

The Mesilla Valley Chorale — Guidelines & Expectations

mesillavalleychorale.org

<https://www.facebook.com/MesillaValleyChorale/>

revised September 2023

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, December 2: rehearsal for sound and lighting at the Rio Grande, report at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 3: Holiday Concert at the Rio Grande, report at 1:00, concert begins at 3

Thank you for your interest in being a member of the Mesilla Valley Chorale (MVC). We are a diverse group of singers who share a passion for performing choral music. We are committed to making each rehearsal musically productive and personally fulfilling. Our goals are to provide a quality, joyful musical experience for our members and audiences alike and to enhance the appreciation of choral music in our community.

To help us consistently accomplish our performance goals, the MVC has established the following guidelines and expectations of its members:

For the well-being of chorale members and audiences, anyone planning to sing with the chorale in September 2023 is expected to have been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Auditions

A short, friendly audition will be required of new members and of previous members who have not sung in MVC for over five years. These basic auditions help define range, vocal blend, and a singer's ability to hold pitch within harmonies. Auditions will be conducted by the Director and Assistant Director.

Music Staff

Director, Carol Nike – 575-202-9646 or carolnike4316@gmail.com

Assistant Director, Judy Bethmann – 309-310-2218 or msjudy@hotmail.com

Primary Accompanist, Charlotte Johnson – 575-650-6577 or kc5kwi@gmail.com

Assistant Accompanist, Asa Cleveland – 575-373-3199 or asawcleveland@gmail.com

Dues

The MVC year consists of two semesters. Membership dues are \$55 per semester for most members and \$30 for full-time students. Please let the Treasurer know if arrangements are needed for a time payment schedule. We don't want this to be a hardship for anyone. Dues provide funding for new music, stipends for the music staff, rental fees for rehearsal/concert facilities, and other expenses. Members are asked to donate music back to the MVC music library if they have no plans for future use. Dues can be paid online through the website or in person by check or cash at rehearsal.

Rehearsals

The fall semester begins the Monday after Labor Day with rehearsals weekly until the Holiday concert – the first Sunday in December. The spring semester begins the third Monday of January with weekly rehearsals until the spring concert – the first Sunday in May. Please note: rehearsal start dates are subject to change based on COVID-19 issues.

Weekly rehearsals are held on Monday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church at Griggs and Alameda; enter the choir room door on Alameda. Singers should be in their seats at 7:00 pm ready to sing.

Rehearsals are fast-paced and productive. Asking music-related questions of the director during rehearsals often helps the whole group. We do ask, as a courtesy, that members not talk among themselves during rehearsal.

Getting to know each other is important and encouraged before and after rehearsals and during breaks.

Saturday AM Sectional Rehearsals are scheduled during each semester, one hour for men and one hour for women.

Attendance at St. Paul's United Methodist Church choir room is not required, but highly encouraged. These rehearsals have proven very helpful in producing high-quality performances. Park on the south side and enter through the side door into the choir room. Women report at 10 and men at 11.

Attendance

To reach and maintain our goal of providing a quality musical experience, missing more than four Monday rehearsals during a semester may jeopardize participation in the performance, unless made up at Saturday rehearsals. All voices ARE important to the success of our overall sound.

Section Leaders maintain attendance records. Contact the appropriate section leader, if unable to be at rehearsal.

Sopranos – Cathy Boeker – 575-382-8989, or mrsb_wsmr@hotmail.com

Altos — Pamela Smith – 575-449-4921, or pamelasmithlc@gmail.com

Tenors — Tom Warren – 575-496-4000, or twarren42@gmail.com

Basses — Reldon Beck – 575-523-0807, or rbeck63@outlook.com

Digital Rehearsal Tracks for each part for each song will be made available to all members free of charge soon after the semester begins; these can be downloaded from our website to a computer or mobile device.

Dress Code

An MVC outfit is required for both men and women (see photo on mesillavalleychorale.org). Please let the Treasurer know if arrangements are needed for a time payment schedule. We don't want this to be a hardship for anyone.

Women:

- The MVC black skirt and top, plus black (or off-black) stockings and black shoes appropriate for standing.
- Accessories: red necklace (holiday) and turquoise necklace (spring)
- Please wear make-up, as stage lighting pales complexions.
- **No perfume** or fragrant sprays of any kind during rehearsals or concerts.

NOTE: A new black skirt made by our seamstress is \$35. The black blouse (ready-to-wear) is \$24 for sizes S to XL and \$29 for sizes 2XL to 4XL. Necklaces are \$3. However, if used outfits are available, the only cost is alterations, if necessary. MVC covers tax and shipping for new blouses.

Men:

- The MVC black vest, worn with a white long sleeve shirt, black trousers, black socks and shoes.
- Ties: red ties (holiday) and turquoise ties (spring)
- **No after-shave** or fragrant sprays of any kind during rehearsals or concerts.

NOTE: New MVC black vests are \$27 for all sizes. If used vests are available, the only cost is alterations, if necessary, provided by our seamstress. New ties are \$11 for red and \$15 for turquoise. MVC covers tax and shipping for new ties and vests.

Chorale Board:

Reldon Beck - President (575-523-0807, or rbeck63@outlook.com)

Melodye Pompa – Operations Manager (575-288-0564, or melodyemvc@gmail.com)

Ray Scroggins – Public Relations Consultant (575-521-0511, or rscrogginsnm@gmail.com)

Kathy von Ende – Secretary/Librarian (575-496-3186, or kathrynvonende@gmail.com)

Tom Warren – Technology Consultant (575-496-4000, or twarren42@gmail.com)

Other Functions:

Cheryl Johnson – Venue Manager (469-305-8052 or cherjohn@yahoo.com)

Teddi Johnson – Program & Website Production (707-689-3495 or bearchef816@aol.com)

Chris Pearson – Assistant Music Librarian (786-208-8900 or chriskarrenberg@gmail.com)

Donna Stryker – Wardrobe Manager (575-644-8134 or donnastryker0@gmail.com)