

Frequently Asked Questions (and their Answers) about **MEMBERSHIP** in the **LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS**

1. HOW LONG HAS THE CHORUS BEEN AROUND?

The Livonia Civic Chorus was founded in 1965 under the sponsorship of the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation and by a group of individuals who wanted to share their joy of singing with the community of Livonia.

2. WHO MAY JOIN THE LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS?

The Livonia Civic Chorus is a diverse group of adult singers (18 years or older) who want to share their love of singing and represent all ages and walks of life.

3. DO I HAVE TO BE A RESIDENT OF LIVONIA TO JOIN?

NO. The Chorus welcomes members from all communities in the area.

4. ARE AUDITIONS REQUIRED TO JOIN THE CHORUS?

An informal voice placement audition is required. Once part of the group, other optional auditions are held for solo or ensemble parts for Concerts. These are great opportunities for those who wish to highlight their vocal talents.

5. WHAT LEVEL OF CHORAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED?

Membership in the Chorus is open to singers of all levels and choral backgrounds, novice and experienced alike. Formal musical training is not a requirement. We encourage you to join whether you've sung in choirs all your life or simply want to perform for your own joy!

6. WHAT IF I CAN'T READ MUSIC?

That's OK! Music reading skills are certainly a plus, but not required. Audio rehearsal tracks are provided to assist in learning notes and words. Optional sectional rehearsals are invaluable sources of support as well as current members and our Music Team.

7. WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE CHORUS REHEARSE?

We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia. The Chorus begins rehearsals for the Fall Session the day after Labor Day which ends with a Holiday Concert in mid-December. Rehearsals for the Spring Session begin the first week of January and end with the Spring Concert in mid-May.

8. WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE CHORUS PERFORM?

The Chorus performs two major Concerts each year, in mid-December and mid-May. Concerts are held at local Livonia venues. In addition to the Concerts, the Chorus members also participate throughout the season in optional "Community Outreach Events" and in our special "Musical Interludes for Seniors" program at local senior living facilities.

9. WHAT ARE REHEARSALS LIKE?

Rehearsals are friendly, supportive and enriching. While rehearsals (with our Music Team of a Director and Accompanist) are spent learning notes, dynamics, and articulation, time is set aside for Chorus updates, announcements, and questions. Short breaks allow members to mingle and become better acquainted.

10. WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DOES THE LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS SING?

The Livonia Civic Chorus repertoire covers a variety of musical genres, including both old and new music, familiar standards, and modern vocal arrangements. Selections cover classical choral pieces, music from Broadway and films, rock and roll, international pieces, and everything in between. Every Concert promises a variety of fun and challenging selections.

11. DO MEMBERS MEMORIZE THEIR MUSIC FOR CONCERTS?

YES, members memorize all Concert musical selections. The Chorus Board and Seasoned Chorus members can provide many helpful techniques to assist with memorization.

12. ARE THERE DUES AND/OR OTHER COSTS FOR MEMBERSHIP?

YES. Current membership dues are \$55, paid at the beginning of each Session (September and January). There is also a Music Fee of \$20 for sheet music and rehearsal tracks. All music is yours to keep. Members are responsible for the cost of Concert attire, which can also vary from Session to Session. We strive to keep costs as low as possible. The LCC Scholarship Committee offers support for these expenses where needed.

13. WHAT IS THE CONCERT ATTIRE?

Attire is formal for the Holiday Concert and other more solemn performances. Today that includes long, black pants with chiffon overlay and a red or blue blouse for Women. For these same occasions, Men wear tuxedos with different colors of ties/cummerbunds. Spring Concert attire varies based on the theme of the Concert. Logo polo shirts are worn for some Community Performances and Musical Interludes. Costumes are provided for members at a reasonable cost.

14. WHO RUNS THE CHORUS?

The business and administrative operations of the Chorus are managed by Chorus Members elected by the LCC Membership to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian. Our Music Team of a Director and Accompanist are Independent Contractors responsible for the artistic and musical direction of the various programs with the approval of the Board. Many of our LCC members use their skills to keep the organization moving forward as a Community Arts Organization.

15. WHEN CAN NEW MEMBERS ENROLL IN THE CHORUS?

The best time to join is at the beginning of a Session (September or January). Potential new members are encouraged to “sit in” on a rehearsal to get a sense of how the Chorus operates. Our ByLaws require members to attend a minimum of 60% of the rehearsals to be able to perform in a Concert.

16. HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Come to a rehearsal to listen or sing along, complete a Membership Application (available on our website or at rehearsal), audition for voice placement with the Director, and pay the Dues and Music Fee.

17. WHY SHOULD I JOIN??

Being part of any artistic endeavor is meaningful in many ways. As Choral Singers, we get JOY from creating beautiful harmonies by combining our voice with others. We nurture camaraderie by working with others who “LOVE TO SING!” We get creative and cultural enrichment through musical expression. We gain confidence and competence from nurturing our vocal skills for our enjoyment and that of our audiences.

18. WHAT IF I HAVE FUTHER QUESTIONS?

We’d love to talk to you in more detail. Please complete and submit the “CONTACT US” form on this website (www.livoniacivicchorus.org) or email us at info@livoniacivicchorus.org.

19. ARE THERE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEMBERS?

There are three types of Scholarships for members: for the MEMBERSHIP FEE, for the MUSIC FEE, or for a portion of your COSTUME FEES. The application for these Scholarships are part of the Membership Application Form completed at the beginning of each session.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

WEBSITE:

www.livoniacivicchorus.org

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