

FORT MYERS SYMPHONIC
MASTERSINGERS



2013-2014 HANDBOOK

REHEARSAL VENUE

Fort Myers Congregational United Church of Christ
8210 College Parkway, Fort Myers

Monday Night
7:00PM ~ 9:30PM

MAILING ADDRESS

6900 Daniels Parkway, Suite 29-193, Fort Myers, Florida 33912
239-288-2535 | www.mastersingersfm.com | info@mastersingersfm.com

 <http://www.facebook.com/groups/mastersingersfm>

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ANDRE DEQUADROS, Professor of Music, Music Education at Boston Affiliate faculty,
African Studies Center, Center for the Study of Asia, Global Health Initiative, and the Institute for
the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations

MUSIC TEAM

Artistic Director — JEFF FAUX

Assistant Director — JIM LORENZ

Accompanist — JANET CARTER

SECTION LEADERS — Beth Wininger, Soprano | Suzanne Keen, Alto | Robert Beane, Tenor | Bob DePuy, Bass

COMMITTEES

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Carol Murch
Richard Marshall
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MEMBERSHIP

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Matt Koller

PROGRAM GUIDE

Robert Beane
Beth Adelman
Bob Wilson
Betty Carlson

LIBRARY

Libby Hoyer-Booth
Dorothy Smith
Christie Shore
Ruth DeMaster
Barbara Yeatermeyer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Carol Murch
Bill Mudgett
Jan Nieburg

WHAT IS THE Mastersinger Experience?

IT'S EXPRESSION: out of a world of haste and stress, moments of beauty and contemplation and renewal;

IT'S MUSIC: good music, live music, old music, new music, interpreted with a spirit and delight unique to those who do not just perform for a living, but live with a love for making music;

IT'S PEOPLE: the harmonious association of an outstanding director, talented adult musicians — professional and non-professional.

THIS IS THE
M A S T E R S I N G E R S '
EXPERIENCE!



WHAT IS A Mastersinger?

ONE PART OF A WHOLE

- Has singing experience, especially in a choir
- Sees his/her individual effort as contributing to the whole
- Rarely misses rehearsal
- Is willing to take direction

COMMITTED TO MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

- Values great choral music (classical and others)
- Possesses musical skills such as sight reading or advanced pitch matching
- Is committed to the mission of the Mastersingers
- Is capable of memorizing some musical literature when required

TAKES PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Takes time and effort to work on music outside of rehearsal
- Faithfully marks score with conductor's comments, always ready with a pencil at hand
- Knows the music well enough to look up often at the conductor, especially at beginnings and ends of phrases
- Holds the music up for a line of vision to the conductor
- Sings with good technique more than one day a week
- Knows the concert and rehearsal schedule well in advance, planning to avoid scheduling conflicts
- Has the physical stamina to sing successfully in weeks where there is an intensive rehearsal/performance schedule

OUR VISION, OUR MISSION

OUR VISION

- Be a significant cultural presence in the fabric of the Southwest Florida community.
- Attract and develop outstanding choral singers.
- Have the resources needed to perform the great symphonic masterworks.
- Be a contributing force in choral music education in Southwest Florida.

OUR MISSION

- Pursue musical excellence through the choral art form serving Southwest Florida through quality performance, education, and community outreach.
- The Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers offer vocal musicians the challenge of enhancing their musical skills while enjoying the collegial atmosphere of a select group of singers. Selection of music is intended for the enrichment and growth of the singer, as well as for the enjoyment of audiences.

SECTION LEADERS

Section Leaders are a vital part of the music team. Their duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be the inspirational and musical leader of the section.
- Know thoroughly music selected for performance.
- Work with singers to assist with music and/or vocal issues.
- Motivate individual singers and the section as a whole.
- Act as the interface between the Director and individual singers and the section as a whole.
- Manage the section within the context of the whole chorus; i.e., take attendance, arrange seating, and consider individual singer's needs.
- Sit in on auditions.
- Take rehearsal notes to share with the section.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE AND CONCERT PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

Purpose of these Guidelines:

Our primary objective is to attain the most professional music quality possible. That objective requires a high level of commitment from members. The Mastersingers do not focus on attracting a large number of singers, but rather a smaller group of highly committed, quality singers. Whatever our number, our objectives will always be quality.

Rehearsal attendance is **always** a primary **expectation and requirement** for membership in the Mastersingers, based on the premise that excellent music in a concert is the result of consistent and productive rehearsals.

*Amateurs rehearse until they get it right.
Professionals rehearse so they won't get it wrong.*

WHAT IS Our Commitment?

1. Attendance at regular rehearsals which are scheduled **every** Monday night for the entire season with the exception of certain holiday dates.
2. Attendance at all technical rehearsals prior to a concert.
3. Attendance at all concerts.
4. Personal responsibility for working with and learning the music.

Everyone should plan ahead to avoid conflicts and maintain consistent rehearsal and concert attendance. We ask that a member discuss any potential conflicts with their Section Leader.

The following guidelines have been established:

REHEARSAL REQUIREMENTS

1. From September through April, we have weekly rehearsals. Attendance records for both rehearsals and concerts are maintained.
2. **EXCUSED ABSENCE** Any absence should be preceded by notifying your Section Leader by phone or e-mail. Notification will constitute an excused absence. Section Leaders will advise the Chorus Manager, who will in turn advise the Director.
3. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE** Failure to notify your Section Leader of your absence will result in an unexcused absence. Anyone having three unexcused absences may be dropped from the roster.
4. Rehearsals begin at 7:00PM. This means seated and ready to sing. Section Leaders should be advised if work or travel interferes with arriving at rehearsal on time.
5. Each time you arrive at rehearsal you are asked to check in at the door. There are attendance sheets, and maybe signup sheets or handouts to pick up with important information. Taking and reading these handouts before rehearsal keeps rehearsal disruptions to a minimum. Also check to see if there is new music to be picked up from the Library Committee, or music to be turned in.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. ALL members must attend the final five rehearsals immediately prior to a concert. Extenuating

circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2. **TECHNICAL REHEARSAL** Anyone missing a technical rehearsal for a concert will not sing in the concert without the recommendation of the Section Leader and express approval of the Artistic Director.
3. All members must master the repertoire before participating in a performance. New members accepted within five weeks of a scheduled performance must demonstrate mastery of the music.

NO cologne or perfume/scents of any kind are permitted at rehearsals or performances. This includes scented deodorants, aftershave, lotions, hairspray, shampoos, and antibacterial hand wash. Many singers are extremely sensitive to scents and our hired, professional instrumentalists have a "no scent" clause in their contract.

WARDROBE REQUIREMENTS

Concert attire is required for all members. There are no exceptions!

Women wear the designated gown with specific pearl accessories as designated by the wardrobe chairman; cost can range from \$60 to \$80. Women are required to wear either black closed-toe shoes with black hose, **or** black open-toed shoes with opaque black hose.

Men wear black single-breasted tuxedos with standard collar white tux shirts and black shoes. Men are responsible for purchasing their own concert attire and it must meet these guidelines. Black accessories (tie and cummerbund) are normally worn, but alternate red accessories will be used on certain occasions.

MUSIC

Music is furnished by the chorus with the exception of major scores such as the Messiah, Mozart Requiem, etc. The Librarian will purchase all music. Music remains the property of the chorus with the exception of major scores purchased by singers. Members are responsible for turning in all music owned by the chorus at the request of the Librarian. Music not turned in will be billed to the member.

DUES

Annual dues are payable in July and must be paid no later than September 1. Dues help to defray the chorus's operating expenses. For 2013-2014 the dues are \$60. New members' dues are payable within 30 days of acceptance into the chorus. Dues are not prorated; however, singers joining and paying dues after the chorus's major performance in the spring will be considered to have also paid their dues for the following season.

There is a dolphin cookie jar at the sign-in table and someone selling 60-40 raffle tickets. These are additional fundraisers for the chorus and are completely optional. Dues only cover a small fraction of our operating expenses, so a few dollars each week into the dolphin would be appreciated. If you prefer games of chance, the 60-40 raffle gives singers the opportunity to win 40% of the week's pot.

VOICE AUDITIONS

All current Mastersingers will re-audition on a biennial basis. Sopranos and tenors will re-audition on odd numbered years; altos and basses will re-audition on even numbered years. Members of the music team may be available for anyone who wishes to improve their singing skills in preparation for the auditions. Participation in the chorus is at the discretion of the Director. However, the Mastersingers value each singer's contribution to the organization vocally, as well as in other ways. In the event the singer's vocal quality is no longer matching the entire group, the Director will recommend that the singer retire from "active duty" with the Mastersingers. This does NOT mean that the singer cannot continue to participate in the organization. We are always in need of active volunteers to contribute to the Mastersingers.

CHAMBER CHORUS

The Chamber Chorus is open to any member of the Mastersingers who successfully completes the audition requirements for the Chamber Chorus and who is willing to devote the additional time required. This audition may include singing in a foreign language, singing a cappella in quartets, and showing mastery of vocal technique and tone production through musical selections of the Director's choice. Audition

requirements and musical selections will be made available before the audition to allow the singer to prepare. Membership numbers will vary according to the music literature, but generally will be 16-18 members. The Director reserves the right to add members as needed. Only those who sing in the main chorus are eligible for the Chamber Chorus. Chamber Chorus singers are expected to be fully prepared for each rehearsal and available for all Chamber Chorus performances.

CHRISTMAS CHORALE

The Christmas Chorale will consist of the Chamber Chorus and any Mastersingers who want to sing for small, local Christmas events. No audition will be required, but attendance at rehearsals is required.

FRIENDS OF THE MASTERSINGERS

The Friends of the Mastersingers are a vital part of our organization. They help us in the following ways:

- Assist with logistical setup for concerts
- Collate program guides and concert programs
- Sell tickets
- Usher at performances
- Provide parking supervision if needed
- Assist in returning performance venues to pre-concert condition

Friends of the Mastersingers receive the following benefits:

- Recognition in our season program guide
- Admission to all Mastersinger-sponsored ticket events
- Invitations to attend all social events

For further information or to recommend someone to become a Friend of the Mastersingers, please contact Jean Bersch, our Chorus Manager at jean@thesetup.com.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Also optional, but completely enjoyable, is our weekly gathering at Chili's after rehearsal. All are invited to join their fellow singers for a beverage and/or a bite to eat immediately following our Monday night rehearsals. Chili's is located on College Parkway, just west of our rehearsal venue. It is dutch treat and enjoyed by all who attend.

MASTERSINGERS 2013-2014 SCHEDULE



Monday	September 9, 2013	FIRST REHEARSAL	7:00PM-9:30PM
Saturday	October 19, 2013	Fall Garage Sale	6:00AM-Noon
Saturday	October 26, 2013	Mastersinger Workshop	9:00AM-3:00PM
Friday	November 22, 2013	"True Story of Cinderella"	7:30PM
		at First Presbyterian Church (BS) (a fund-raising event)	
Saturday	December 7, 2013	TECHNICAL REHEARSAL at BBMann PAH	1:00PM
Saturday	December 7, 2013	"Holiday Pops" with Gulf Coast Symphony at BBMann PAH	7:00PM
Sunday	December 8, 2013	"Messiah" Sing-along at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (FM)	4:00PM
Saturday	December 14, 2013	TECHNICAL REHEARSAL at Westminster Presby Church	2:30PM
Sunday	December 15, 2013	Christmas Concert at Sanibel Community Church	6:00PM
Saturday	January 18, 2014	TECHNICAL REHEARSAL at Crestwell School	2:00PM
Sunday	January 19, 2014	TECHNICAL REHEARSAL at BBMann PAH	1:00PM
Sunday	January 19, 2014	"The Music of Marvin Hamlisch" with Gulf Coast Symphony at BBMann PAH	7:00PM
Saturday	January 25, 2014	Mastersinger Workshop with Dr. Byron Grohman	9:00AM-3:00PM
Tuesday	February 25, 2014	TECHNICAL REHEARSAL at Crestwell School	7:00PM
Saturday	March 1, 2014	TECHNICAL REHEARSAL at Crestwell School	2:00PM
Sunday	March 2, 2014	TECHNICAL REHEARSAL at BBMann PAH	1:00PM
Sunday	March 2, 2014	"Carmina Burana" with Gulf Coast Symphony at BBMann PAH	7:00PM
Saturday	April 5, 2014	TECHNICAL REHEARSAL at First Presbyterian Church (BS)	TBA AM
Saturday	April 5, 2014	"Mastersingers Goes To The Movies" Spring Concert at First Presbyterian Church (BS)	7:30PM
Sunday	April 6, 2014	"Mastersingers Goes To The Movies" Spring Concert at Faith United Methodist Church (FM)	4:00PM
Sunday	April 27, 2014	Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties	3:00PM
		Annual Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service at Temple Beth El (FM)	
Friday	May 23, 2014	Memorial Day Observance at Moorings Park (Naples)	11:00AM

— CHAMBER CHORUS —

Friday	November 8, 2013	Chamber Chorus at Captiva Yacht Club (private function)	
Tuesday	January 28, 2014	Chamber Chorus at St. Peter Lutheran Church (FMBch)	7:00PM
Sunday	February 2, 2014	Chamber Chorus at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (NFM)	3:00PM
Sunday	February 23, 2014	Chamber Chorus at Messiah Lutheran Church (NFM)	3:00PM

— CHRISTMAS CHORALE —

Thursday December 5, 2013 Christmas Chorale at Fiddlesticks CC (FM) (private function)

— COMMUNITY HYMN SINGS (participation encouraged but strictly voluntary) —

Tuesday — December 17, 2013 Christmas Carol Sing
 Tuesday — February 11, 2014 Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing