

The Towne Singers Orientation Information

(updated as of December 2013)

Concert Seasons:

The Towne Singers perform two concerts per year: a Holiday concert in December, and a Spring concert in May. Rehearsals for the Holiday concert start in early September, and in mid-January for the Spring concert. There are no rehearsals during the summer months.

Open Membership:

Membership is open in January and September, during the first two rehearsals of each season. During the open membership period, prospective singers may attend the new members' orientation session to learn more about joining the Towne Singers, without obligation. The chorus is open to all ages and all levels of singing experience. Reading music is not required. Other than a simple voice section placement test, there are no auditions.

Dues:

Dues for the Holiday and Spring seasons are \$175 per season. Each member may pay in full at the beginning of the season, or on a monthly basis (the monthly payment schedule is announced at the beginning of each season). The dues pay for the Towne Singers operating expenses, including the Conductor, the Accompanist, rehearsal hall(s), insurance; dues also cover all music necessary for the concert.

Rehearsal Schedule:

Rehearsals are held every Monday evening from 7:15 to 9:30 pm. There is a short break during the rehearsal for announcements and refreshments.

Rehearsals Attendance Policy:

Holiday Season (Sept-Dec): The 14 scheduled rehearsals include Monday-night rehearsals and 1 Saturday (sectional and/or retreat) rehearsal. Singers may miss no more than 4 of that total.

Spring Season (Jan-May): The 20 scheduled rehearsals include Monday-night rehearsals and 2 Saturday (sectional and/or retreat) rehearsals. Singers may miss no more than 5 of that total.

Certain rehearsals are mandatory. They are:

- the technical rehearsal, if any, prior to the concert
- the dress rehearsal

Ad hoc "sectionals" organized by a Section Leader are encouraged, but do not count as make-ups for missed regular rehearsals.

If a choir member is unable or ineligible to perform in a concert, he/she may still participate in rehearsals. However, for the final month of rehearsals prior to the concert, the Conductor may exercise the option of excluding those that are not going to perform in the concert.

The attendance policy may be waived on a case-by-case basis by the Conductor to accommodate exceptional circumstances, but only if the waiver provides an overall benefit to the choir and the concert. In such cases, the Conductor shall confirm the readiness of the choir member to sing in concert by performing a "readiness test".

Tardiness: It is disruptive to the entire choir for singers to be late. Towne Singers expects all members to be on time (considered to be the downbeat). For those occasions when work or family duties cause members to be tardy, the singer is asked to inform (telephone or email) his/her section leader. If a singer is consistently tardy with no notice to the section leader, a fourth un-notified tardy will be considered a missed rehearsal.

Fundraising

Members are expected to support fundraising activities and sell concert tickets.

Officers and the Board of Directors:

Each May the choir elects a President and a Board of Directors. The Board coordinates the business and activities of The Towne Singers, and sets policy for those activities. Members are welcome to run for any of the offices. The Board usually meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. All members are welcome to attend.