



2014/15
Handbook

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Staff

Michael Morgan, Artistic Director
Lynne Morrow, Principal Conductor
Steve Payne, Executive Director
Maya Rath, General Manager
Tiffany Bayly, Operations Manager
Paul Rhodes, Librarian

Oakland Symphony Chorus Section Leaders

Maxine Butler, Soprano
Loni Williams, Alto
Jim Stenson, Tenor
Michael Nathanson, Bass

About the Oakland Symphony Chorus

Mission Statement

The Oakland Symphony Chorus enriches our community through high quality musical performances and educational workshops that raise appreciation and understanding of choral music, while providing opportunities for people who love to sing.

History

Founded in 1958 and consisting of 100 singers from the Bay Area, the Oakland Symphony Chorus is one of the East Bay's premier resources for choral performance and learning.

Originally established with the former Oakland Symphony, the Chorus reorganized as an independent, not-for-profit organization in 1986. In June of 2010, the Oakland Symphony Chorus became a portion of a new unified organization with the Oakland East Bay Symphony and the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra.

The Chorus's season runs September through May with the Sing-In series in the summer. Besides the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Oakland Symphony Chorus has performed with performing arts groups like the California Symphony, Fremont Opera, Napa Valley Symphony, and Berkeley Symphony.

Artistic Standards

Members of the Oakland Symphony Chorus are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times during rehearsal, breaks, sectionals, performances and all other Oakland Symphony Chorus functions. This means being courteous, respectful, and attentive: concentrating on the work at hand, and giving your full attention to directions (musical or otherwise) given by the Artistic Director, Principal Conductor, section leaders, and Oakland Symphony Chorus staff.

To achieve a high level of artistic excellence it is critical that each and every member takes great care and responsibility in arriving at all rehearsals fully prepared. The following guidelines serve as general expectations for preparations:

- Practice repertoire at home.
- Listen to different recordings of repertoire while following along with part. Gain familiarity with the interactivity of your part with the rest of the chorus **BEFORE** arriving to rehearsal.
- If you have a private teacher, please try to work on particularly challenging parts and make note of any remaining questions for section leaders and Dr. Morrow.

Auditions

Prior to each season, all members of the Oakland Symphony Chorus must audition to renew their membership in the ensemble. Auditions take place during the summer off season. You can audition for the Chamber Singers concurrently with your annual audition. You must prepare one song or aria that is not a capella as well as provide the sheet music for your audition. Entrance auditions are held at the beginning and middle of each season.

Attendance Policy

Attending and being on time for rehearsals is required of all Oakland Symphony Chorus members. In order to achieve a high level of musical excellence, everyone's consistent participation is required. ***Having sung a work previously does not exclude you from being required to attend all rehearsals.***

At the end of the handbook is a season calendar. Please review it and plan your calendars now to avoid schedule conflicts.

Please Note: If you know you will be absent, you must fill out an absence/tardy form two (2) weeks prior to the event.

Absences

Any member who has three (3) absences will be required to re-audition on the current repertoire in order to be allowed to perform on the concert. Re-auditions will be in groups with section leaders when possible.

The retreat, dress rehearsals, and concerts are all required events.

ANY* absence from these events can jeopardize your ability to perform in the concert.

**Extenuating circumstances include such things as illness, death in the family, and other disasters.*

Tardiness

Attendance will be taken each rehearsal. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to rehearsal. Two tardies count as one absence.

****If you are going to be late it is imperative that you contact the Operations Manager at (510)-274-6369.****

Rehearsal and Concert Policies

Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening. The Chamber Chorus meets from 6:30-7:30 pm and the Chorus from 7:30-10:00 pm at MOCHA (Museum of Children's Art) at 1625 Clay Street Oakland unless otherwise announced. Please arrive 15 minutes early to set up for rehearsal. Plan for traffic coming into downtown Oakland as well as parking needs. **Do not be late.** You are expected to be in your seats five (5) minutes before rehearsal begins.

Our privilege to use a variety of rehearsal and performance spaces depends on the respect that we show toward our hosts and working environment. All rehearsal and performance venues must be left in clean condition. The Oakland Symphony Chorus members and staff maintain a culture of "leave it better than we found it" with our workspace.

There will be a 15 minute break during each rehearsal. All Oakland Symphony Chorus specific announcements will be made at this time.

Chamber Singers

The Chamber Singers is an auditioned small ensemble comprised of members of the Oakland Symphony Chorus. The ensemble rehearses every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30pm during the Chorus' season. The Chamber Singers perform 2-5 times per season at a number of different Symphony and Chorus events. Auditions for this ensemble take place concurrently with the annual summer audition. Please inform the Operations Manager when your audition is scheduled if you are interested in being considered for the Chamber Singers.

Dress Rehearsal

Be sure to bring your black folders to dress rehearsals. You do not need to wear your concert dress.

Rehearsal Partner

In the case of absence, each member should have a partner in the same voice part in order to stay on top of all vital musical markings and changes. Please insert all changes into your part **PRIOR** to the next rehearsal.

Please Note: Due to very limited space at MOCHA, all rehearsals are closed unless announced otherwise. Non-members are invited to contact the Operations Manager if they wish to observe a rehearsal.

Dress Code

Rehearsals: The Chorus strongly recommends comfortable clothes that are appropriate for rehearsal. Please do not wear hats or flip flops to rehearsal. Be respectful of yourself and peers by using good hygiene habits that include no perfume or scented products.

Concert:

Concert dress code for men:

- Black tuxedos
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes
- Black bow tie
- White dress shirt
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Note: Rockridge Rags (5711 College Avenue, Oakland) and Goodwill have second-hand tuxedos. Selix also sells used tuxedo.

Dress code for women:

- Black dress A-line, sleeveless floor-length dress and lightweight black jacket. **You must buy this uniform from Praise Hymn Fashions. It costs between \$82 and \$100 depending on the size.**
- Comfortable black shoes
- Black stockings
- Non- reflexive stud earrings, wedding rings, and watches are allowed jewelry

General Policies

Tuition

The cost of running a 120 piece chorus is large. For this reason, we require that every member of the Chorus pay tuition of \$350 per annum. This covers only a portion of artistic fees, rehearsal space rental, and a variety of other expenses. Tuition is due one (1) week after the start of the season. Tuition is non-refundable. You can request for your tuition to be turned into a donation and receive a letter of acknowledgement. No member of the Chorus is denied for financial reasons. We have various payment plans available for those in need. Please contact the Operations Manager to request more information.

Snacks

Each week there is an assigned group of singers who are asked to bring snacks to the rehearsal for break. Please check the weekly Chorus update email for assignments.

Volunteering

The Oakland Symphony Chorus Advisory Committee is a committee of the Oakland East Bay Symphony Board of Directors. The committee chair is appointed by the Board President. Committee

members are selected by recommendation of the chair and supervising Board Vice President.

The main purpose of the Advisory Committee is to represent the Chorus membership in decisions and activities that impact our members. The committee will recommend and support programs and activities that benefit the Chorus and enhance and enrich the experience of Chorus members and the community.

There are activities throughout the year which require volunteer help. Chorus members interested in becoming involved should speak with an Advisory Committee member or respond when calls for volunteers are announced.

The Oakland Symphony Chorus has many ways in which you can get involved in supporting the organization.

We also need volunteers for the following events:

- Office Work
- Concerts
- Sing-Ins
- Snacks
- Rehearsal Set-up/Tear Down

Tickets

Chorus Members may purchase two (2) tickets at 50% discount to each Symphony concert they perform in. This excludes Orchestra Front Center and Balcony Front. Discount ticket forms will be provided to the Chorus 2-3 weeks prior to the specific concert.

Artist Biographies

Lynne Morrow received her doctoral degree from Indiana University in Bloomington. She also serves as the Music Director of the Pacific Edge Voices (formerly the Grammy-nominated Pacific Mozart Ensemble), which enjoys a long time collaboration with Dave Brubeck. Dr. Morrow directs the ensemble, Quanta Chorale, as well as the Quantum Opera Theatre, and has been a frequent assistant conduct with the Festival Opera. She heads the Voice and Opera/Music Theatre programs at Sonoma State University, and hosts the Stern Grove Music Festival each summer. Morrow was an assistant conductor of Oakland East Bay Symphony's production of Bernstein's "Mass" in May 2005, and conducted the orchestra along with the Oakland Symphony Chorus in Faure's "Requiem" in Spring 2013. During her tenure, the scope of the Chorus has expanded to include contemporary, international, and neglected works along with the traditional classical repertoire.

Kymry Esainko holds degrees in piano performance and American history from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, specializing in both classical and jazz piano. Besides being principal pianist for the Santa Rosa Symphony since 2002, Kymry is also the accompanist for the Pacific Edge Voices. He has accompanied vocal and choral artists worldwide and locally with the Oakland Opera Theater, Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Peninsula Women's Chorus, Piedmont Children's Choirs, and WomenSing. Kymry's talents extend to improvisation as well as composition, with performances with the Club Foot Orchestra and his original score for the Fritz Lang silent film Metropolis.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Tiffany Bayly, Operations Manager

tbayly@oebs.org

Telephone: (510) 274-6369 ****DO NOT TEXT****

Fax: (510) 444-0863

Email: chorus@oebs.org

Office: Oakland Symphony Chorus

2201 Broadway, Suite 300

Oakland, CA 94612

Rehearsal Site:

MOCHA

1625 Clay Street #100

Oakland, CA 94612

Parking at MOCHA:

Lot at Clay and 14th Street

Entrance is on Clay

\$3 flat fee per rehearsal (6pm or later)

Must validate token at rehearsal

Paramount Theater:

2025 Broadway

Oakland, CA 94612

Website

www.oebs.org

Member Login

www.oebs.org/chorus-member-directory/