

Messiah Choral Society

Performance Decorum, 2010

Concert attire

Ladies---a black (dark gray is not sufficient), floor-length skirt, black shoes, black hose; a pure white, long-sleeved, open-necked blouse with white buttons. Try these websites for help:

www.formalfashionsinc.com/category.php?category_id=98

www.simcoformal.com/catalog/proddetails.aspx?PID=323835

www.simcoformal.com/catalog/proddetails.aspx?PID=3839

Men---black trousers (again, not dark gray), socks, shoes; pure white, long-sleeved shirt with white buttons; a long solid black dress tie (no bow tie or tuxedo apparel).

Jewelry

Please limit jewelry to wedding rings, the latest Messiah Choral Society Medallion, and small earrings that do not dangle. For professional appearance reasons, anyone who is not dressed correctly will not be able to perform.

Fragrances

Please do not use perfume, cologne, scented lotion, scented deodorant, or scented soap on the day of the performance. Some of our members are highly sensitive to fragrances. If they have a reaction, that would adversely affect our performance quality. Thank you for your help with this.

Your score

Your music needs to be bound in black so each score appears to the audience to have black covers.

If anyone does not meet these needs, the situation will need to be corrected before that person is able to go on stage with the rest of us, simply because we need to maintain uniformity and ensure optimal conditions so as to be as professional as possible.

What to do while onstage

When filing onto or off of the stage, carry your closed music score in your hand with your arm down by your side, carrying the music on the side facing the audience, both on entering and exiting the stage.

Once seated, stay silent, keep movement to a minimum, keep the music open on your lap while seated, and only turn pages during breaks in the music. Do not follow the score during solos. Pre-tab your book at the beginning of each piece to be performed. Right after you've finished singing a chorus, turn your score to the next chorus during the applause to avoid last-minute page-shuffling.

Your primary **focus** needs to be **on the director**. If you need to follow your score, keep the director in your view also, by holding your score up so that you can see both the score and the director.

When standing and sitting, please do so gently so as to make minimal noise and try to move as a single unit when directed. We'll try to practice this during the warm-up period on stage. If possible, wear soft-soled shoes to the concert.

Please note: Leave purses, water bottles, etc. back stage or locked in your car. Please ask your family and friends not to wave to you while we are on stage. Please do not try to communicate with the audience from the stage. Doing so is unsophisticated and contrary to how we want to look in the eyes of the public. Please stay seated and do not leave the stage during intermission, except for emergency or medical reasons.

Our concert is a wonderful thing! Thank you for singing with us, and we hope you enjoy the experience greatly.