

Messiah Choral Society, Inc.

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

Welcome to the Messiah Choral Society's 2010 rehearsal season! In order to make the 2010 performance our best ever, the manner in which: we conduct ourselves during our limited rehearsal times - both individually and as a chorus - is very important. In fact, many times in the past a large number of our members have requested that we emphasize what we should and should not do during rehearsals. Therefore, the MCS Board of Directors respectfully requests that you follow these rehearsal guidelines:

1. Be seated in your section before each rehearsal begins.
2. Stay seated during the entire rehearsal unless
 - a) directed to stand by the Conductor;
 - b) a medical condition precludes prolonged sitting; or
 - c) an emergency arises that cannot wait.
3. No talking during rehearsal. Save your comments for after rehearsal.
4. During every rehearsal, your focus should be solely on singing and paying attention to the Music Director's instructions (i.e., no reading, eating, correspondence, etc., which are things that distract others and hinder your ability to focus).
5. Each singer must have a score and pencil for score annotation, as per the Music Director.
6. Hold your score and head up so you are able to maintain eye contact with the Music Director at all times.
7. No perfumes, colognes, aftershaves, lotions, body sprays, scented hair sprays, scented deodorants, or scented soap (many of our singers have allergies to or intolerance of these products).
8. You are expected to be here on time for the rehearsal. But if an emergency makes you late, please wait to be seated until there is a break between choruses.
9. Cell phones and beepers must be turned off during rehearsal.
10. Sing your section's part only, unless the Music Director instructs otherwise (we know that many of you have sung in different sections over the years, but it's a distraction to those around you if you sing another section's part).
11. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance roster during each rehearsal. If you do not sign, you will be counted as absent.
12. If you've got a communicable illness such as a cold or the flu, please do not come to rehearsal until you're well enough again not to infect anyone else or sit at the front of the room away from other singers.
13. Only 3 absences are allowed during each rehearsal season in order for you to sing in the performance(s). Additionally, only 1 of our 2 orchestra rehearsals may be missed. If you miss more than 3 rehearsals or both orchestra rehearsals during the season you can appeal your specific circumstances to the Board of Directors. The Board will consider each case on an individual basis. Absences begin to accrue as of the September 12 rehearsal.

Thank you for adhering to these rehearsal guidelines. As our Music Director, John Sinclair, says, this is truly like a team sport in which each player's part is significant in making the goal and where consistency and uniformity are very important. In our case, the goal is an exemplary performance that moves the audience and stirs their emotions. These simple, logical guidelines can go far in helping us get there, and the Board will do its part to help us all to follow them.

We're looking forward to a great rehearsal season. Thank you for being here!

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Messiah Choral Society