

Hendricks Symphony Chorus

Etiquette 101

updated September 27, 2021

These are things you may know, and we hope you will forgive us for repeating them. It is our hope that this list will continue to change and evolve, as it reflects an ever growing organization.

The Chorus

The Hendricks Symphony Chorus is a group dedicated to singing the choral masterworks. We rehearse on Mondays from 7:00 to 9:30 PM and expect to perform several concerts during the season, both with the orchestra and alone. **Orchestra and Chorus members must have received the COVID vaccine (see vaccine policy on Hendrickssymphony.org)**

Joining the Chorus

The Hendricks Symphony Chorus is open to all residents of the community interested in singing great choral music. New members are accepted by audition. For additional information, or to schedule an audition, contact Benjamin Del Vecchio: maestrodelvecchio@gmail.com (317) 272-0452. While there is no membership fee, members are encouraged to make a minimum annual donation of at least \$25 to the Hendricks Symphonic Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, to help offset expenses. Members are expected to purchase their own music. There will be a fund available for students and others for whom this creates a financial hardship.

Audition Requirements

Auditions will be held annually or biennially at the discretion of the director. They are primarily to enable us to find out more about you. We want them to be a positive experience, and promise to do everything we can to make you comfortable, so that you will be able to sing with confidence. We will ask you to:

1. Vocalize for range, quality and accuracy of pitch.
2. Performance of a song. Prepare a song of your choice (accompanist will be provided). It can be a hymn, art song, sacred solo, aria, or a song from musical theater. Memorization is not required. Please bring a copy for the accompanist.
3. Sight-reading.

Attendance Requirements

Members must attend a minimum of 80% of the rehearsals for a program, and must attend all dress rehearsals. Two tardies to rehearsal equals one absence, and it is your responsibility to check in with your section coordinator immediately upon arrival and not wait until break. Any exceptions must be approved by the conductor

Section Coordinators

Each section will have an appointed coordinator. Members should address needs or concerns to their section coordinator. Coordinators will report to the personnel manager, who reports to the conductor.

Concert Attire

Men wear black tuxedos or a tuxedo-like suits (not grey, brown or blue), white shirts, black bow tie, black shoes and black socks. Women are all in black: long floor length dress, or same length black skirt or slacks with preferably a long-sleeved black blouse, and black dress shoes. Please **no sleeveless tops, sequins, or flashy jeans.**

Music

Chorus members are expected to either provide their own music or purchase it from the chorus. For music purchased from the chorus, all sales are final. There are no refunds on music if someone has to drop out of chorus. For performances, music must be put in a black folder or notebook, or bound with a black cover. Don't wait until the last minute to find a cover which will be practical in performance!

Expectations

Each singer is expected to learn the music assigned for each rehearsal on his or her own. Beyond the first reading of a work, rehearsal time will be devoted to the development of ensemble sound, interpretation, and other musical matters. It is further expected that each singer will make a reasonable effort to develop his or her own vocal skills, and will make every effort to contribute in a positive manner to the work of the group. If possible we will provide rehearsal CD's, or an internet link, so you can practice at home.

Rehearsal Behavior

Rehearsals will begin with a warm up promptly at the assigned hour, and anyone not in their seat and ready to sing will be considered late. Food and gum chewing is not allowed. Water bottles should be the no spill variety. Each member is expected to bring a sharp pencil with an eraser to rehearsal to mark your music. Music should **never** be marked with colored pencil or pen. Talking should be kept to a minimum, and all questions should be addressed to the conductor.

Cell Phones

We prefer that you do not bring cell phones to rehearsal, but if you feel you need them on your person, they must be turned off. You can retrieve messages at intermission or after the rehearsal.

Concert and Rehearsal Aromas

Do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave, or perfumed hairspray before a concert or a rehearsal. Do wear unscented deodorant! Do not smoke or indulge in aromatic food or drink before we sing. We are in very close quarters, breathing deeply, and we need all the clear oxygen we can get! Do not drink alcohol before a performance for obvious reasons. Leave the celebration until after a brilliant concert.

Concert Behavior/Expectations:

Cell phones, or any other electronic devices are not permitted on stage during the concert. Personal effects (purses, etc.) may be left backstage (as it is secure) or other safe place. Once you are on stage, there is to be NO TALKING, dancing, or waving at friends/family in the audience. Musicians are not allowed in public areas or to mingle with the public before or during a performance. Upon completion of your part, remain still while watching Maestro until the completion of the piece (this includes page turning/flipping). At intermission and at the end of the concert, do not leave the stage until the audience has stopped applauding and the lights have come up. Most of all, have fun!!