section – alto, bass, soprano, tenor – has a section leader. Section leader responsibilities include taking and tracking rehearsal attendance of the section’s members, helping to maintain singer contact information and collection of member dues at first rehearsals. Members should let their section leaders know if they are unable to attend a rehearsal. Section leaders for this season are:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alto</td>
<td>Patricia (Pat) Tichenor**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ptich@centurylink.net">ptich@centurylink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass</td>
<td>Larry Evans**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:larryevans223@gmail.com">larryevans223@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Soprano</td>
<td>Maia Browning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emaib@aol.com">emaib@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenor</td>
<td>Milton Reid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rcsemailcommunicator@gmail.com">rcsemailcommunicator@gmail.com</a></td>
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</table>

** Denotes an RCS Board Member

Seasonal Dues and Charitable Contributions
The Rockbridge Chorus asks its members to pay singing dues for the concert season. Section leaders collect dues at the first rehearsal in the fall. Financial assistance to cover dues is available through our scholarship fund. Singers should contact their section leader for additional information on financial assistance.

Member dues constitute only a portion of the chorus’s annual budget. Members may also make charitable contributions to the Rockbridge Choral Society. Donations may be made through our website www.rcs.org. See Funding for more details.
Music and Folders
Music for any given concert is distributed at the first rehearsal and may be supplemented as rehearsals go along. The chorus has an extensive music library, so most music is free. From time to time, some music may need to be purchased by members at a reasonable cost. Announcements about music and music purchase are made prior to rehearsal commencement or early in the rehearsal season. Financial assistance is available for the purchase of music. Members who purchase music may elect to return their score to the Rockbridge Chorus and receive a receipt for charitable contribution in the amount of 50% of the original purchase price. This second option enables us to grow our music library for future performances.

When required, Rockbridge Chorus members are expected to provide their own folders to use in our performances. The folders should be either three-ring black binders or professional music folders. When performing large choral works where we all are using a similar book, folders will not be used.

Singer Contact Information
The Rockbridge Chorus maintains an email contact list for all singers. This list is the primary mechanism used by our chorus Communication volunteer to reach singers with rehearsal updates and concert information in a timely fashion. Singers should update or confirm their contact info with their section leaders at the first rehearsal and keep the section leader informed of any changes during the season. The Rockbridge Choral Society also uses this list for distribution of our monthly e-newsletter. If you are not receiving the e-newsletter, please let us know by sending an email to communications@rcs.org.

Learning Your Part
Members of the Rockbridge Chorus are expected to spend time at home learning the music in preparation for the rehearsals. When available, learning or practice recordings are offered for some of the more difficult music performed by the Rockbridge Chorus. The recordings may be available on CDs or as a downloadable file stored on the internet. Often there is a nominal charge for this service.
Ticket Sales and Poster Distribution
Since singing members are integral to the Choral Society’s efforts to get out the word about upcoming concerts, they are encouraged to sell tickets and to help distribute concert posters throughout the community. Poster distribution by email is also encouraged. Volunteer ticket and poster coordinators provide the tickets and posters prior to concerts. The chorus Communication volunteer sends posters in PDF format which members can send on to potential concert goers.

Concert Dress
The Rockbridge Chorus performs as a single unit and so we dress to blend and in a manner that does not distract audience members from the high musical standard of our performances. The Rockbridge Chorus concert attire is determined by the RCS Board. The board does not require chorus members to purchase specific tuxedos or dresses. However, the board does require that chorus members follow the guidelines below.

Everyone:
- No cologne or other strong scents.
- No jewelry or reflective/sparkly attire.

Men:
- Black Tuxedo
- White shirt
- Back bow tie
- Black socks
- Black footwear

Women:
- All black outfit
- Full length or ¾ length sleeves
- Ankle length or longer skirt
- Black socks
- Black footwear
- Pants are acceptable if they are long and flowy
- No sheer or see through shirts

Concert Venues
There are two concert venues. Most of our concerts take place in the Lexington Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. When orchestra and soloists join us we perform at Washington and Lee’s Wilson Hall.
Volunteers

The Rockbridge Chorus runs on its volunteers who coordinate ticket and box office management, housing and hospitality for our guest musicians, poster distribution, concert venue production, recordings, music library maintenance, program production, newsletter production, special events planning, and more. In most of these positions, we have only one person doing the work. All help is welcome. Members are encouraged to volunteer for help with any of these activities by contacting our volunteer coordinator.

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tickets</td>
<td>Deb Price**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:debprice47@gmail.com">debprice47@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posters</td>
<td>David Sorells</td>
<td><a href="mailto:djsorells@yahoo.com">djsorells@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Anne Sauder**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:asauder@rockbridge.net">asauder@rockbridge.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandy Nye</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandybnye@gmail.com">sandybnye@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Sandy Nye</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandybnye@gmail.com">sandybnye@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice music</td>
<td>David Biddle**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:biddaviddle@gmail.com">biddaviddle@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert Venue</td>
<td>Phillip Coulling</td>
<td><a href="mailto:philip.coulling@gmail.com">philip.coulling@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowers/ AV</td>
<td>Elizabeth Oliver</td>
<td><a href="mailto:olivere@wlu.edu">olivere@wlu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>Melissa Holland**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:appraisermh@ntelos.net">appraisermh@ntelos.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Milton Reid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rcsemailcommunicator@gmail.com">rcsemailcommunicator@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing/Hospitality</td>
<td>Margaret Howard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:HowardM@wlu.edu">HowardM@wlu.edu</a></td>
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Communication and Publications

Members are kept informed of rehearsal updates or changes, information from the director, and other musical opportunities primarily through our email list maintained by our Communication volunteer.

The RCS has three publications, a monthly e-newsletter called the On-Line Alla Breve (distributed via email once every month), and a print Alla Breve (distributed three times a year). Fundraising envelopes accompany the print newsletters. We are on Facebook and we have a website, www.rcs.org. Published documents are managed by our Publications Coordinator.

Potluck

At various times during the rehearsal season, the chorus members will have the opportunity to attend pot-luck dinners in order to meet, greet and get to know one another. You will receive email announcements about these events.
Organization

Rockbridge Choral Society
The Rockbridge Choral Society (RCS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit umbrella organization responsible for both financing and managing three choruses - the Rockbridge Chorus, the Rockbridge Chamber Singers and the Rockbridge Youth Chorale. The Rockbridge Choral Society is managed by a board, many of whom come from the ranks of the chorus. See Appendix for listing of board members. The RCS is responsible for:

- Future and long term development of the choruses,
- Stewardship of endowments,
- Budget planning and monitoring,
- Fundraising planning and marketing,
- Developing committees as needed to help with Rockbridge Chorus and Rockbridge Chamber Singers operations,
- Hiring and paying artistic directors and other operational staff, and
- Hiring and paying professional instrumentalists and soloists.

Rockbridge Choral Society Choruses
Three performing groups are funded by the Rockbridge Choral Society.

Rockbridge Chorus
The Rockbridge Chorus, directed by William McCorkle, is a community chorus that performs two concerts each season one in December and one in April. Periodically there may be a third concert, typically in January. Members are not auditioned.

Rockbridge Chamber Singers
The Rockbridge Chamber Singers, directed by William McCorkle, is a chorus that usually performs one concert each season in January or February. Members in this group are selected by the artistic director.

Rockbridge Youth Chorale
The Rockbridge Youth Chorale, directed by Lacey Lynch and Lori Parker, is a community chorus for high school age or younger. They perform at least two concerts each season; one is performed jointly in December with the Rockbridge Chorus and the other is in April. Members are not auditioned.

Artistic Director
Rockbridge Chorus’s long-time artistic director and rehearsal and performance leader is noted organist, conductor, and composer, William McCorkle.
Mr. McCorkle is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and of Amherst College, where he also served as the first graduate Teaching Fellow in Music and as Acting Director of Choral Music. In Paris, he completed a two year fellowship with legendary composer, conductor, and teacher, Nadia Boulanger and baroque music expert, William Christie. Work with these great musicians profoundly shaped McCorkle’s musical talents and future as both a composer and conductor in his own right, and developed his love of improvisation and all things French.

He has led the Rockbridge Chorus in critically acclaimed performances of Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Schubert, Purcell, Britten, Poulenc, Honegger, and Copland. Each season he coordinates the chorus’s musical endeavors from classical to opera, folk, pop and musical theatre. As organist and Director of Music for Lexington Presbyterian Church since 1979, McCorkle has continued this church’s long tradition of outstanding music ministry to the community. A versatile keyboard artist, he has performed as organist, harpsichordist, and pianist in solo and ensemble.

Funding

Since 1999 the musical endeavors of the Rockbridge Chorus and the Rockbridge Youth Chorale have been generously underwritten by the Rockbridge Choral Society (RCS) (formerly the Friends of the Rockbridge Choral Society), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization charged with the funding and organization of all the performing groups.

Ticket Sales and Seasonal Dues

Ticket sales and seasonal dues from our chorus members generate about 30% of our annual funds.

Fundraising

The remaining 70% of our funding come from the following fund raising efforts.

Charitable Contributions

Each season the RCS solicits and receives charitable contributions from members, corporate and individual donors, and grants. Members are encouraged to make financial contributions in any amount to The Rockbridge Choral Society. Based on contribution level donors are recognized in our concert programs as Sustainers, Benefactors, Partners, Patrons, Sponsors, and Associates. Because the Rockbridge Choral Society is a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, contributions are tax deductible.
Adopt a Musician
From time to time the RCS contracts with professional musicians and soloists who support concert repertoire. Concert prep and performance expenses for these musicians can total 50% of the budget. We have been very successful with our Adopt A Musician program which allows donors to direct their gifts to underwrite a specific musician or musical position in our orchestra. The need varies from concert to concert. Announcements for these giving opportunities are made at rehearsals, on our website, and through our newsletters. This program is a great way to support the chorus either as an individual or as a group.

Estate Planning
The RCS also has planned giving opportunities via estate planning. Endowment of chairs within the orchestra or for soloists, music acquisition, Youth Chorale Interns, and underwriting a concert are just some of the opportunities for planned giving. More information can be obtained by contacting a board member.

Budget Expenditures
The Artistic Director provides a budget for the Rockbridge Chorus’s season to the board of the Rockbridge Choral Society in late summer each year along with a proposed repertoire for the upcoming concert season, including needs for soloists, music, instrumental players, venue fees, etc. Upon approval of this season plan and budget, the RCS Board then sets about raising the funds to support that season.

Fund Raising Events
The RCS Board may plan other special performance events for fundraising purposes and may call upon chorus members for assistance. Announcements about these events will come through email from the Communication volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of these events as they arise, please contact a member of the RCS Board.

Music Among Friends
Each year the RCS board holds a musical event – Music Among Friends - to thank our donors. This event usually features performance by our Artistic Director and a soloist.
# Appendix

## Contact Information 2019-2020 Season

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
<td>William (Bill) McCorkle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wmccorkle@lexpres.org">wmccorkle@lexpres.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Sandra (Sandy) Nye</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Volunteer</td>
<td>Milton Reid</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications Coordinator</td>
<td>Melissa Holland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockbridge Choral Society Board Members</td>
<td>Anne Hansen, President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:avehansen6@gmail.com">avehansen6@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deb Price, Vice President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:debprice47@gmail.com">debprice47@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pat Tichenor, Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ptich@centurylink.net">ptich@centurylink.net</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Larry Evans, Treasurer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Biddle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:biddaviddle@gmail.com">biddaviddle@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Jane Birzenieks</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjbirzenieks@gmail.com">bjbirzenieks@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melissa Holland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:communications@rcs.org">communications@rcs.org</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emily King</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marina Pratt</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anne Sauder</td>
<td><a href="mailto:asauder@rockbridge.net">asauder@rockbridge.net</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Natalie Schroeder</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gnat_s@hotmail.com">gnat_s@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Merrily Taylor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:merrily.Ellen@gmail.com">merrily.Ellen@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Media Addresses Website</td>
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