

## Tips for Choristers

Here are some helpful hints to make your life easier.

1. Please try to arrive on time. If you arrive at 6:45 p.m., then there is some time to socialize, get your music ready, and ask any pertinent questions. Rehearsal begins at 7:00 p.m. each Tuesday at Grace Baptist Church, 354 Victoria St. E., Alliston
2. It is common courtesy to advise or discuss with the director in advance any known absence of a lengthy nature.
3. In order to mark notations on your music, please bring a pencil and eraser to **every** rehearsal and concert performance.
4. Even if you are unable to sing, it is important to attend every rehearsal. You can still learn a lot just sitting and listening. You will not miss any instructions and will be able to mark your music accordingly.
5. Obtaining recordings of, or viewing websites of concert repertoire is highly recommended. You can often obtain your specific part for major works. If you wish, bring a recording device to rehearsal to record instructions and your part for at-home practice.
6. If sectional rehearsals are scheduled for your part, do your very best to attend them. Sectional rehearsals are a great way to learn your part more quickly in a smaller setting. They are organized for your benefit.
7. Come prepared for each rehearsal, having done some practising at home each week. Below are some at home practice suggestions:
  - \* Review the lyrics, as well as the notes
  - \* Play your part on an instrument when possible
  - \* Listen to a recording of your part and/or the entire piece
  - \* Memorize the words and musical details
  - \* When possible, go online and find free programs that allow you to learn your own part as a training tool or try using the training tools the director may give for computer use.
8. As some of our members are very sensitive to scents, please remember not to wear perfume or scents.
9. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and recording devices during rehearsals.

10. Please respect one another (director, accompanists, guest soloists and fellow singers). If attention is being paid to one section, please refrain from talking to your neighbours. Whispering while the director is teaching and leading another voice section is very disruptive. Instead, use your time wisely and quietly by reviewing the text (words), rhythm or look at the problem spots, repeat signs, and make notes in pencil. If you are practically perfect, then follow the other section that is being worked on. You might pick up something along the way that is helpful such as rhythm, text pronunciation, phrasing, diction or dynamics. Keeping these tips in mind will help all of us as we learn and grow through song.
11. Please note that there is **No Smoking** anywhere on Church property.

Thank you for your cooperation in all of the above.



## How to Stay Connected

1. Make sure that your email address and telephone numbers are current. The director needs to be able to contact you regularly.
2. Make sure that the director is informed of your absence.
3. Listen to the weekly announcements, ask questions for clarification, and be prepared to share pertinent information with the choir.
4. If a rehearsal or concert event needs to be cancelled or changed, PLEASE check your email or phone messages before leaving home on the given date. This includes possible weather emergencies.
5. During the rehearsal break, meet and greet your fellow choristers...after all, we are in this together! Get up and move around as it is important for the body to move after sitting.
6. For fundraising events, listen carefully to details and follow instructions.
7. As a member, you will be invited to take part in various social activities. These are opportunities to get to know fellow choristers better, and to ENJOY conversation

## Concert Protocol

### 1. **The Dress Code:**

**Women** - Full-length black skirt or dress pants  
- Long-sleeved black top (Occasionally we wear white tops.  
Before each concert check what colour we are wearing)  
- Black stockings and shoes  
- Conservative jewellery and/or hair accessories

**Men** - Black suit  
- White dress shirt  
- Black bow tie  
- Black shoes and socks

The dress code may occasionally be altered to suit performance circumstances.

2. **PLEASE** do not wear perfume, scented sprays, cologne or after-shave, or scented body lotions. **DO** wear un-scented antiperspirant.

3. **BE ON TIME** - for warm-ups  
- for rehearsals  
- for lining up

4. **BRING ALL OF YOUR MUSIC AND YOUR BLACK CONCERT FOLDER.** Put your music in your folder in concert order.

5. **DO** - stay focussed on the music  
- sit quietly during solos and ensembles  
- when listening or waiting, pick a spot in the audience that is comfortable for your head and neck and rest your eyes on that point  
- be prepared at all times to stand or sit based on the signals from the podium  
- smile at the conclusion of a concert—it can be contagious  
- arrive and depart in orderly fashion with confidence, head up  
- assist singers where there are steps, door entrances, narrow passage ways, etc.  
- hold music up and look at conductor while singing

**DO NOT** - chew gum (and anything else) on stage  
- open wrapped cough drops or candies on stage  
- fiddle with your music, hair or costume on stage  
- talk to your neighbours on stage  
- turn around to look behind or beside you if there is a solo voice singing or if you hear something unusual i.e. wrong notes, singer dropping music, etc.  
- whisper or speak in any way to your neighbours on stage (this distracts the audience away from the main musical event)

## Choir History

The New Tecumseth Singers is a community choir established in 1992 by two accomplished musicians from the area, Margaret Kukurugya and John Dodington. Over the years the choir has become an integral part of the community participating in events such as Christmas Tree Lighting, singing for seniors, various music competitions, and fundraising for groups like Habitat for Humanity, the Gibson Centre and Simcoe Arts Festival. In 2000, Sharon Poelstra became director of the choir. During that time we began the tradition of performing Handel's *Messiah* and recorded a CD titled *Look To This Day*. Our current director, John Wervers began conducting the choir in December 2013. Since then we have performed a number of major works, often with orchestra accompaniment as well as a variety of short contrasting works. In November 2016, some members of the choir had the exciting opportunity to perform Handel's *Messiah* in New York at Carnegie Hall. The New Tecumseth Singers partners with the Dufferin Concert Singers from Orangeville in order to provide quality music throughout a larger area.

## The Repertoire

Handel's *Messiah*, *Requiem for the Living* by Dan Forrest, Shubert's *Mass in G*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*, *Magnificat* by Pergolesi, short works by Chilcott, MacGillivray, Rutter, Thompson, Willan and a variety of Canadian folk songs. The Waterloo Players Orchestra has accompanied the choir on numerous occasions and individual instrumentalists and vocal soloists are often highlighted in our concerts.

## Our Accompanist - Louise Gallagher

Native to the Alliston area, Louise earned her B. Music in Performance from Queen's University and her ARCT in Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. As well as her duties as choir accompanist, Louise is currently the Music Director at Knox Presbyterian Church in Alliston and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Mansfield.

## HAPPINESS IS



...singing  
in a choir.



# The New Tecumseth Singers



*The human voice is really the foundation of all music.  
Richard Wagner*

## Choir Handbook

*Last updated: August 2019*

[www.thenewtecumsethsingers.com](http://www.thenewtecumsethsingers.com)

Music is the universal language of Mankind.  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



*Music is the fine art which, more than any other, ministers  
to human welfare.  
Where there is beautiful music it is difficult for discontent  
to live.*  
Herbert Spencer

- 6. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY THE CONDUCTOR (OR APPOINTEE)**
  - for carrying folders
  - for opening and closing folders
  - for getting on and off the stage
  - for all signals for sitting, standing, and group bowing
- 7.** After the final performance, leave ALL music in the area provided before leaving the location. This is especially important in order to return rented music on time.



## The 2019-20 Season

### Semester 1

11 Regular Rehearsals  
2 Mass Rehearsals  
1 Dress Rehearsal  
2 Concerts

### Semester 2

15 Regular Rehearsals  
3 Mass Rehearsals  
1 Dress Rehearsal  
2 Concerts

Choir rehearsals and concerts cost thousands of dollars. Some of the costs covered by choir dues and ticket prices are: rehearsal and concert hall rentals; music rental and photocopying; guest musicians, including soloists; chair rental; website; advertising - ads, signs, posters, tickets, programs; flowers and thank you gifts, and our music director's and accompanist's honorarium.

In order to cover some of the rehearsal and concert costs, we ask choir members to pay \$105 per semester or \$190 for the entire concert season (normally September to April).

As well, each member will be responsible for selling tickets for our Christmas concert and Spring concert. You may sell them, give them as gifts for birthdays, Christmas, Easter, anniversaries etc., or for thank you gifts to friends and neighbors.

Preparing for concerts requires a lot of hard work on the part of all members. If you can help out in any way, even in a small way, it would be greatly appreciated. Please talk to anyone on the New Tecumseth Singers executive. Thankyou in advance to everyone for their co-operation and assistance in ensuring our concerts will be successful.