



Naperville Chorus

Member Information - Updated as of January 2024

We are thrilled to have you as part of the group, for without you, we would not be a chorus! In order to provide the best possible experience for all singers we have established the following protocols and guidelines, but first, a brief public service announcement:

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT - Because a number of members are sensitive to scents please be respectful of your fellow singers and **refrain from applying any perfume, cologne or strongly scented body lotions or sprays on rehearsal or performance days**. For those who are sensitive, these scents affect breathing and the voice, and make it difficult, if not impossible to sing.

1. **ATTENDANCE** - Our success as a performing arts group depends on the dedication and commitment of our members. That said, we know that sometimes weather, health, or other personal reasons may arise that will prevent you from attending a rehearsal or performance. In the event that an entire rehearsal is canceled, an email notice will be sent from the board to the entire membership.
 - a. Inclement weather - In case of extreme weather conditions the board may elect to cancel an entire rehearsal. However, unless you have received an email notification that rehearsal has been canceled, please assume that rehearsal is still on. If rehearsal is not canceled, but you are uncomfortable venturing out for personal health or safety reasons, please send an absence notice. If a rehearsal is to be canceled the board will endeavor to send an email notice no later than 1 ½ hours prior to the start time. Please check your email.
 - b. Health issues - if you are experiencing symptoms, or test positive for COVID, please follow CDC guidelines for isolation. If you are otherwise ill, please stay home and submit an absence notice. Get well soon!
 - c. Sign-in sheets - please be sure to sign in on the check-in sheets before each rehearsal. It helps with planning for concert and rehearsal seating and other logistics when we know how many people have attended each rehearsal.
 - d. Absences - If you are going to be absent, please send notice to the email address: absent@napervillechorus.org. The only information you need to provide is your name, voice part, and date of the absence.

If you have to miss 3 or more rehearsals, please speak with the Director. You can then decide together whether you are properly prepared to sing in the upcoming concert.

2. REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

- a. **ARRIVAL TIME** - Please arrive on time at least 5 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal. Late arrivals are disruptive to the group and may mean that you miss an important announcement.
 - b. **CHATTER** - During rehearsal, please keep side conversations to a minimum.
 - c. **ACTIVE LISTENING** - Please follow along with the other vocal parts whenever your vocal part is not actively rehearsing, but **kindly refrain from singing or humming your part** when not called upon to do so as that may make it hard for the director to hear the notes for which he is listening, and may disrupt the other singers who are actively trying to learn their own notes.
 - d. **SCENTS** - Although it has already been said above, it bears repeating given the extreme sensitivity of some of our members to perfumes or colognes. Please refrain from applying perfume, cologne, or strongly scented lotion or body spray on rehearsal days. These scents tend to linger, even when applied in the morning.
3. **PRACTICING** - Try to practice your music at home. When available, rehearsal aids will be posted on the members' page.
 4. **VOICE PLACEMENT** - Some seasons may require voice placement by the Music Director.
 5. **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP** - Membership is subject to payment of semester dues and music fees. Anyone in need of financial assistance may speak with the Treasurer, Keith Anderson, for a confidential discussion. The Chorus most likely will be able to help.
 6. **UNIFORM GUIDELINES** - To present a more uniform look when performing, our attire is "concert formal". By that we mean:
 - a. **MEN** - Black suit or tuxedo in a solid fabric (no pattern), **bright white** (not off-white or cream) button down or tuxedo **shirts**. Black shoes (kindly refrain from wearing shoes with non-black soles or visible logos) and black socks.
 - b. **WOMEN** - The Chorus has chosen a uniform blouse, available for purchase on-line. The blouse is to be paired with a black skirt or pants that meet the following guidelines:
 - i. Skirt or pants should be solid material (i.e. no sheer or see-through fabrics) and unadorned by beading or sequins;
 - ii. Skirts should hit below the knee and pants or trousers should be at least ankle length (no cropped pants);
 - iii. Hosiery should be plain, solid black (again, not sheer, nude, colored, or patterned) stockings, tights, or socks;
 - iv. Black shoes - there will be standing during performances, so please choose comfortable shoes suitable for that purpose and kindly refrain from wearing shoes with non-black soles or visible logos.

Note: We ask that everyone steer away from velvet – including velvet jackets, lapels, pants, skirts, etc. Velvet material looks different than other fabrics under bright stage lighting and presents a visual distraction that deters from the uniform appearance of the group.

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WOMEN'S BLOUSES:

The blouse may be ordered online through the website: www.stageaccents.com

The top is called the “Kennedy Twinset”, sku #8714, color black. The top is machine washable, of a fabric that looks nice under stage lighting and is designed to accommodate most shapes and sizes (and yes, we agree, flatter few – but we do look lovely as a group!), and the sizing runs pretty true to size.

Price of the shirt is around \$48 as of January 2024. If you are interested, you may order coordinating skirts or pants on the site for an additional cost, but **these are not required**. The return policy is outlined on the Stage Accents website as well.

USED SHIRTS – Occasionally, a former Chorus member will donate a shirt back to the group if they are no longer able to sing with us. Please check with the Vice President, Mikki Mendelsohn, for available sizes if you are interested.

TAILORING RECOMMENDATIONS – The shirts come ready to wear, but should you desire an alteration, other chorus members have used one of these three:

1. “Rip ‘n Stitch”, Dorene Schulz – 630-357-7144
2. Tailoring by JoDee, JoDee Wilson, 849 N. Main St., Naperville – 630-357-1345
3. US Cleaners, 4248 Main St., Downers Grove – 630-968-1113

Thank you for joining our group! As always, check the Members Page of the website for additional information and we will see you in rehearsal.