



Singer's Handbook

2025-26 Season

Welcome to the Dubuque Chorale! We are pleased and thrilled that you have decided to join us in continuing our rich musical tradition of bringing vibrant choral music to the Dubuque area community.

Please take a few moments to become familiar with this handbook. The members of the Chorale Board of Directors and its director, Amanda Huntleigh, welcome your questions, comments, suggestions, and concerns.

We hope that your experience of making music as a member of Dubuque Chorale will become a source of great joy and fulfillment.

Please use this handbook as a first source of information for the routine operations of the Chorale. We encourage you to address specific non-routine questions to the section leaders, committee members, or board members.

For more information, including a full digital version of the handbook, a rehearsal schedule, membership directory, rehearsal tracks or links please visit:

dubuquechorale.org

User name: choralemember

Password: family

2025 Season Schedule

Ode to the Arts

Sat October 25, 7 pm • First Congregational Church UCC

Sun October 26, 2 pm • First Congregational Church UCC

Holiday Concert with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra

Sat December 6, 7:30 pm • Five Flags Theatre

Sun December 7, 2:00 pm • Five Flags Theatre

SongFest

Date TBD • Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium

Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra

Sat April 18, 7:30 pm • Heritage Center, University of Dubuque

Sun April 19, 2:00 pm • Heritage Center, University of Dubuque

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Harmony

Sat May 2, 7:00 pm • Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sun May 3, 2:00 pm • Westminster Presbyterian Church

Membership

Membership in the Dubuque Chorale is open to high school, college, and adult singers from the Tri-State area and beyond. No auditions are necessary to join Chorale.

Cadenza

Cadenza is an auditioned ensemble. Auditions are typically held in the fall. In order to sing with Cadenza, singers must fully participate in the Chorale fall and spring concerts. Cadenza rehearsals are held typically on Thursday evenings, from 6 to 7 pm. Cadenza singers are expected to notify their section coordinator as soon as possible in the event of a late arrival or absence. The attendance policy allows for 2 absences each semester. Any deviation from this will remain the purview of the Artistic Director.

Mike Jozefowicz, Cadenza Organizer ns0u.mike@gmail.com

Cost

The Dubuque Chorale asks each member to pay dues for the season. Dues are an important part of the Chorale budget and enable the organization to continue offering excellent vocal music to the community. However, dues should *never* be a reason not to join the Chorale, so financial assistance is available to anyone for whom the dues are an obstacle to participation.

- Full season dues are \$110; \$25 for students and young adults through age 26. Cadenza dues are an additional \$30. Dues for singers participating for only half the season are \$60.
- Dues are requested to be paid as soon as possible at the beginning of the season. Singers should give their dues directly to the board treasurer at rehearsal. The board treasurer is responsible for tracking the payment of all dues.
- Singers who have not submitted their dues in a timely manner will receive a friendly reminder via email, requesting that the matter be addressed promptly and inviting them to complete a financial assistance form if necessary. Complete confidentiality is assured.
- Financial assistance applications are available from the treasurer. If a financial form is requested, the singer is requested to complete this within two weeks. The completed form should be submitted to the treasurer.
- If no financial application form is completed within this two-week time frame and no dues are paid, the matter is referred to the Director and President of the board to determine a course of action.

Rehearsal Attendance

Chorale meets Thursday evenings 7 to 9 pm at the Grand View United Methodist Church. All singers are requested to complete a registration form at the beginning of the season.

Cadenza rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6 to 7 pm at the same location.

- Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is expected.
- If a singer cannot attend a rehearsal or performance, they are expected to inform their Section Coordinator ASAP.
- In the event of an unexcused absence, the Section Coordinator will contact the member and let them know they were missed.
- If a member has a chronic problem with attendance, the Section Coordinator will bring it to the Director's attention. The Director and/or Board will decide the next course of action.

Performance Attendance

- For multiple performances of a concert, members who know they will miss a performance must get approval from the Director to participate.
- Members must inform their Section Coordinator as soon as they know they will miss a performance.
- Chronic problems with missed performances will be brought to the Director's attention by the Section Coordinator. The Director and/or Board will decide a course of action.

Concert Attire

- Solid black dress clothes (blouses, dresses, skirts, dress slacks, tuxedos, suits)
- Sleeves should be below the elbow for dresses, blouses, sweaters, and tops
- Dresses and skirts should be below the knees. Slacks and pants should be long
- Black tuxedo or solid black suit should include a white dress shirt and black tie or black dress shirt with or without a black tie
- Black dress shoes (no open-toed shoes, no flip-flops)
- Black, opaque stockings/socks
- No perfume, cologne, aftershave, or scented hair sprays

Inclement Weather Policy

Rehearsal cancellations due to weather will be posted on the Dubuque Chorale website, www.dubuquechorale.org, as well as Kat-FM, KDTH, 101.1 the River, and KGRR radio stations. All singers are encouraged to use their own judgment regarding rehearsal attendance.

In the event of inclement weather, the board will make every effort to post the cancellation of rehearsal by 4:00 pm on the day of rehearsal.

Board of Directors

Dubuque Chorale Board consists of the Artistic Director (ex-officio), President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, four additional Chorale singers, and three members from the community. All members serve three-year terms, renewable after the first term. Board members are elected by the Chorale membership at the annual meeting held in the spring. The Board meets once a month throughout the year, generally on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the Greater Dubuque Development Corp Boardroom, 900 Jackson St, Dubuque IA 52001. Any Chorale member is welcome to attend the monthly meetings.

- Mark Niemer, President
- Tara Dunn, Vice-President
- Mia Scott, Secretary
- Joe Amato, Treasurer
- Jeannie Adams
- Macayla Albee
- Nick Anderson
- Douglas Henry
- Greg Orwoll
- Sarah Slaughter
- Susan Tonn

*Contact information is available through the online directory at dubuquechorale.org.

Artistic Directors

Amanda Huntleigh, Artistic Director

Nathaniel “Than” Chesher, Associate Director

Karmella Sellers: Children’s Choirs Program Director: Legati Singers

Victoria Bausman, Children’s Choir Director, Staccati Singers

Section Coordinators

Soprano Mary Beth Ferring sopranos@dubuquechorale.org

Alto Danielle Phillips altos@dubuquechorale.org

Tenor Nick Anderson tenors@dubuquechorale.org

Bass Mike Jozefowicz basses@dubuquechorale.org;

Committee Chairs

- Sarah Slaughter, Publicity and Marketing
- Mary Beth Ferring, Education and Outreach, Music Librarian
- Nicholas Anderson, Membership
- Joe Amato, Treasurer
- Greg Orwoll, Assistant to Treasurer
- Mike Jozefowicz, Cadenza Organizer
- Teresa (Terry) Eckhart, Fundraising; Governance and Legal
- Mark Niemer, Logistics
- Mark Oppedahl, Website Manager

Accompanist

- Sharon Jensen. Dubuque Chorale Accompanist
- Keisy Peyerl Xavier, Cadenza Accompanist
- Amanda Hauta, Dubuque Chorale Children's Choirs Accompanist

Music

Each singer will be provided a copy of musical selections they are expected to sing with the Chorale. Occasionally, Chorale members may need to buy their individual copy. It is the singer's responsibility to return all music owned/borrowed by Chorale following each concert. Each member must furnish and use a black folder to hold their music.

Tips for Chorale Members

- Arrive 10 minutes prior to rehearsal/call time so that rehearsals can begin promptly.
- Bring a pencil to all rehearsals to mark your music.
- Listen attentively during rehearsals/announcements and refrain from unnecessary talking.
- Turn off your cell phone or put it on vibrate during all rehearsals.
- Refrain from the use of heavy perfumes that might affect other singers' allergies.
- Encourage community attendance at concerts by helping with publicity and ticket sales.
- Be willing to serve on a committee.
- Consider serving on the board.