

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

mesillavalleychorale.org

We're on FACEBOOK!

revised January 2026

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, May 2 : rehearsal for sound and lighting at the Rio Grande Theatre, report at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 3 : 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 (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 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 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. She may also review the vocal range of existing members at her discretion in an effort to balance sections.

Music Staff

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

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

Assistant Accompanist, Christopher Martinez – 575-644-2962 or (stand by for a correction)

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. 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; 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 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. Enter through the choir room door on Alameda. Tenors and basses report at 10 with sopranos and altos 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.

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” so questions about those issues should be directed to the appropriate section leader.

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 each part for each song will be made available to all members free of charge soon after the semester begins. Click the Rehearsal Tracks link on the For Members page; these can be played directly or downloaded from our website (www.mesillavalleychorale.org) to a computer or mobile device. If there are questions on how to access or use the tracks, please see either Diane, Moriah or Melodye.

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)
- 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 \$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. 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 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. MVC covers tax and shipping for new ties and vests.

Chorale Board:

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

Cheryl Johnson – Venue Manager (469-305-8052, or cherjohn@yahoo.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:

Teddi Johnson – Print Manager (707-689-3495, or bearchef816@aol.com)

Diane Jones – Rehearsal Tracks (815-703-3475, or djones0712@gmail.com)

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