



MEMBER  
GUIDE

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Greenville Choral Society is  
to foster excellence in the art of choral singing  
and to provide music education, cultural enrichment,  
and entertainment for its members and the community*

September 8, 2009

Dear Greenville Choral Society Members:

Welcome to the Greenville Choral Society, celebrating 40 years of bringing great choral music to eastern North Carolina. I am anxious to meet all of you and make music with you this year. All of the many ensembles of GCS have exciting programs planned that I know you will love being a part of!

Please read carefully the contents of the GCS member guide. It contains valuable information that will make your membership with GCS a rich and enjoyable experience. If there is anything that I can do for you or if you have a question about anything in this handbook, please feel free to ask me, the GCS Board, or your section leader.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Ward, DMA  
Conductor  
Greenville Choral Society

Dear Friends of Music:

40 years ago “Build me up Buttercup” and “Sweet Caroline” topped the music charts. “Get Smart” won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Comedy Series. The median American household income was \$8, 389. A gallon of milk was \$1.10 and gas was 35 cents. The unemployment rate was 3.6%, a new house averaged \$27,900 and we put a human on the moon.

A lot has changed in the last 40 years. We have grown up as a nation and as a society. The thing that remains constant is the Greenville Choral Society. We are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, as a non-profit organization whose mission is to culturally enrich our community with musical education and quality entertainment. The choral society consisting of 150 community singers is the largest community based performing arts organization in eastern North Carolina.

As president of this organization I encourage all of you to take an active part in the excellence that we are going to bring to the community. We exist because of the contributions of our time, our voices but mostly our DESIRE. Keep the desire strong and the 40<sup>th</sup> season truly will be one to remember.

May the Voice be with You,

Stephen J. Gray  
President 2009 – 2010  
Greenville Choral Society

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Greenville Choral Society and New Carolina Sinfonia. From its' inception in 1969 as a community chorus, the Greenville Choral Society has expanded in scope encompassing five choirs. Though each has its particular focus, all are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in choral singing and to the provision of music education and cultural enrichment for its members and the community at large.

In 2009, the Greenville Choral Society will celebrate it's 40th year of providing fine choral music for residents of Pitt County and beyond. Our membership continues to grow with over 200 adults, youth, and children. Our organization gives talented singers the opportunity to collaborate and create deeply moving musical art.

The **Concert Choir** performs choral masterworks of all genres, many with the New Carolina Sinfonia.

The **Chamber Chorale** is a subset of the Concert Choir composed of 24 mixed voices that serves in an ambassadorial role within the Greenville community and performs by invitation for holiday, civic, and private events in settings that are decidedly more intimate. Membership in the Concert Choir is a requirement for participation in the Chamber Chorale.

The **Youth Chorale** provides an opportunity for area youth in 9th through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to study and perform choral literature/music, not normally found in school or church.

The **Children's Chorus** serves as a training ground for children in 4th through 8th grades.

The **Bella Voce Singers** are a select ensemble from the Children's Chorus and Youth Chorale singing advanced treble repertoire in multiple parts.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

### **The Concert Choir & Chamber Chorale**

#### **Absences-**

Each singer is allowed **to be absent from no more than 20% of the rehearsals per concert event** (Fall Concert, Winter Concert and Spring Concert) There will be no distinction between excused or unexcused absences. After the maximum allowable absences are exceeded, the singer may be ineligible to sing at the designated concert, at the discretion of the director. If an extenuating circumstance arises that forces a singer to miss more than the allotted absences, he/she must petition the **(Director of the GCS)** within seven (7) days of the forced absence for permission to perform. The Director in coordination with the Executive Committee will review the petition and contact the singer with its decision within one week of submission.

#### ***Attendance at the Dress rehearsal is mandatory.***

Anyone who is absent from the Dress Rehearsal is ineligible to sing at the concert. In extenuating circumstances, the singer must petition, in writing the Music Director for permission to sing at the concert.

#### **Active Membership-**

Singers who chose not to sing for any two (2) consecutive semesters must re-audition for membership in the Concert Choir.

### **The Youth Chorale, Children's Chorus, & Bella Voce Singers**

## **Absences-**

Each singer is allowed a total of (2) absences per semester. **(CHECK WITH YC & CHILDREN DIRECTOR FOR RECOMMENDED POLICY CHANGE IF NEEDED)**

## **Active Membership-**

Membership is a year long commitment covering both fall and spring semesters. If a member chooses to sing for only one semester of the current concert year, he/she must re-audition for the following concert year. All members will participate in a re-audition after two (2) years of membership with the choir.

***The Attendance Policy is strictly enforced in all performing groups!***

## SECTION LEADERS

Section Leaders have been chosen to **be responsible for keeping accurate** attendance and **inform members regarding** concert attire policies. Additionally, the section leader serves as the liaison between the director and the singers and ensures that all section members are well informed.

### **Duties**

Each Section Leader takes attendance weekly. After a singer has missed rehearsal, the Section Leader will notify the singer. If the singer misses more than the maximum allowable number of rehearsals, they will let them know the procedure to continue singing for that concert. It is the singer's responsibility to petition **in writing**, to the **Director** to sing at the concert. The Section Leader will not petition on the singer's behalf.

If information must be distributed before a scheduled rehearsal time, the section leader can activate a phone and/or email chain at the request of the President, the Music Director, or the General Manager. Cooperation from every member ensures that information is disseminated properly. Each section leader will inform singer's regarding concert attire. If there is misunderstanding regarding concert attire, it is the singer's responsibility to consult the Section Leader well in advance of the concert.

Each Section Leader may appoint veteran members to help new members become acquainted with the Choral Society. Each Section Leader will monitor the section during rehearsals and assist the Director when needed.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

We work to produce a clean, elegant, uniform sound. Our appearance is important and should also convey this image. Therefore, all members are expected to abide by these guidelines. Failure to do so may result in your not being allowed to perform with the group. If any of these guidelines present a true obstacle for a member's participation, whether financial or otherwise, the singer should bring it to the attention of the Section Leader at least **four** (4) weeks prior to the performance so that a solution can be sought.

### **All Choirs of the Greenville Choral Society**

The following applies to dress rehearsals and concert performances:

Neat grooming is expected. Please wear **non-scented** deodorant. ***DO NOT WEAR PERFUME OR COLOGNE.*** This can be disastrous for chorus members sensitivity to fragrances as they may become hoarse and/or unable to sing or breathe. Remember that performance time almost always demands long sessions in close quarters with your fellow singers, so be a good neighbor.

### **The Concert Choir & Chamber Chorale**

#### **Men-**

For the concert, men must wear a black tuxedo, black shoes and socks, solid black cummerbund, standard black bow tie, and pleated white tuxedo shirt with standard "V" **or**

**tab** collar. No ruffled shirts, wing collars, or wide “butterfly” bow ties will be allowed. Tie and cummerbund materials should be dull or low luster, not shiny or velvet textured. Shirt **may** have white buttons **or white** studs. **NO Black Studs allowed.**

#### **Women-**

For the concert, women **may** wear the **previously** required formal **Attire**, pearl necklace, and pearl stud earrings. **no distracting hair decorations or jewelry . Women may also opt to wear the new, black top, purchased through the Greenville Choral Society, and any plain, long black skirt of her choosing.** Black hose and back shoes must also be worn. Under no circumstances will a garment be released to a singer until **the garment has been paid for in full . Required clothing that is purchased through the Greenville Choral Society remains the exclusive property of the organization until payment has been made in full**

### **The Youth Chorale**

#### **Men-**

For the concert, men must wear black tuxedo, black shoes and socks, solid black cummerbund, standard black bow tie, and pleated white tuxedo shirt with standard “V” **or tab** collar. No ruffled shirts or wide “butterfly” bow ties. Tie and cummerbund materials should be dull or low luster, not shiny or velvet textured. Shirt should have white buttons, not studs.

#### **Women-**

For the concert, women must wear the required dress. No jewelry is allowed. . **no distracting hair decorations or jewelry**

### **The Children’s Chorus**

#### **Boys-**

For the concert, boys must wear black slacks, black dress shoes, a belt, and the GCS Children’s Chorus polo shirt.

#### **Girls-**

For the concert, girls must black pants, black dress shoes, a belt and the GCS Children’s Chorus polo shirt. No distracting hair bows and no jewelry.

### **Auditions**

All singers must re-audition every two years of membership. This is an opportunity for the director to evaluate placement within the choir. Singers will be informed the semester before, if they need to re-audition.

### **FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising is an important part of the Greenville Choral Society. As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, the Greenville Choral Society supports itself through fundraising and advertising campaigns, corporate and individual donations, honoraria, grants, concert ticket sales, and membership dues. Each member is expected to participate in these activities in order to keep membership dues to a minimum. While dues are required, a financial burden should not prevent any member from participation in the group. Please contact the Treasurer and/or the General Manager, should you need assistance.

### **Semester Dues**

Semester dues are required of each participant in each choral group at the beginning of the semester. Semester dues account for approximately 10% of operating income in the GCS budget. All dues for any group must be paid by the third rehearsal unless other arrangements have been made with the Treasurer and/or General Manager. Choir members will not be allowed to sing after the third rehearsal until dues are paid. The General Manager will help monitor this policy. Semester Dues are \$40 per member per semester. Youth and

Children's dues are \$30 per member.

### **Advertisements**

Advertising Revenue comes from solicitations to local businesses for advertisements that run in our concert programs.

### **Grants**

Grant Money is awarded through government and charitable agencies that distribute funds to organizations for specific purposes. Applications for grants must be submitted well in advance in order to be considered. A grant writer is an integral part of the Board and must be maintained to further the value and quality of our organization.

### **Individual and Corporate Cash Donations**

This money comes from solicitation to individuals and businesses for money to be used for general or specific uses. Recognition of these donations appear in concert programs as well as a written letter of receipt and appreciation.

### **Concert Ticket Sales**

Ticket Revenue is the result of direct sales of tickets for each concert in which the Greenville Choral Society participates. Tickets may be distributed to membership for direct sale to patrons. There may be times when the GCS either chooses not to charge admission or is not allowed to charge an admission by the facility in which the concert is held. There may also be times when the Greenville Choral Society is singing as an invited guest and may not realize any money from the sale of tickets. In cases where an admission fee is not allowed by the facility, a "gift offering" may be collected.

### **Gala**

This is an annual ticketed event intended to raise money for the general fund of the Greenville Choral Society. This is a themed event in which the Concert Choir and Chamber Chorale will participate to varying degrees. Outside guests may be invited to participate as well. Other components of this event have included a 50/50 raffle and silent auction.

### **Group Fundraising Activities**

Income from group fundraising activities comes from the sale of products by members of the Greenville Choral Society. In the past, these activities have included garage sales; Christmas tree, wreath, and garland sales; individual and group picture sales; T-shirt/sweatshirt sales; candy bar sales; and discount savings card sales. It is important that each member takes part in one or more fundraising activities in an effort to keep membership dues at an affordable rate.

### **CHECKS & PAYMENTS**

The Greenville Choral Society accepts cash, credit cards and personal checks. There is a \$25 fee for any checks returned due to Insufficient Funds. This fee is subject to change at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Greenville Choral Society will only accept cash or certified bank check from those individuals who have submitted two (2) checks returned for Insufficient Funds.

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