
oakland
symphony
Chorus



2018/19

CHORUS MEMBER HANDBOOK

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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 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 Symphony, the Oakland Symphony Chorus has performed with performing arts groups like the California Symphony, Fremont Opera, Napa Valley Symphony, and Berkeley Symphony. The Chorus went on their first tour in the summer of 2015 to the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Austria. The Chorus is planning a second European tour to parts of Italy in June 2018.

Membership Guidelines

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:

- All members are requested to mark their scores with notations as instructed by the Director to prevent the recurrence of incorrect interpretations during rehearsals.
- Members should check with their Section Leaders after an absence and before the next scheduled rehearsal for any updates or changes to their Section notations.
- Practice repertoire at home.
- Listen to different recordings of repertoire while following along with part. Members are encouraged to utilize Oakland Symphony Chorus rehearsal Podcasts and Cyberbass.
- 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, one section 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.

The audition rotation is as follows:

2018/19 - Altos

2019/20 - Tenors

2020/21 - Basses

2021/22 - Sopranos

Attendance Policy

Attending and being on time for rehearsals and sectionals 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.

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 in 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 participation in the concert.

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

Tardiness

Attendance will be taken each rehearsal. The downbeat to rehearsal begins at 7:30pm. Please arrive early so that you can sign in and be in your seat for the start of rehearsal. Two tardies count as one absence.

Rehearsal and Concert Policies

Rehearsals take place Wednesday evenings. The Chamber Singers meets from 6:15-7:15 pm and the Chorus from 7:15-9:45pm at the Oakland Masonic Center at 3903 Broadway. We suggest you arrive early to prepare for rehearsal and allow extra time for parking. Do not be late. You are expected to be in your seats five (5) minutes before rehearsal begins.

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 the start of rehearsals.

All members are required to read and understand the Rehearsal Calendar and Chorus Update provided weekly by the Operations Director.

Please Note: All rehearsals are closed to the general public, unless instructed otherwise. Non-members are invited to contact the Operations Director if they wish to observe a rehearsal.

Chamber Singers

The Chamber Singers is an auditioned small ensemble comprised of members of the Oakland Symphony Chorus. The ensemble rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:15pm during the Chorus season. The Chamber Singers perform several 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 Director when your audition is scheduled if you are interested in being considered for the Chamber Singers.

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 dress code

Men

- Black tuxedos
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes
- Black bow tie
- White dress shirt

Women

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

Dress Rehearsal

Be sure to bring your black folders to dress rehearsals. Please do not wear your concert dress. Due to time constraints all chorus members should arrive a minimum of 15 minutes before the call time.

General Policies

Dues

Chorus dues are \$375 per year. This covers only a portion of artistic fees, rehearsal space rental, and a variety of other expenses. Dues are non-refundable.

In the event you join the Chorus mid-season, or leave before the end of the season, you can request that your dues 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 Director to request more information.

Snack and Set-up

Each week there is an assigned group of singers who are asked to bring snacks or have set-up duty. Please check the weekly Chorus update email for assignments.

Volunteering

The Oakland Symphony Chorus is served by the Chorus Committee, consisting of chorus members elected each year by the entire Chorus membership. The committee chair is then duly elected and appointed by the committee and served on the Oakland Symphony Board of Directors. Committee members are nominated by the Chorus and selected based on a vote by the members of the Chorus. Terms last 2 year and the committee meets once per month, usually on the first Monday of the month at 6 pm.

The main purpose of the Chorus 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.

Chorus Committee Procedures

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

Concert 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 codes will be provided to the Chorus two to three weeks prior to the specific concert.

Parking

There is a large parking lot at the Masonic Center, which is free. For performances at the Paramount Theater, use the lot on 21st and Telegraph (payment required).

Artist Biographies

Lynne Morrow

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 conductor 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



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.

Section Leaders

Soprano - Nanci Schneidinger
Alto - Loni Williams
Tenor - Jim Stenson, Daniella Urban
Bass - Charlie Crane, Michael Nathanson

Chorus Committee

John Manzeck - Committee Chair
Alice McCain - Secretary
Eva Arce
Bernie Juat
Mary-Jo Knight
Linda Manzeck

Contacts & Schedules

Calendar

Please visit the [Oakland Symphony Chorus Calendar](#) on the Chorus Website and review the Chorus Weekly Updates.

Important Contact Information

Seth Ducey, Director of Operations and Education

Telephone: (510) 444-0801

Land line: DO NOT TEXT

Fax: (510) 444-0863

Email: chorus@oaklandsymphony.org

Office

Oakland Symphony Chorus

[1440 Broadway, Suite 405](#)

[Oakland, CA 94612](#)

Tel: (510) 444-0801

Rehearsal Site

[MOCHA](#)

[1625 Clay Street #100](#)

[Oakland, CA 94612](#)

Parking at MOCHA

Lot on 16th between Clay and San Pablo

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

Must validate token at rehearsal

Paramount Theater

[2025 Broadway](#)

[Oakland, CA 94612](#)

Website

oaklandsymphony.org/chorus

Member Login

oaklandsymphony.org/chorus-member-site/

Federal Tax ID Number

94-3081554