

The Mesilla Valley Chorale — Guidelines & Expectations
a 501c3 non-profit public charity

mesillavalleychorale.org
revised August 2026



SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, December 12: rehearsal for sound and lighting at the Rio Grande Theatre, report at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 13 : Spring Concert at the Rio Grande Theatre, report at 1:00, concert begins at 3

Thank you for your interest in being a member of the Mesilla Valley Chorale. 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 Board has established the following guidelines and expectations of its members:

Auditions

A short, friendly audition will be required of new members and of previous members who have not sung in the Chorale 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. She may also review the vocal range of existing members at her discretion in an effort to balance sections.

Music Staff

Director, Diane Schutz - 575-644-6863 or diane@stpaulslascruces.com

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

Assistant Accompanist, Christopher Martinez – 575-644-2962 or christopherigm@outlook.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 Chorale's 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. Because we are now a 501c3 non-profit, dues are tax deductible: your online credit card receipt or cancelled check should be retained for your records.

Rehearsals

The fall semester begins the Monday after Labor Day with rehearsals weekly until the Holiday concert – the second Sunday in December. The spring semester begins the third Monday of January with weekly rehearsals until the spring concert – the first Sunday in May.

Weekly rehearsals are held on Monday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church at Griggs and 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 lower voices and one hour for upper voices. 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. Sopranos and altos report at 10 with tenors and basses 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. The director will discuss music readiness with those who miss more than four rehearsals. All voices ARE important to the success of our overall sound.

There will be a calendar on the shelf behind the piano where members should indicate those rehearsals when they will be out of town; this will enable the director to plan which titles to practice, allowing for those planned absences

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

Section leaders are also responsible for maintaining notes of “who sings what where” and providing that information to any section members who are absent from a rehearsal.

Sopranos – Kate Johnson – 512-577-6600, or kate@pinedragons.com

Altos — Carla Anderson - 727-483-8738, or carland58@gmail.com

Tenors — Pete Brainard - 815-238-4290, or Brainard.pete@gmail.com

Basses — Don Koetz - 575-644-8227, or dakoetz4s@outlook.com

Digital Rehearsal Tracks for songs from our library are available on the FOR MEMBERS page on our website, www.mesillavalleychorale.org. Tracks for new songs will be recorded during the first several rehearsals and then loaded to the website; this new process will provide words, voice lines and piano accompaniment.

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) & turquoise (spring)
- **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 \$29 for sizes S to XL and \$34 for sizes 2XL to 4XL. Necklaces are \$3. However, if used blouses or skirts are available, the only cost is alterations, if necessary. The Chorale 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 black vests are \$27 for sizes XS to XL and \$31 for sizes 2XL to 5XL. If used vests are available, the only cost is alterations, if necessary, provided by our seamstress. New ties are \$12 for red and \$15 for turquoise. The Chorale covers tax and shipping for new ties and vests.

Chorale Board:

Bruce Budmayr – President (541-531-1323 or brucebudmayr@gmail.com)

Melodye Pompa – Treasurer (575-288-0564 or melodyemvc@gmail.com)

Ray Scroggins – Public Relations Consultant (262-490-7968 or rscrogginsnm@gmail.com)

Naomi Scroggs – Secretary/Wardrobe Manager (575-680-0519 or nmscroggs@yahoo.com)

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

Other Functions:

Rachel Gioannini – Website (520-955-1861 or rachelgio@gmail.com)

Linnea Kopp - Print Manager (575-520-8069 or linneakopp10@gmail.com)

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

Ellen Reyes – Stage Manager (559-280-7489 or ellenreyes@gmail.com)

Nancy Siddens – Social Media (802-557-7121, or nans4tune@yahoo.com)

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