

VALDOSTA
CHORAL GUILD
MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK
2013–2014



P.O. Box 4842
Valdosta, GA. 31604

Purpose, History and Mission:

The Valdosta Choral Guild provides an opportunity for all singers in the community to experience and share the joy of music. The Guild began in 1978 as The Valdosta Oratorio and Val Chorale. It was reorganized in 1980 as the Valdosta Choral Society under the direction of Ruth Sisson. In 1986 Dr. David L. Johnson became the director, and the name was changed to the present one. Dr. Webster Teague took over as director in 1990. Directors following him were David Faber –1994; Carla and Tony Carroll–1996; Lynn Corbin–1998; and Grant Brown 2010. We were also fortunate to have Paul Neal and Reese Nelson serve us as directors during Lynn Corbin's professional and medical breaks. In the Spring of 2013 George Mason with the help of Ann Embry took over directorship of the guild when Grant Brown had to resign for health reasons. In the Fall of 2013 Kevin Jackson became our new director.

The mission of the Guild is to foster excellence and innovation in the performance and presentation of choral music

"I don't sing because I'm happy; I'm happy because I sing"

Williams James (American philosopher and psychologist, 1842–1910)

Calendar and Repertoire:

The Valdosta Choral Guild presents two major sets of concerts each season, a Christmas Concert in early December and the Spring Concert in late April or early May, each performed on Sunday afternoon and Monday evening. Exact dates of this season's concerts will be available as rehearsals begin and printed in our Newsletter and Sponsorship fundraising mail-outs at the beginning of the season. In addition, groups from the Guild volunteer to entertain musically in local community settings to celebrate holidays and bring cheer to local residents.

Singers are asked to commit to rehearsals and performances for each half of the concert season. Repertoire for each concert is selected by the Musical Director with the approval of the VCG Board. The Guild maintains an extensive music library, housed at the Turner Center for the Arts, and adds new music to the library regularly. VCG singers are encouraged to submit favorite titles appropriate for the concerts to the Music Director in writing or by email well in advance of the start of the season.

Eligibility and Expectation of Membership:

This is a volunteer group. Membership is open to all members of the community, high school age and above who subscribe to the purpose and principles of the Valdosta Choral Guild. There are currently no auditions required but may be expected for solo and small group participation. One of the specific things that you have volunteered for is the pursuit of excellence. To that end, Monday evening rehearsals are for in-depth study of the musical aspects of the repertoire. Time will be spent “wood shedding” notes during sectional rehearsals and focusing on blending those sectionals into just beautiful music for all to enjoy and share. To that end the following are expected.

Rehearsals:

- a. Rehearsals begin immediately at 7:30 p.m. in the designate rehearsal area. You are expected to be in your seat before that time. If that is a problem you must work that out with your section leader ahead of time. Tardiness is a disruptive behavior and limits your ability to acquire the music. Please call or email your section leader if you have to miss a rehearsal.
- b. Have your music organized and bring a pencil to every rehearsal. You will be provided with music for our performances but it is your responsibility to treat it with care since we use music from several sources beyond our Music Library. Therefore, never mark on any music with anything other than a pencil and please erase those marks as you return it. **Yes, it is your responsibility to return all music.**
- c. Talking is to be limited as it interferes with **your** and other members' attention to the director's communication. We have a lot to learn and refine during the time set aside for rehearsals, so please do not talk.
- d. No gum, candy or dinner. No homework. Turn off all electronic devices. No texting.
- e. Occasionally there are added solo or small ensemble rehearsals immediately before or after a regularly scheduled rehearsal. Please respect these rehearsals and take your conversations outside of the rehearsal area.
- f. You may miss no more than three rehearsals for any one performance to be eligible to participate in that performance. **The final decision on participation is the prerogative of the Music Director in collaboration with the Board of Directors.**
- g. While it is the responsibility of the Music Director to merge all voices into an outstanding performance it is **your** responsibility to learn the notes and lyrics of all music. If you need additional help, see your section leader.

- h. Please limit or eliminate the use of perfumes, colognes, and other sources of odors that may cause breathing problems for members.

Maintaining Membership Status:

Since this is a volunteer organization that is dependent on members for its successful operation, you are expected to assist in activities that include service on committees, officer positions, patron solicitation, performance publicity and ticket sales. Given that the costs of operation far exceed membership fees it is expected that all members must participate willingly and enthusiastically in these activities.

Fees:

Dues are \$20 semi-annually. Full time college and high school students are exempt from this responsibility. You must pay those fees to your section leader by the third rehearsal. Exceptions for hardships are to be approved by the Board of Directors.

Performance and Performance Dress:

Specific details regarding performances will be announced prior to each concert

Performance dress for women – An example:



Ankle length black dress, skirt or evening pantsuit, with sleeves at least to the elbow.

Black, closed toe shoes and black stockings

Jewelry limited to stud earrings , watch, finger ring – NO BLING

Performance dress for men– An example:



Black tuxedo or suit, black bow tie
White tuxedo or long sleeve shirt
Black cummerbund or formal vest
Black shoes and socks

****Absolutely no perfume, cologne or scented hairspray!!!! Definitely use deodorant!**

Performance etiquette reminders:

In addition to those behaviors outlined under rehearsal the following apply:

- When entering or exiting the stage, music is carried in the hand away from the audience
- Stand still during concerts, with good singing posture and knees unlocked. Avoid distracting the audience during a performance: do not speak to other singers; do not hum a pitch before singing; do not unwrap throat lozenges. Minimize movement and appear engaged.
- Do not turn pages during solos. Mark ahead of time where your next entrance is (e.g., with a paperclip) and know the cues to your entrance so that you don't need to follow along.
- Do not put your music down during solos, between movements of a piece, or between pieces, unless instructed by the director.
- After finishing the last piece before an intermission or the last piece of the concert, lower your music to your side as soon as the audience starts clapping.

- Do not applaud for other performers.
- Don't bow, unless you are being acknowledged for a solo. Just beam at the audience.
- Don't wave at your friends and family
- And once again, thank you in advance for not wearing perfumes, colognes, or fragrances of any kind including hand and body lotion, shaving lotion, etc.