



North Shore Choral Society

P.O. Box 103, Evanston, IL 60204-0103

773-741-NSCS (773-741-6727)

The North Shore Choral Society explores, studies, and performs a wide range of choral music for the enrichment and enjoyment of its singers and audiences.

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE, 2015-2016 SEASON

North Shore Choral Society is a not-for-profit community chorus founded in 1936 that has given many hundreds of non-professional singers the opportunity to perform choral masterworks, both classical and contemporary. Sing with us to learn and sharpen rehearsal skills, vocal and choral singing techniques, text enunciation skills, and concert performance skills.

Please visit our website at www.northshorechoral.org



NSCS is a member of the Illinois Arts Alliance and is partially supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, an agency of the State of Illinois.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the North Shore Choral Society! We are an established organization embarking on our 80th season. We are proud of our longevity and stay fresh, viable and relevant because of new members like you. We are happy to have you with us.

We're hard-working and attentive during rehearsals, but we love to talk during breaks and before and after rehearsals. Feel free to seek out your Section Coordinator (they're listed on page 4) or any board member (they're listed on the back cover) if you have any questions about our organization or what you see going on.

Be sure to visit our website, www.northshorechoral.org. You can access the Members Only portion of the website with the username: "wesing" and password: "very*well." There you will find rehearsal recordings and additional information.

Our first concert will be here sooner than you think, so please see Julie McDowell (women) or David Hunt (men) *immediately* regarding purchase of concert attire. Orders for new blouses, skirts, and tuxedos can take up to six weeks. The good news is that you don't have to wear your concert attire for "dress" rehearsals!

Blue Notes, our announcement sheet, is distributed weekly at rehearsals and is also posted on our website. This is your opportunity to keep up with NSCS news and to share relevant items of interest with other members. It's also intended to reduce the time devoted to announcements at rehearsals. To post an item, e-mail info@northshorechoral.org. Between rehearsals, pertinent information is sent out via Blue Note E-Blasts. To keep up with NSCS information, you need to read both publications because they contain different information.

Please keep this Membership Guide handy so that you can refer to pertinent information throughout the season. We're glad that you're here to share your musical talent and your love of singing with us.

ENJOY!

2015–2016 Season: Save these dates!

80th Anniversary Retrospective

Glenview Community Church

Sunday, November 22, 2015 1:30 p.m. call for 3:00 p.m. performance

Dress rehearsal: Saturday, November 21st 9 a.m. until noon

An Evanston Symphony Christmas, Lawrence Eckerling, conductor

Sunday, December 6, 2015, 3 p.m.: ETHS

Dress rehearsal: Saturday, December 5, 2015, noon-3 p.m.

Orchestra rehearsal: Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 6:30-9:45 ETHS

Three Crowns community outreach holiday concert

Sunday, December 13, 2:00 p.m. call for 3:00 p.m. performance

Three Crowns Park, 2323 McDaniel, Evanston

International Friendship Concert

Regina Dominican High School

Sunday, April 3, 2016 1:30 p.m. call for 3:00 p.m. performance

Dress rehearsal: Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m. until noon

Requiem for Peace

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall

Saturday, May 14, 2016 6:30 p.m. call time for 8 p.m. concert

Dress rehearsal: Friday, May 13, 2016 6 p.m. until 10 p.m., Pick-Staiger

Orchestra rehearsal: Thursday, May 12, 2016 7 p.m. until 10 p.m., Pick-Staiger

Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals are every Tuesday, 7:30–9:45 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. Special rehearsals may be called as required. There will be no rehearsal Dec. 22 or Dec. 29, 2015. Listening parties are often held the week after a concert, but dates are to be determined. Please see page 3 for dates and locations of all dress rehearsals.

Outreach Events

The North Shore Choral Society is committed to community outreach. We will perform outreach programs at Three Crowns retirement community and at District 65 Schools. Available singers are encouraged to participate in these enrichment activities.

Rehearsal Policy

You are strongly encouraged to attend all rehearsals. If it's absolutely necessary, you may miss up to three rehearsals per concert. If you miss more than three rehearsals, you must contact Julia Davids to arrange a music singing review. You are expected to be in your seat and ready to sing by the stated call time and should remain for the entire rehearsal. It's your responsibility to make sure the Section Coordinator has recorded your attendance at each rehearsal. If you're late, please see your section leader, or you will be marked absent. Attendance at the dress rehearsal(s) for each concert is *mandatory*. If you cannot attend a dress rehearsal, but want to sing the concert, you must receive permission *in advance* from Julia.

Singers who miss a rehearsal should notify their section coordinator in advance (see below). If that's not possible, please contact your section coordinator as soon as you are able. If you don't feel well enough to sing, but are well enough to attend rehearsal, you're encouraged to sit behind the chorus and follow along, taking notes in your music. If a rehearsal needs to be canceled for any reason (most typically bad weather), we will send an E-Blast as soon as the decision is made.

Membership Coordinator Emily Rivera (773) 988-6098; emilyjriviera@gmail.com

Section Coordinators

Soprano I - Julie McDowell (847) 251-6498; acooljul1@comcast.net

Soprano II - Rose Gomez (847) 361-0432; bluesongbird8@hotmail.com

Alto I - Kay Rossiter (847) 835-1371; k.rossiter@comcast.net

Alto II - Antje Draganski (847) 475-7073; donalddraganski@sbcglobal.net

Tenor - David Crumrine (847) 722-1260; dcrumri@luc.edu

Baritone/Bass - Harry Vroegh (847) 864-1253; hvroegh@att.net

Performance Protocol

Concert Dress Members must be sure they have the proper attire for each concert (uniform black blouse and skirt with “pearl” strand for women, black tuxedo with black bow tie and cummerbund for men), with standard red accents worn at holiday concerts.

Please do not wear cosmetic fragrances of any sort at rehearsals or performances, out of consideration for those with sensitivity to the pheromones. This includes hairspray and aftershave.

Music Folder In performance your music must be enclosed in a black folder.

Sight lines Julia positions singers to ensure that she has eye contact with everyone and for other musical reasons. Subsequent inadvertent, or purposeful, modification of your position can interfere with the sight lines of those behind you. Even subtle shifting of body weight or tossing of the head can compromise the sightlines of singers in other rows. Please do your best to maintain the position you have been given and direct your questions or concerns to Julie McDowell.

Entering & Exiting Stage, Handling of Music Please listen to the Concert Manager to learn the route to the stage, and always enter and exit quietly. When entering or exiting the stage, music should be closed and carried in the right hand with the right arm down at your side. When sitting on stage before the performance begins, music should be closed and on your lap. When Julia enters, stand without lifting your folder. At her signal, lift your folder and open it. In movements when we are seated and not singing, please do not follow along in the music, but rather skip ahead to the next choral movement (you can clip your score with paper clips to avoid leafing through solo movements) and be attentive to the performers. You may leave your folder open in your lap so you are ready for the next choral movement. Please, no folder fumbling or music shuffling during performance.

Personal Decorum Remember that you are part of a performance and are highly visible to the audience. Please do not:

- acknowledge individuals in the audience by waving to them when you are on stage
- eat (food or candy) on stage (OK to have cough drops at the ready)
- chew gum on stage
- participate in verbal comments or conversation while on stage (with the exception of intermission)
- conduct personal grooming on stage
- fidget, sway to the music or turn around while on stage
- take cell phones, cameras, or other hand-held electronic devices on stage

Water bottles, seat cushions and/or backrests may be taken on stage discreetly (unless directed otherwise). Please only drink from a water bottle at intermission or when absolutely necessary (coughing etc.). Medical devices may be taken on stage if proper arrangements have been made.

Applause Please smile and acknowledge the audience when they applaud. It is acceptable and gracious to acknowledge our guest artists with respectful applause, when cued by Julia to do so.

Auditions and Section Assessments

The primary purpose of auditioning singers is to help Julia get to know you and your voice, to hear strengths and areas for improvement in order to better position singers, and to ascertain whether each of us is singing in the right section. Chorus America, the national support and advocacy organization of which NSCS is a member, recommends the process as an important element in sustaining a healthy choral organization. Julia will continue section assessments (rotating by section each year), allowing her to calibrate and maximize the proficiency of each section.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month. *NSCS members are welcome to attend.* You can inquire of any Board member (they're listed on the back cover) as to the meeting location; if you plan to attend, please let our Board President, Anne Harkonen, know in advance.

Social Events

We are a sociable organization; rehearsal breaks and listening parties are opportunities to become better acquainted. For rehearsal breaks, members sign up to donate juice, goodies and paper cups. Listening parties, usually on the Tuesday evening following each concert, provide an opportunity to share food and drink and to listen to the concert recording. The food, the drink, and the recording are often a revelation!

Financial Expectations

Dues and Music Fees Annual dues are \$90 (\$30 for full-time students). Dues must be paid by the third rehearsal unless special arrangements have been made with Membership Chair, Emily Rivera or General Manager, Karen Rigotti. Fees for music scores must be paid on receipt; your scores are yours to keep.

Contributions of Time and Money NSCS has been financially sound primarily due to strong support by us, its members, through cash contributions, fund raising, and volunteer services. Professional in-kind contributions save us over \$10,000 annually. We encourage all NSCS members to become actively involved in supporting NSCS.

Ticket sales We expect each NSCS member to promote our concerts by word of mouth, by emailing digital copies of concert posters, and by actively selling tickets and/or buying tickets

for friends and relatives. Unlike some choruses, we don't set a ticket requirement, but each member should sell *at least* two tickets for each concert. Try to focus on new patrons, as they are our donors of the future!

In the Fall and again in the Spring, past and potential contributors as well as members receive a **fund-raising letter** by mail, asking for donations to help NSCS maintain the high quality of its programming. This is our largest source of revenue. Think about people you know who would enjoy our concerts, invite them to attend, and give us their names and addresses for our mailings.

NSCS has developed several ways to obtain corporate funds through our regular shopping activities. The purchase of **Jewel gift cards** is the most profitable of these. **iGive** is a free portal for internet shopping that gives rebates to charities designated by registered users. Over 1,000 stores from Amazon to zChocolate participate. We have a direct link for more information and registration on our website. We'll also be providing details and reminders during the year. The average user generates \$50 a year in rebates! **AmazonSmile** is another simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation. Visit <http://smile.amazon.com>, search for North Shore Choral Society and select us as your charity.

NSCS Car Magnets are available for purchase at a cost of \$10 per magnet.

The cost of printing programs for each concert is offset by the **sale of ads in our concert program booklets**. Members are encouraged to procure ads. You will be given contract forms and sample programs to help obtain ads from businesses and other services. Last year, we raised almost \$5,000 from the sale of program ads.

Our General Manager, in consultation with the Vice President of Fundraising, works on **corporate and foundation grants**. If you have knowledge of, or connections to, such funding sources, please contact Scott Paine, Vice President of Fundraising, or Karen Rigotti, General Manager. Does your employer have a matching gift program?

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Julia Davids – Music Director
Sharon Rich Peterson – Accompanist
Karen L. Rigotti – General Manager

Board of Directors

Anne Harkonen – President
Julie McDowell – Vice President, Operations
Ron Diehl – Vice President, Concerts
Susan Demaree – Vice President, Public Relations
Scott Paine – Vice President, Fundraising
Steve Warner – Secretary
John Darrow – Treasurer
Marcia Bollo – Member at Large
Fran Faller – Member at Large
Linda Faller – Member at Large
Carl Kettler - Member at Large
Emily Rivera – Member at Large
Julia Davids, *ex officio*
Karen L. Rigotti, *ex officio*