

PEORIA AREA CIVIC CHORALE SAFETY POLICY AND PROCEDURE 2021-2022

The purpose of the Policy and Procedure is to establish a set protocol for the safety and protection of all members and to minimize the transmission of any virus, including Covid-19.

GENERAL:

- Bring personal hand sanitizer and use as needed at your personal discretion.
- Avoid sharing of music or pencils.
- Restroom use as needed. However, singers will be responsible for bringing their own wipes to use on the bathroom door handle. Those wipes should only be disposed of in the restroom waste basket.
- Avoid handshakes and/or hugs whenever possible.

SEATING:

- Singers will sit in consecutive rows but will be staggered to provide some social distance.
- Members are not required to wear masks upon entry of First Christian Church but may do so if they wish.
- Members will not be wearing masks during rehearsal, with the understanding that the occasional cough or sneeze will be directed to the inside of the arm/elbow.
- Members are strongly encouraged to pick up after themselves following rehearsal (i.e., tissues, water bottles, etc.) There will be mandatory removal/disposal of any items left in the rehearsal space after each rehearsal (i.e., there will be no lost and found).

EXPOSURE: A member should take the following actions upon the appearance of symptoms:

- Symptom: Excessive weariness, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headaches – no fever. Action: Stay home.
- Symptom: Close exposure to a positive Covid-19 or flu patient (i.e., immediate family member, etc.) within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes without a mask. Action: Negative Covid test performed 5 days after exposure, or 7-day period after exposure with no onset of symptoms before returning.
- Symptom: Fever greater than 100.4 degrees. Action: Stay home. Either a negative Covid 19 test performed after symptoms resolve, or a 7-day symptom-free period is required to resume attendance.
- Symptom(s): One or more of the following: Fever over 100.4 degrees, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Loss of taste and/or smell. Action: Stay home. Negative Covid-19 test or 14-day quarantine since onset of initial symptoms required for return. (NOTE - 14 days quarantine is not required after symptoms are gone. The University of Illinois allows return to work 72 hours after symptoms are gone)
- Symptom: If you are well enough to be up and about during the day and are not contagious. Action: Can attend rehearsal, sit in the back, and take notes. Additionally, wear an N-95 mask while entering and leaving rehearsal and at all times present.

DISCLAIMERS:

- Singers uncomfortable with the policy and protocols as set forth in this document should not sing or sign and return this document.
- Singers that are seriously concerned about being infected with any transmittable respiratory disease should seriously consider a leave of absence until convinced of safety.
- The size of the Peoria Area Civic Chorale will be determined by the Artistic Director's preference in response to an acceptable tonal balance between vocal sections.
- As supported by the Peoria Area Civic Chorale Board of Directors, Covid-19 vaccinations will not be required for active singing membership.

SINGER ATTENDANCE POLICY

The following policy promotes clarity of expectations, fairness, and most especially, helps the Peoria Area Civic Chorale reach its music performance goals.

Civic Chorale singers are smart and conscientious singers – therefore it is assumed that everyone will know all the notes, rhythms, and texts far in advance of scheduled performances. There are many ways to learn notes and rhythms – more convenient ways than coming to weekly rehearsals on Tuesday evenings. However, a choral singer practicing alone makes about as much sense as a third baseman practicing alone for a baseball game. Both scenarios negatively impact teamwork and team cohesion. Although we do spend some time in rehearsals learning notes, rhythms, and text, our primary rationale for rehearsing together is to prepare and present musically, emotionally, technically unified, refined, and expressive performances.

Although there are many good, worthy, even laudable reasons to miss rehearsal, a singer is either there, or not. When it comes to striving for a meaningful, expressive performances, what matters is whether you were consistently in attendance, engaged, and practicing with the team.

The Civic Chorale Leadership Team recognizes that real life for multi-tasking singers means that, regrettably but understandably, almost everyone is going to miss an occasional rehearsal. To this end, the following list of attendance expectations is written to balance and respect the needs of responsible adults with the organization's commitment to the highest artistic goals for the music, the ensemble, and our audience.

1. You are expected to attend all rehearsals during the rehearsal season.
2. Singers may miss no more than three (3) rehearsals during any one concert season and will recuse themselves from active participation upon the fourth absence.
3. You are asked to complete a "commitment form" listing all planned absences at the beginning of the Fall and Spring concert seasons each year. That "form" will be returned to the Attendance Coordinator.
4. If you must miss a rehearsal that was not accounted for on your commitment form, you should email your Section Leader, the Attendance Coordinator, and the Artistic Director preferably before the rehearsal, or if that is not possible, as soon as possible afterward.
5. You are expected to participate in every performance during a concert season.
6. Lateness: Rehearsal instruction begins promptly at 7:00 PM. If you are not in your seat at the starting time, you are late. If ongoing personal or professional obligations make it impossible for you to arrive on time, speak with the Attendance Coordinator and the Artistic Director at the beginning of the concert season.
7. If you are absent from a rehearsal, it is your responsibility to contact a singer in your section (before rehearsal, if possible) to alert them so that they will take careful notes on all aspects of a rehearsal including changes in voicing, markings, dynamics, cut offs, pronunciations, tone color, etc., prior to the next rehearsal.

SIGNATURE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Please sign and date below signifying your acknowledgement that you have read this policy for the 2021-2022 season. Please indicate your preference, sign the document, and return this it electronically to Dr. Joseph Dean Henry, Artistic Director/Conductor of the Peoria Area Civic Chorale. jdhenrydma91@gmail.com

I accept this safety policy _____

I am not comfortable with this safety policy and prefer not to sing this season _____

Signature

Date