



CHORISTER HANDBOOK

Welcome to choral singing! Twin Rivers Community Choir is open to adult singers of all ages and abilities. We love to have fun, work hard, and make amazing music – together! We enjoy singing many different genres of music which we routinely perform for our supportive community.

How do we do this? In addition to an encouraging Artistic Director who coaches us to our very best, we also offer a variety of tools to help you succeed, and a group of colleagues to practice with. Singing is not a passive experience; it demands that you are actively engaged in learning and practicing your part. There is a time commitment and work involved by everyone!

Interested in singing with us?

Here's some information about joining our choir:

Membership and Participation Fees:

Membership is completed online at: <https://www.twinriverschoir.com/join>

Please contact us for a paper-based registration form if necessary. Authorization and release of liability waiver is required to participate.

Fees are broken into two segments:

- Memberships dues are \$10 **per year** and the participation fee is \$50 **per season**.
- Your initial \$10 will make you a member of our society and give you voting rights at our AGM. All participants with the choir must also be members in good standing.
- A \$50 participation fee is due at the start of each new season as part of your registration (September and January). You may choose to pay both the Fall and Spring Season fees together (\$100) if you wish.

Fees may be paid by cheque payable to Twin River Chorale Society or by e-transfer to

trcc.treasurer99@gmail.com

The expenses involved in running a choir are substantial, and as a society we do not aim to accumulate profits. If you have questions about how your membership and participation fees are spent, please feel free to attend a board meeting or ask any Board Member for more information.

We recognize that cost may be a factor for some folks to participate and it is not our goal to exclude members based on payment. If the costs are of concern to you, please reach out to your Artistic Director or anyone on the Board for a special provision.

Refund Policy: New members are welcome to attend two rehearsals before making a commitment to the choir and paying the required fees/dues. No refund of monies is provided once paid except by extenuating circumstance as authorized by the Board of Directors.

Rehearsal Time and Location:

- In person rehearsals will run weekly from 7-9 p.m. each Thursday each year from Sept – Dec (Fall season) and January – June (Spring season).
- Rehearsals are held at New Life Church – 602 7th Street, Castlegar BC. On-site parking is available.
- *We start at 7 p.m. sharp, so please arrive about 10 minutes early to give you time to get settled.*
- Choristers have the option to participate online through Zoom if they wish! The Zoom link is posted on our website and rehearsals are recorded for later viewing.

Attendance and time commitment:

Every voice is important in the choir and regular attendance is encouraged each week. Music is learned cumulatively and may not be repeated until close to a performance. Joining a choir is joining a team and we value every voice!

If you are ill in any way, please do not attend the in-person rehearsal. Zoom Links are available and posted in the Members Area of our website for ease of access. Join us online and you won't miss the instruction on the song. Zoom meetings will also be recorded and available for viewing (and re-viewing) after the rehearsal.

In addition to the two hours weekly practice, we often gather for extra time together as a group or as individual sectionals to help everyone to learn their part and feel comfortable leading to performance. The total amount of dedicated time can vary greatly by participant, but the support is there to help those of all backgrounds and abilities.

Performance Attendance:

Not all singers want or wish to perform – some prefer the joy of rehearsing group singing projects weekly in itself – and Twin Rivers Choir welcomes you! Come – sing – enjoy a supportive group of singers and learn some new skills!

Each chorister that *does elect to perform* on stage must attend at least 50% of the scheduled in person weekly rehearsals during the season period to be ready to sing.

Performance dates and locations are released as early in the season as possible.

Pay attention and be respectful of others:

Choir singing is a social pastime and choirs are full of sociable people. However, please give the choir director your **full** attention during rehearsals. Socialization is permitted prior to rehearsal,

at break and at conclusion. During rehearsal, PLEASE DO NOT TALK. Please also **refrain from singing your part or another section's part** while the director is rehearsing with a section. Use this time to silently review your part. The goal of our organization is to provide positive learning experiences and as such any bullying or rude behavior of choristers will not be tolerated.

Eating/drinking/cell phone use:

- You are encouraged to bring a non-carbonated drink to rehearsal. Plastic (not metal) water bottles are preferred. Plastic water bottles held discreetly will be permitted on stage.
- **No food is allowed** in the sanctuary space or during any performance activities.
- Please TURN OFF CELL PHONES at the beginning of each rehearsal and PUT THEM AWAY!! Even if you have a break, spend the time silently reviewing your part while the others are learning theirs.

Safety precautions:

- Masks are welcomed but not mandatory.
- Vaccines are encouraged but not mandatory for participation in rehearsals. PLEASE NOTE THAT VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS MAY EXIST FOR OUR PERFORMANCE VENUES AND WE MUST ADHERE TO THEM.
- Choristers may sit with their sectional group or in other areas of the sanctuary to meet their own preference for social distancing
- If you are unwell IN ANY WAY – please plan to attend online and DO NOT ATTEND IN PERSON.
- We are fortunate to rehearse in a large open space to help us stay safe, but this means paying extra close attention to your conductor!

To find out all the current information about our choir, to register, find your music tracks, information about our upcoming shows or previous music recordings please subscribe and become a member of our website: <https://www.twiriverschoir.com>

Questions?? We're here to help! Please send an email to the choir at trcchoir@gmail.com and we will be happy to address anything that's on your mind.