

# RWCC Membership Handbook

Fall 2023



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# Our Mission

The RWCC is dedicated to using music as the vehicle for messages of peace, hope, understanding, and cooperation within the global community.

## History

RWCC began in 1978 as Rochester Womyn's Community Chorus. Its philosophy at that time was to provide a vehicle for the feminist community through singing. The directors for the next five years were professional musicians and the chorus sang only music composed by women. In 1997, the RWCC became a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and established a Board of Directors, in whose hands the fiscal responsibilities, planning, and major decisions are entrusted.

## Current

The Rochester Women's Community Chorus (RWCC), a not-for-profit, non-auditioned group, has been creating harmony by singing music of all genres since 1978.

All persons 18 and older who can sing in the treble range (soprano/alto) and are comfortable singing under the Rochester Women's Community Chorus "banner" are welcome and encouraged to sing with us.

Our chorus family consists of a diverse group of people who share a love of music. We welcome singers regardless of

any prior musical experience or expertise, and are committed to helping our chorus grow musically. Non singing members are welcome to join our extended family as volunteers, sponsors, or board members.

As members of [GALA](#), [Sister Singers](#), and the [Greater Rochester Choral Consortium](#), organizations that bring together hundreds of choruses worldwide, we promote building bridges through music.

The RWCC is a medium sized organization that takes pride in the quality of its performances. There are two major concerts a year and one or two "run-outs" or smaller performances. All singers are expected to sing in the major concerts, while "run-outs" are based on singers' availability.

Dates of major performances are announced at the beginning of each season. If there is a conflict with a date, it is important that the Director be notified of this immediately so that adjustments can be made if needed.

# Chorus Structure

## Board of Directors & Committees

The RWCC is run by a board of directors elected annually. However, each member of the chorus can influence chorus activities by joining one or more of the standing or ad hoc committees. These committees are responsible for aspects of the RWCC including music selection, performance

enhancement, concert production, rehearsal retreat planning, fund- raising, membership recruitment, and website/publications design. New committees may be formed at any time as needed.

We are a volunteer organization. Therefore, we ask each singing member in the RWCC to take part in at least one committee or volunteer for one non-singing assignment per season. (New members are asked to join a committee in their second season with RWCC).

## Section Leaders

Each section of the chorus (Soprano I and II, Alto I and II), has a designated volunteer who acts as Section Leader. These section leaders are the chorus members' link to other members, other sections, the Board, and the Director. If there are problems, musical or otherwise, within a section that come up, the Section Leader will communicate the concerns to the Director or an appropriate board member or committee chair. They will also help address attendance issues within their section.

An updated copy of the roster is distributed to all singers upon the closing of new member recruitment, after the first month of each season. Section leaders will make sure that each member of their section receives one.

# Membership Requirements & Expectations

We are a non-auditioned group open to all persons 18 and older who can sing in the treble range. It is understood that everyone has different skills and learning styles. The ability to read music is not necessary. There is a voice placement for each new member of the chorus, and periodically for existing members, to help determine balance and voice part. Anyone who cannot match a musical pitch will be encouraged to work individually with the Director to improve their vocal skills prior to singing in the chorus. They will also be encouraged to be a part of the group by participating in one of the many necessary non-singing tasks.

Each singer is provided with their own copy of the music at the beginning of each season. This music is on loan from the RWCC Music Library and we ask that it be kept in good condition so that others may use it in the years to follow. It is strongly encouraged that all music be memorized for the concert performance.

## Dues

Since we are a not-for-profit organization, dues and ticket sales make up the bulk of our funds. All singing and non-singing members of the RWCC are expected to pay dues each season (twice a year). Recommended dues are discussed with chorus members at the beginning of each season and range from \$50-90. No one will be denied participation in any chorus event because of an inability to

pay dues. Members who have difficulty with the financial requirement should speak to the Treasurer.

Members will also be encouraged to help raise funds through various fundraising events, helping to sell advertisements or to solicit patrons for the concert programs, and selling tickets for RWCC concerts.

## Rehearsal Structure

Rehearsals are held on weekday evenings (currently Tuesdays) from September-December/January for the winter semester and January-June for the spring semester. They begin at 6:30 PM and last until 8:45 PM, with a short break. During rehearsal, the focus is on singing, learning parts and lyrics. Socializing, eating, or other activities, including those related to committee work, should be addressed during breaks or outside of scheduled rehearsal time. Rehearsal tracks or CDs are available to all chorus members.

Each season, there will be a RWCC retreat – an additional chorus rehearsal and social event scheduled on a weekend towards the middle of the season. Dates will be provided as early in the season as possible to allow time for planning.

## Snoopy Club

There is a Snoopy Club which is responsible for acknowledging celebratory events and times of hardship for individual members, including non-singing members. Social events are periodically planned for the chorus, and everyone is invited to bring guests to these functions.

# COVID-19 Policy

RWCC is committed to maintaining a healthy community. Singers are required to have received the full round of COVID vaccinations (at least 2 weeks after the final dose of at least two shots of Pfizer or Moderna or one of Janssen) to participate. Please be prepared to show your vaccination card at your first rehearsal. If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we hope to have you join us in a future season. We follow the mask requirements of our practice and performance locations, as well as the best practices recommended by the Eastman School of Music. We reserve the right to go stricter than the venue based on current conditions.

## Inclement Weather & Emergency Contacts

Occasionally, a rehearsal may be canceled if the rehearsal space is closed or traffic conditions are unsafe. When that is the case, a message will be emailed to all Chorus Members, posted on the 'Inside the RWCC' Facebook page, and sent through the Remind notification system by 4:30 PM the day of rehearsal. Section Leaders will also be notified. If there is a reason to expect that the rehearsal might be canceled, members are asked to review their emails, telephone either their section leaders or visit 'Inside the RWCC' on the day of rehearsal to ascertain whether rehearsal will be held.



# Alcohol & Drug Policy

Any alcohol consumption or use of illegal drugs at chorus rehearsals or performances is prohibited.

## Code of Courtesy

1. Please be respectful of your neighbors and limit distractions.
  - Limit talking and use whispered voices.
  - Limit your use of electronic devices (cell phones, mp3 players, tablets, kindles, etc.). Be present in the room with us.
2. We encourage members to avoid bringing children to rehearsal. Consider using the Inside RWCC Facebook page or the email list for this season's singers (RWCC-fall-2023@gmail.com) to find potential babysitters.
3. Participate with enthusiasm
  - Be ready to sing when it's your turn.
  - Be committed to self-improvement as well as the improvement of the chorus.
  - Leave negative attitudes and comments outside the door.
4. Please keep our rehearsal space a "Fragrance Free Zone"
  - Please do not wear perfume, cologne, lotions, hairspray with odor, or aftershave at rehearsals, concerts, or other performances.
  - This is a safety concern. Many of our members suffer from allergies and your fragrance might cause an allergic or asthmatic reaction.

- Members wearing any fragrance may be asked to go to the bathroom and wash it off or to leave rehearsal for the evening.
5. Please address conflicts or concerns in an appropriate manner.
- If you have a conflict with or a concern about another member, please speak to your section leader or a board member.
  - -If you have a conflict with or a concern about the church or its staff, please speak to a board member.

## RWCC Attendance

Regular attendance at our Tuesday night rehearsals (6:30 – 8:45 pm) is important for individual preparation for our concert, to ensure group cohesion, and to build and sustain our RWCC community.

## Fall 2023 Season Calendar

A full calendar of rehearsals (regular, retreat, & tech) is below:

9/12/2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal, DUPC - 6:30-8:45, (continues every Tuesday evening until the concert)

11/17/23 - Sectionals – Shaw Room at DUPC

12/9/23 - Chorus Retreat - Harley School - 9:00am - 3:00pm

1/4/24 –Technical Rehearsal - Harley School – 6:00-9:00 pm

1/13/23 –Winter Concert - Harley School - 7:30 pm (call time to be determined)

## Attendance tracking and reporting absences

Attendance will be tracked by the Member Manager, Laura Waterstripe, who will quietly take attendance at the beginning of each rehearsal. If you are late to rehearsal, make sure you speak with Laura so that you are not marked absent for that rehearsal.

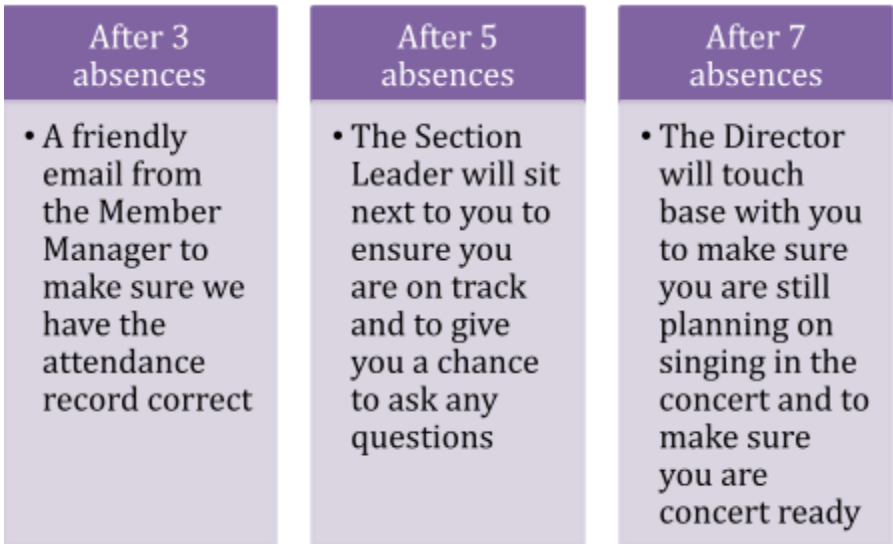
If you know you need to be absent from a regular rehearsal inform the Member Manager as soon as possible via

- <http://www.therwcc.org/RWCC/members/attendance.html>
- Email – [lwaterstripe@gmail.com](mailto:lwaterstripe@gmail.com)
- Phone – (585) 704-2172

Please do not use any other means of informing the member manager and please do not call the Director (until Tech rehearsals or concert day)

**Please do not attend if you are feeling sick!**

In order to support everyone in their preparation for our concert below is a flow diagram of how we will address absences.



It is important that you attend at least one of the tech rehearsal prior to the concert – if you have to miss both you will need to speak with the Director to ensure that you are concert ready

All soloists and small group singers are required to do a sound check with the microphones and the sound technician that will be present at one of the technical rehearsals. If you know you cannot be present for this please speak directly with Kristy



*ROCHESTER WOMEN'S  
COMMUNITY CHORUS*

121 N Fitzhugh St., Ste. 314  
Rochester, NY 14614