

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, December 10: rehearsal for sound and lighting at the Rio Grande, report at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 11: Holiday Concert at the Rio Grande, report at 1:15, concert begins at 3

Thank you for your interest in becoming 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 2022 is expected to have been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Vocal Range Assessment

New members and returning members absent for five or more years will have a singing/listening session with the director, assistant director, and accompanist. This short, relaxed session will help define range, vocal blend, and ability to hold pitch within harmonies as a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass.

Music Leadership Team

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

Accompanist, Doug Weeks – 575-644-6999, or spmusic.weeks@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, with the exception of computer-printed copies, which MUST be returned to be destroyed in compliance with copyright laws. Dues can be paid online through the website or in person by check or cash at rehearsal. **This semester ONLY, women MUST return SANTA BABY since we borrowed that from Celestial Sounds.**

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. 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. Pau'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 east 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 you are 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 are available to all members free of charge soon after the semester begins; these can be downloaded to a computer or mobile device. **These tracks are at <https://www.mesillavalleychorale.org/links>**

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: For fall 2022 semester only, new female members will be able to wear their own black attire with these standards: a long, slim skirt 4" above the floor and an elbow-length to long-sleeved, modest scoop- or v-necked top that blends with the normal attire. This includes black/off-black stockings and black shoes and a holiday red necklace (\$3). Returned black skirts may be available, altered, if necessary, for a small fee, and our seamstress can make new skirts for \$20. New tops are being considered and a committee will decide on a pattern for a new look for the spring semester 2023.

Please wear make-up, as stage lighting pales complexions and **no perfume** or fragrant sprays of any kind during rehearsals or concerts.

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 plus ties cost \$46. If used vests are available, the only cost is alterations, if necessary, provided by our seamstress. New ties are \$10 each and MVC covers tax and shipping for new ties and vests.

Chorale Board:

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

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

Pamela Smith – Wardrobe Manager (575-449-4921, or pamelasmithlc@gmail.com)

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

Tom Warren - Program & Website Production (575-496-4000, or twarren42@gmail.com)