

WHAT IT MEANS TO SING IN THE YORK COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

Purpose

YCCS was founded in 1981 with the purpose and goal of bringing to the York County area an organization that performs choral masterworks with appropriate accompaniments.

Mission

There are several outcomes to the mission of YCCS:

- Singing members have an outlet for musical creativity and the enjoyment of participating in works of the masters.
- Singing members can increase their skills in learning music “in depth” and thus increase their leadership skills in church or school choirs where they can be members.
- The public served by YCCS can hear live performances of works often not accessible to church or school choral groups.
- The public served by YCCS has the opportunity to offer tax-deductible financial support for the enjoyment of performances of music prepared by a core of citizens in the area.
- The presence of YCCS improves the quality of life for those who participate as singers, patrons, or general members of the audiences.

Soloists

YCCS engages principal soloists from outside the Society. Occasional secondary works or roles are assigned from within the Society, but no singing member should expect the Society to be a vehicle for solo opportunities.

Administration

YCCS has no office and no paid administrator. The music director and accompanist do not administrate the operation of YCCS. A Board of Directors that supervises the general operation of the Society carries out administrative duties. Singing members are encouraged to stay in communication with Board members in all procedures so to enhance the ability of the Board to operate the Society efficiently.

Auditions

Singers audition for membership. There are no specific requirements for auditions other than the basic ability to sing in tune, have at least an elementary ability to read music, and have a voice that is capable of blending well with other voices. The audition includes a short check on pitch-matching, rhythmic memory, and sight-reading. This facilitates the director in making seating charts, suggestion for techniques, etc.

Facilities

The facilities at Oakland Baptist Church are offered as a mission of the church. Each singer is expected to respect this by caring for the facility and assisting as requested, in keeping the church orderly and clean.

Attendance

Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. in the choir room at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill. Rehearsal will end promptly at 9:45 with the exception of the last two regular rehearsals before a concert when no official ending time is announced.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL SINGING MEMBERS ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS.

If inevitable circumstances arise that require a member be absent, the member must inform the Administrative Section Leader who is in charge of attendance records for that individual's section and who will handle any exceptions.

Dues

Every singing member pays dues to be a member. Dues are not pro-rated for a portion of the year. There are no refunds. Student rates are available.

Music

Every individual singing member is responsible for obtaining the singer's own legal copy of the musical score for each performance. The Music Librarian will have scores of the proper edition available for purchase by the singer at the first rehearsal. Should the singer already own a copy of the music, the singer must ensure that the edition matches that used by the rest of the chorus.

Rehearsal Behavior

YCCS provides a limited social outlet for its singing members, but it must be remembered that the purpose of a rehearsal is to perfect the requirements of the music. EVERY MEMBER is expected to: arrive punctually with a sharpened pencil with eraser, pay attention to the director or rehearsal assistant, sit or stand with good posture, not chat or talk once rehearsal has begun. These qualities prove that the singer wishes to promote an environment for creating excellence. There are occasional social events scheduled so that members may become better acquainted.

Individual Rehearsal

To be prepared for a rehearsal is one of the joys and responsibilities of each singer; no director or rehearsal assistant can teach everything in the rehearsals. Every singing member is expected to review the music between rehearsals and, through the use of rehearsal tapes or CD's available at cost from YCCS or commercial recordings purchased at the singer's expense, learn the music quickly and thoroughly. Foreign languages may require extra concentration and attention to consistent pronunciation.

Performance Attire

Most performances require black tie and tuxedo for men and a long black skirt with long-sleeve black blouse for women. No jewelry, after-shaves, colognes, or scented lotions, please.

Extra Singers

The directors reserve the right, at any time, to engage extra singers in a section if, in the directors' opinion, an improper balance with chorus and orchestra threatens the quality of the performance.

Patronage

Each singing member is encouraged to be a Patron subscriber each year and to assist in recruiting new patron subscribers for the upcoming season.

REPERTOIRE OF MAJOR WORKS

Albright A Song to David

Bach Magnificat, Missa h-moll, St. John Passion, Cantata 147

Bernstein Chichester Psalms

Brahms A German Requiem, Liebeslieder Waltzer

Britten St. Nicolas, A Ceremony of Carols, Rejoice in the Lamb

Duruflé Requiem

Dyson Hierusalem

Elgar Great is the Lord

Fauré Requiem

Handel Messiah, Coronation Anthems, Foundling Hospital Anthem

Haydn The Creation

Higginson Requiem (American Premiere)

Honegger King David

Mendelssohn Elijah

Mozart Requiem, Grand Mass in C Minor, Missa Brevis in D Major, Solemn Vespers, Coronation

Mass in C Major

Orff Carmina Burana

Poulenc Gloria

Rutter Gloria

Schubert Mass in G Major

Tavener Funeral Ikos

Thompson A Testament of Freedom, The Peaceable Kingdom

Vaughan Williams Dona Nobis Pacem, Five Mystical Songs

Vieira Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross (American Premiere)

Vivaldi Gloria, Magnificat

Wiley Columbus: Dream to Reality (World Premiere)

...and Shorter Works by: Bach, Bairstow, Biebl, Britten, Byrd, Cohen, Conte, Davison, Dawson, Duruflé, Elgar, Foster, Gawthrop, Gershwin, Gibbons, Gorecki, Greene, Hadley, Handel, Hogan, Howells, Hutto, Kern, Lauridson, Leighton, Mark Lewis, Lowry, Mozart, Mulholland, Neswick, Parry, Pärt, Poulenc, Rorem, Rutter, Schubert, Shaw/Parker, Sowerby, Staheli, Stravinsky, Tavener, Randall Thompson, Bruce Thompson, Tye, Vaughan Williams, Victoria, Vieira, Wesley

York County Choral Society, P.O. Box 4202 CRS, Rock Hill, SC 29732

Please check the web site often for rehearsal schedules and information

www.YorkCountyChoralSociety.org/