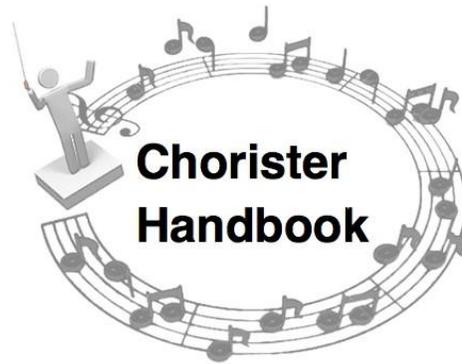


MCS Chorus

Mississauga

Mervin William Fick, Artistic Director



Welcome, new and returning members, to MCS Chorus!

You are part of an award-winning auditioned chamber choir that has established a stellar reputation in Mississauga and the GTA.

If you want to grow and develop as a chorister, give back to the community through music, and share the joy of choral music with a group of like-minded singers... then MCS Chorus is for you!

Our Mission

- To be a community based auditioned chamber choir presenting excellent performances encompassing a wide range of the classical choral repertoire.
- To preserve the classic choral art form and introduce this music to new and diverse audiences.
- To nurture a culture of learning, furthering the education and appreciation of this musical art-form.
- To develop and strengthen community relationships within the communities of Mississauga through a shared celebration of the joy of singing.
- To engage emerging artists and foster the choral art form in next generation performers and audiences.
- To delight, inspire and engage our audiences, motivating their loyalty and generosity.

MEMBER POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

SCENT FREE POLICY

MCS Chorus is a scent-free choir, so please refrain from using any scented hair/body products or perfumes when attending rehearsals or performances. This will enable all of us to be safe and healthy, to care for one another, and to sing to the best of our ability each time we gather.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

The annual membership fee is \$250, due by the last week in September. The fee can be paid in two instalments, with \$150 due by the last week in September and the remaining \$100 due by February 1 of the following year. No music will be signed out to you until the fee (or first instalment) is paid.

The full membership fee (or instalments) can be paid online at www.mcschorus.ca/mcs-choristers

MUSIC DEPOSIT

All new and returning choristers are required to provide a \$50 cheque as a deposit against lost or damaged music. The deposit must be submitted with your annual membership fee by the last week in September. Make your cheque payable to **MCS Chorus** and post-date it to the end of the current season -- **May 31 of the following year**. The Treasurer holds all the checks, which are shredded at the end of the season after all your music has been returned in good condition.

MUSIC

Music for all performances is provided by MCS Chorus. You are assigned a music number, and you will find your scores in the Librarian's box, which contains numbered choral folders. Check your folder each week for new music, especially if you have missed a rehearsal. Bring your music and a pencil to each rehearsal and make markings in pencil only.

Return music after each concert or at the next rehearsal, according to the Librarian's instructions.

Report lost music to the Librarian immediately, your Music Deposit will be used to pay for replacement scores, including any additional costs for rental music.

WEEKLY REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are held at St. Andrew's Memorial Presbyterian Church, 24 Stavebank Rd. North, Mississauga, L5G 2T5, every Tuesday evening from 7:15 - 10:00 pm (with a short break). Choristers are expected to be in their seats by 7:10 pm and to attend the full rehearsal. If this is a problem for you because of work and/or time commitments, speak with the Artistic Director. Give the rehearsal time your full attention, **no cell phones or socializing during rehearsal**., and be back in your seat at the end of the scheduled break time.

We are a scent-free organization! Please do not wear scents at weekly / dress rehearsals, performances, and other choir events. Some members have severe allergies to these products.

ATTENDANCE

Be sure to check your name on the weekly attendance sheet posted on the bulletin board at each rehearsal. Choristers are expected to attend all weekly rehearsals. Notify Angie Reichenbach (647-297-8518 or areichenbach05@gmail.com). if you are unable to attend a weekly rehearsal, dress rehearsal, or concert. Please do not attend rehearsals when you are sick to avoid putting others at risk of illness.

If you miss 3 rehearsals or more during the concert period you must speak with the Artistic Director to determine your preparedness to perform.

The Artistic Director reserves the right to ask you to sit out a concert if he/she feels you are not prepared.

LEARNING MUSIC

The repertoire performed by the MCS Chorus is challenging, and practice outside of rehearsal time is an expectation of all choir members.

It is your responsibility to review / learn any assigned music before the next rehearsal. If you miss a rehearsal, contact

DRESS REHEARSALS

Attendance at dress rehearsals **is required** for participation in the performance. Dress rehearsals are usually held at the venue where the concert will be performed. You are expected to be in your assigned seat when the dress rehearsal begins.

Concert attire is not worn to the dress rehearsal.

NO SCENTS at dress rehearsals and performances -- some members have severe allergies to these products.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Any changes in the standard concert attire will be announced well in advance of the performance.

- **Men:** Tuxedo, black bow tie, black shoes and socks.
- **Women:** MCS Concert Dress (purchased by the chorister and ordered on their behalf). If the dress is not available in time for the first concert, Black dress trousers or black FLOOR LENGTH (not midi, or knee length) skirts. Black collarless top with long or $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves. Minimal jewelry (no dangly earrings or large necklaces, bracelets). No lace or bling or sequins. Closed toe Black shoes and hose.
- **Music:** Music is carried in a black folder or binder.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Arrive at the call time in order to participate in warm-up and receive any last-minute instructions from the Artistic Director, stage manager, and / or concert marshal. Be alert for sit and stand cues, and do not talk among yourselves while on stage. Observe professional on-stage conduct at all performances.

Recording and photography is strictly prohibited during performances - please be sure to share this information with friends/family members who may be attending our performances.

TICKET SALES

You are encouraged to sell at least four tickets per concert. To help you publicize our concerts, we will email you a poster and draft letter which you can personalize and send to family, friends, and coworkers. Unsold tickets, pre-paid "hold" tickets, and/or money must be returned to the ticket coordinator prior to the concert.

CHORAL OUTREACH EVENTS

Choristers have opportunities to sing at several community and outreach events during the season. Information about each event is shared with members as soon as it becomes available. You are encouraged to participate in these enjoyable events, which raise the choir's profile and bring the choral arts into the community.

WORKSHOPS / SECTIONAL REHEARSALS

Choral performance and/ or vocal technique workshops may be scheduled during the season, and choristers are expected to attend. Dates and times will be announced well in advance. From time to time sectional rehearsals may be called. You are expected to make every effort to attend.

COMMUNICATION

Weekly updates are sent with important information and reminders on upcoming events, rehearsal links, outside events that may be of interest, etc.. Choristers are encouraged to review and take note of information. Information, announcements, and Board news are also shared at weekly rehearsals.

MCS SUSTAINABILITY

Choristers are asked to share their skills and talents to ensure that the MCS Chorus remains a sustainable organization. You are expected to commit to one or more tasks set out by the Board committee chairs.

If you are interested in making an additional commitment by serving on the Board, please contact Sandra Maxwell at: **(905-290-7104 or sdmaxwell@rogers.com)**.

MCS Chorus also welcomes **volunteer assistance** from members' family and friends to help with several concert-related jobs – including front-of-house and stage management. If you know of a family members, friend, or student who might be interested in volunteering, please email info@mcschorus.ca

WEBSITE & E-MAIL

- Access our website at **mcschorus.ca**
- To enter the Members' Area, use the password **MUsi19** (case sensitive).
- Our e-mail address is **info@mcschorus.ca**