



## **Welcome to Desert Voices**

### CHORUS MEMBERSHIP GUIDE FOR THE 2023-2024 SEASON

#### ***Fostering Community Through Song***

This guide is designed to answer common questions, offer a quick reference of basic Desert Voices policies and supply general membership information. Do not hesitate to utilize your fellow chorus members, office staff, and Board members as additional resources.

Desert Voices is a diverse, all-inclusive family (LGBTQIA+) whose members LOVE TO SING! We value goodwill, courtesy, respect, kindness, a positive presence in the community, and *singing*. Desert Voices offers a safe and supportive environment for all.

**CONCERT SEASON** – The concert season consists of 2 semesters, Fall and Spring. Our concert schedule may still be affected by COVID-related impediments. At this time (January 2024), we are planning to perform 1-2 concerts in Spring 2024. There are also opportunities for outreach and joint performances throughout the community.

**REHEARSALS** – Rehearsals are Sunday evenings from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. We suggest you arrive by 5:10pm, so you can pick-up music, conduct chorus business, and get settled before rehearsal begins promptly at 5:30pm. There is a short ‘break’ for 5-10 minutes to visit the restroom, grab a snack, etc., at some point during the evening. Rehearsals can include sectionals, work with soloists, and social activities. In some cases, the full choir is released in the last 30-45 min of rehearsal to make time for voicing, work with soloists/small groups, etc. There are also extra evening rehearsals (tech and dress rehearsals) immediately prior to a concert, and “choir retreats” scheduled once or twice per semester on a Saturday. Attendance at all tech/dress rehearsals is expected, and attendance is tracked. Missing tech/dress rehearsal may prevent participation in the concert. Attendance at choir retreats is highly encouraged and is a way to get to know members of the choir and polish music. Please make sure that you make yourself available for these dates once they are made available.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES** – Singing member dues are \$180 per season or \$90 per semester. Scholarships are available to assist with payment of dues on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Office Manager (at rehearsal or at [desertvoicestucsonchorus@gmail.com](mailto:desertvoicestucsonchorus@gmail.com)) for an application within the first 3 weeks of the semester. Scholarships MUST be renewed each semester. Dues are used to fund expenses incurred by the Chorus, such as rehearsal hall rental, salaries for Interim Artistic Director, Accompanist, Office Manager, purchase of music, performance spaces, lighting, sound, musicians utilized during concerts, etc.

As a member of the Chorus, you will have the opportunity to sing, and will be encouraged to join committees, or assist with other duties to insure a successful season. We are a Community!

**MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES** – Attend rehearsals & performances, learn the music, handle sheet music and folders with great care, respect other members, purchase your own concert wear and T-shirts, keep current with dues, promote attendance at concerts, and stay connected through Facebook, Chorus Connection, and email for all pertinent communications. Each singer will undergo a voice check at the beginning of the season, or at the AD’s discretion, in order to verify range of voice, etc.

Please remember that food is not allowed in the rehearsal space, water only is allowed in a tightly capped container. Children are not allowed in the rehearsal space, and if in attendance, member MUST provide a caretaker. Please, no talking with your neighbors during rehearsals. It is distracting to others and rude to the Artistic Director. We all giggle from time-to-time, but be respectful of your section mates. If you are having an issue within your section, first see your section leader. If that doesn’t resolve the issue, please contact a Board Member.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** – The Board is made up of singers and non-singers. The Board is responsible for developing policies, procedures, marketing, fund raising, and overseeing the health and welfare of the Chorus. All general Board meetings are open to the public, and chorus members are encouraged to attend and take an active interest. Please check our website for list of Board members & dates of meetings.

***Thank you for your commitment and talent!***