



North Shore Choral Society
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www.northshorechoral.org

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE 2021-2022 SEASON

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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, and pursues opportunities for educational outreach and engagement in the community through various partnerships.

NSCS is a welcoming, inclusive community for all participants and patrons. We respect, value, and celebrate the unique attributes, characteristics, and perspectives that shape each individual.



The North Shore Choral Society is partially supported by a grant from the Evanston Arts Council and the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR OUR 86TH SEASON

2021-22

Note: Information on dates, times, and locations can change. To stay current, please check the NSCS calendar at www.northshorechoral.org. Go to the “For Members” section and click on the “View Calendar” button.

Tuesday	Sept. 7	7:30	First rehearsal of our 86 th season
Tuesday	Oct. 19	7:30	Rehearsal at Unitarian Church of Evanston
Sunday	Oct. 24	4:00	“Free at Last” Concert
Tuesday	Nov. 23		No rehearsal – Thanksgiving Break
Thursday	Dec. 9	7:00	ESO holiday concert rehearsal at ETHS
Saturday	Dec. 11	12:00	ESO holiday concert dress rehearsal at ETHS
Sunday	Dec. 12	3:00	ESO holiday concert (call TBD)
Sunday	Dec. 19	4:00	NSCS holiday concert at Three Crowns Park (call 3:00)
Tuesday	Dec. 21	7:30	NSCS holiday party
Tuesday	Dec. 28		No rehearsal
Tuesday	Jan. 4		No rehearsal
Tuesday	Jan. 11	7:30	Weekly rehearsals resume following holiday break
TBD			Dress Rehearsal for “Beethoven 9” with the ESO
Sunday	April 10	2:30	“Beethoven’s 9 th Symphony” with the ESO (call time TBD)
TBD			Dress Rehearsal for Rutter Requiem
Sunday	June 5	4:00	“John Rutter – Requiem” (call time TBD)

Venue Addresses

Rehearsals

St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church (rehearsal venue)
1140 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette

ESO Holiday Concert

Evanston Township High School
1600 Dodge, Evanston

Free at Last

Unitarian Church of Evanston
1330 Ridge Avenue, Evanston

Beethoven’s 9th Symphony

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston

Rutter Requiem

First Presbyterian Church of Evanston
1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the North Shore Choral Society! You're joining us for our exciting and unusual 86th season! We are an established organization (since 1936), but we stay fresh, viable, and relevant in part because of new members like you. We're glad that you're here to share your musical talent and your love of singing with us.

Please review this Membership Guide and refer to it often (it is easily located on our website, www.northshorechoral.org, in the For Members section) so that you stay aware of pertinent information throughout the season. To help you get started, please note these items in particular:

- Update your calendars with the Important Dates (see preceding page) of our concerts and dress rehearsals. Review the Attendance Policy.
- See Julie McDowell, our VP-Operations, *immediately* regarding purchase of Concert Attire. Orders can take up to six weeks.
- Pay your annual dues of \$100 (\$30 for full-time students) by the third rehearsal.
- Consult with your Section Coordinator (see below) or with our Music Librarian, Anne Zald to see what music you may need to order (annezald2@gmail.com).
- Feel free to seek out your Section Coordinator or any Board Member if you have questions about our organization or any other matter of concern.

Section Coordinators

Soprano I	Julie McDowell	847-710-6498	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	Fran Faller	847-675-6676	fgfaller@netzero.net
Tenor	David Crumrine	847-722-1260	dcrumri@luc.edu
Baritone/Bass	Dirk Walvoord	847-328-9516	dirk.walvoord@att.net

NSCS Board Members 2021-2022

President	Debbie Buesing	drbuesing@gmail.com
Secretary	Anna Zahm	anna.zahm@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nancy Slichenmyer	nanslic@aol.com
VP-Communications	Carli Witt	carli.m.witt@gmail.com
VP-Concerts	David Crumrine	dcrumri@luc.edu
VP-Fundraising	Carl Kettler	cekettler@gmail.com
VP-Operations	Julie McDowell	acooljul1@comcast.net
Director	Fran Faller	fgfaller@netzero.net
Director/Computer Services	Jim Miller	millerjwm@gmail.com
Director/Membership Coord.	Emily Rivera	emilyrrivera@gmail.com
Director/Benefit Coord.	Sarah Schwartzer	seschwartzer17@gmail.com
Director	Amy Weller	weller815@sbcglobal.net
<i>Ex officio</i>	Julia Davids	jdavids@me.com
<i>Ex officio</i>	Karen Rigotti	northshorechoral@gmail.com

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NSCS

The North Shore Choral Society strives to provide our audiences and members with outstanding musical experiences. By accepting membership in NSCS, you are agreeing to do your best to **attend all rehearsals on time and in their entirety** and to **participate in all performances**. This allows us to support each other and to perform to the best of our abilities. Other expectations of NSCS members, described in this Membership Guide, include reading the communications we send each week (and responding in a timely manner, when requested); supporting NSCS financially as you are able; practicing between rehearsals (resources will be provided); and following our health and safety protocols.

Attendance Policy

We do understand that there will be occasional conflicts with rehearsals and possibly with a performance. In any such case, **early communication is essential**. **Your Section Coordinator (listed below) is your first point of contact for rehearsal attendance issues.**

- If you are going to miss a rehearsal, contact your Section Coordinator in advance, if possible; otherwise, please contact them as soon as you are able. Section Coordinators take attendance at each rehearsal, so if you arrive late, you are responsible for making sure they record you as present.
- If you will not be singing in one of the concerts, please let your Section Coordinator know well in advance.
- If you miss more than three rehearsals for a single concert, you must contact Julia Davids to arrange a music singing review.
- Attending rehearsals via Zoom is an option for NSCS members who are not feeling well or who do not yet feel safe singing in person during the COVID-19 pandemic. To find the Zoom link, go to the "For Members" section on the NSCS website.

While you may feel that your absence will not harm the ensemble, NSCS is a team, and we need all singers to be fully committed to the organization.

Communications

These are the ways we will communicate with you throughout the year. Your prompt attention to the following will keep you up to date on all plans and make our time together much more efficient.

- **NSCS E-Blasts** are emailed prior to rehearsal each week and include the plan for the next rehearsal as well as other high-priority information. Please take the time each week to read the *E-Blast*.
- **NSCS Blue Notes** are emailed periodically and include other related items of interest, musical and otherwise. To share a related item of interest in the Blue Notes emails, send the information to info@northshorechoral.org.
- **The NSCS Website**, www.northshorechoral.org, has a < For Members > section that is updated weekly with the latest rehearsal recording, as well videos and other practice resources and calendar updates. To access this restricted area of the site, the password is **very*well** (because we sing very well). The website also contains a calendar that displays all pertinent NSCS dates.

Dues and Music Purchases

Annual dues are \$100 (\$30 for full-time students). Dues must be paid by the third rehearsal unless special arrangements have been made with Membership Coordinator Emily Rivera or General Manager Karen Rigotti. NSCS purchases the music scores for each concert and sells them to members at our cost. The scores must be paid for on receipt, with a check payable to NSCS or in cash (exact change please), and they are yours to keep. Financial help is available to subsidize your participation; please see Emily Rivera (773) 988-6098; emilyrivera@gmail.com.

Health and Safety Protocols

As of this writing, the COVID-19 environment is still a dynamic one, and the health and safety of our singers, guest artists, audience, and staff remain our top priority. We are committed to the following guidelines, which are included in the Community Contract that all new members sign:

- **Mask policy:** All members are required to wear a mask while inside the rehearsal and performance venues. Please have your mask on before you enter the building. NSCS provides each member with a singer's mask (with NSCS logo). Additional NSCS masks can be ordered through our General Manager, Karen Rigotti, at a cost of \$15.
- **Vaccination policy:** Members who wish to sing in-person with NSCS must be fully vaccinated and receive boosters as they become available.
- **In case of illness or exposure:** Members who are ill must stay home from rehearsal and inform their Section Coordinators if they are COVID positive. They may return to in-person rehearsals only after improvement of symptoms and completion of a 10-day quarantine period, or after receiving a negative COVID PCR test. We ask that members who are exposed to someone with COVID to monitor their symptoms.

NSCS wishes membership to understand that singing together, while quite safe, still poses a low risk. While the NSCS will do its best to maintain a safe space for all singers, it is not liable if a singer were to become ill with COVID. The NSCS Safe Singing Task Force, which includes health care professionals from among our membership, continues to monitor national and local health guidelines and the best practices of arts organizations in response to COVID-19, and may recommend changes to these protocols as needed.

Rehearsals

Members who wish to sing in concert with NSCS are expected to attend in-person rehearsals. Rehearsals via Zoom are provided as an option for those who are ill, traveling, or otherwise unable to attend that week. Zoom is intended as a longer-term option for members to stay involved and in good vocal health while they are refraining, for health reasons, from in-person singing.

- Weekly rehearsals are every Tuesday, beginning at 7:30 pm, at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 1140 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette. In a regular season, our rehearsal time is 7:30–9:45pm and includes a 15-minute break with refreshments and conversation. At the current time, we are rehearsing from 7:30-8:45 pm to reduce exposure to the aerosols produced by singing. With this shorter time together, it is especially important for you to be in your seat and ready to sing by 7:30. Feel free to arrive between 7:15 and 7:25.
- At rehearsals, you will sharpen your vocal and choral singing techniques, text enunciation skills, and concert performance skills. Rehearsals are recorded for your use in at-home practice and are posted on the website at www.northshorechoral.org within one or two days.

- Special rehearsals may be called as required. In a typical season, we will have an external sectional rehearsal for each concert. Although they are temporarily suspended, these smaller gatherings are an opportunity to smooth the rough spots and fine-tune our performance. See also instructions for Dress Rehearsals.

And finally, 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.

Section Assessments

Although it hasn't happened during these unusual Covid seasons, Julia Davids usually conducts section assessments at the beginning of each season (rotating by section each year), checking for balance and blend. This allows her to calibrate and maximize the proficiency of each section.

Social Events

We are a sociable organization! Rehearsal breaks and listening parties are opportunities to become better acquainted. During regular seasons when our rehearsals are from 7:30-9:45 pm, we enjoy a rehearsal break with members signing up to donate juice and paper cups. Listening parties, usually on a Tuesday evening following each concert, provide an opportunity to share refreshments and to listen to the concert recording. You may purchase a concert CD for your own enjoyment.

CONCERTS: ATTIRE, DRESS REHEARSAL, PERFORMANCE PROTOCOL

Concert Attire

Members are responsible for being sure they have the proper attire for each concert. Women's concert dress and all singers' holiday accessories are ordered through Julie McDowell, our VP-Operations. Men should see David Hunt for information on tuxedos.

- Women: Black velveteen top and taffeta skirt with strand of "pearls," all ordered through NSCS. If you wear earrings, please choose a simple "pearl" style.
- Men: Black tuxedo with black bow tie and cummerbund.
- All: Black dress shoes with black socks/stockings/tights.
- Holiday concert accessories: Red bow ties and cummerbunds for men (ordered through NSCS) and a red "sprig" accent pin for women, provided by Julie McDowell (please return to Julie after the concert).

In consideration for those with sensitivities or allergies, please do not wear cosmetic fragrances, hairspray, or aftershave of any sort at rehearsals or performances. Should you have any questions about concert attire, please contact Julie McDowell.

Dress Rehearsals

We do not actually dress in concert attire for these! However, attendance at the dress rehearsal(s) for each concert is mandatory. If you cannot attend a dress rehearsal but want to sing in the concert, you must receive permission *well in advance* from Julia Davids.

At dress rehearsals, we do a complete run-through with all our instrumentalists and soloists. Julie McDowell will give you a seating assignment for your position on-stage, and you should not change that without checking with her. Julia Davids will check sight lines for every member and

make adjustments as necessary. Our VP-Concerts, David Crumrine, will review important logistical instructions for the venue; please pay special attention to these!

Concert Protocols

Music Folder: In performance your music must be enclosed in a black folder. Many members of NSCS recommend those available from www.musicfolder.com

Sight lines: Music Director Julia Davids positions singers to ensure that she has eye contact with everyone and for other musical reasons. Any subsequent modification of your position can interfere with the sight lines of those behind you, so please move as little as possible.

Handling Music: Prior to each concert, Julia Davids will review instructions for handling of music as well as sitting and standing (which you should mark in your music).

Remember you are visible to our audience:

- While you are on stage, please do not: acknowledge individuals in the audience; eat food or chew gum (OK to have cough drops at the ready); make verbal comments or conversation; conduct personal grooming, fidget or move around while on stage.
- Do not take any electronic devices or metal water bottles on stage.
- Seat cushions and/or backrests may be taken on stage discreetly (unless directed otherwise). Medical devices may be taken on stage if prior arrangements have been made. If you must bring a water bottle, please drink only at intermission or to avoid coughing.

FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS: TIME AND MONEY

NSCS has been financially sound primarily due to strong support by us, its members, not only through our annual dues but through cash contributions, fundraising, and volunteer services. We encourage all NSCS members to become actively involved in supporting NSCS. Here are some of the many ways you can support us:

Ticket sales: We expect each NSCS member to promote our concerts by actively selling tickets and/or buying tickets for friends and family. 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 audiences and donors of the future.

Distributing concert posters: Word of mouth and personal connections are powerful! Concert posters will be available at rehearsals and on the NSCS website for you to print, email, and share on social media. Take them around to your favorite merchants and neighborhood spots.

Direct fundraising: In the fall and again in the spring, members as well as past and potential contributors receive a letter 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 contact information for our mailings.

Leveraging your purchasing dollar: We've developed several ways to obtain corporate funds through our regular shopping activities. Jewel gift cards (available for purchase at rehearsals) are easy to use and provide us a good source of funds. The internet portals iGive and Amazon Smile are an automatic way to support NSCS every time you shop. See our website for

information on registering.

Selling ads in our concert program booklets: The cost of printing programs for each concert is offset by these ad sales, and businesses that support us are mentioned in the concert booklet and on our website. Think about your favorite local businesses and other services that you might approach. Contract forms will be available at rehearsals from Dorothy Scott.

In-kind contributions: Professional in-kind contributions save us thousands of dollars in operating expenses every year. We appreciate these contributions from members and other local businesses and list them on our website.

Matching gifts: Matching gifts are donations from corporations or businesses that match employees' gifts to eligible not-for-profit organizations. Contact your Human Resources Department to learn more about their matching gift program. If available, they will provide you with the necessary forms to be completed and submitted along with your donation to NSCS.

Corporate and foundation grants: Our general Manager, Karen Rigotti, in consultation with VP-Fundraising Carl Kettler and Director Amy Weller, works on these proposals throughout the year. They are a significant source of funding for NSCS. If you have knowledge of, or connections to, such funding sources, please contact Karen, Carl, or Amy.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The North Shore Choral Society is committed to community outreach, and available singers are encouraged to participate in these enrichment activities. NSCS volunteers are especially needed to participate in the Arts Reach Evanston after-school program, facilitated by NSCS at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center in Evanston. Please talk with Linda Faller for more information (faller9@comcast.net).

NCSC continues to be an active participant in the Evanston Arts scene, meeting in a variety of settings with local arts organizations such as the Evanston Performing Arts Collective (EPAC). We continue to address racial inequity in Evanston with the goal of improving the diversity and inclusiveness of our respective organizations.

Our principal outreach activity is our **Arts Reach Evanston** initiative, an interactive music and arts activities program for children in the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center's after-school program in Evanston's underserved Fifth Ward. NSCS supports and implements 8-week residencies facilitated by local artists in a variety of disciplines. During a residency, NSCS volunteers and our guest artists spend one-hour sessions with children in grades K-6, engaging them in activities such as rhythm and drumming, dance and movement. Active participation in the arts allows the children to cultivate their own voices and sense of agency, while strengthening skills in listening, focus, language, and collaboration.

The North Shore Choral Society is committed to our relationship with the children of Fleetwood-Jourdain and to continue discovering ways to bring engagement with the arts to them. We need to increase our volunteer engagement with Arts Reach Evanston and we urge all members to contact initiative champion Linda Faller (faller9@comcast.net) to arrange your volunteer time.

NSCS also puts on a holiday program at Three Crowns Park, a retirement community in Evanston, which is greatly enjoyed by residents and members alike, and performs with the ESO in their traditional holiday program, *An Evanston Symphony Christmas*.

NSCS GOVERNANCE

NSCS is a self-governing organization, and the business of running a 120+ member community choir is achieved thanks to the work of many volunteers. The NSCS Board of Directors is elected by members of the Choral Society. As indicated in the NSCS Bylaws, the board is comprised of seven officers (a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and Vice Presidents of Communications, Concerts, Fundraising, and Operations) and several Directors (members-at-large), all who serve for one year. Our Music Director, Julia Davids, and our General Manager, Karen Rigotti, serve as *ex-officio* members of the Board. This year's Board Members are listed on the first page of this Membership Guide. Julia, Karen, and our accompanist Sharon Peterson hold salaried positions with NSCS.

Board meetings are generally held on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 am and are indicated on the online calendar on our website. Board meetings are open to all NSCS members. If you wish to attend a meeting, please let Board President Debbie Buesing know in advance.

The following are responsibilities of all NSCS Board members: Make decisions to ensure the sustainability of the NSCS; promote the mission of NSCS in order to raise awareness of the Society and to cultivate new audience members and donors; be in regular contact with NSCS members and identify issues that should be brought to the Board for resolution; and support the NSCS financially as is personally possible.

In addition to the work of members of the board, many choir members do a range of other activities that support the organization so that we can all keep singing. We appreciate their contributions of time and talent. Assistance with tasks both large and small is always welcomed. Accordingly, we want to recognize and thank these members who have agreed to serve as Coordinators during 2021-2022:

Reporting to VP-Communications Carli Witt:

- Publicity - Marj Lundy
- Community Liaison (Fleetwood-Jourdain) - Linda Faller
- Community Liaison (Three Crowns) – Pam Anderson
- Social Media – Laura Korowski
- DCYA Coordinator – Vacant this year (DCYA event is held on alternate years)
- Art Coordinator – Vacant; seeking replacement

Reporting to VP-Concerts David Crumrine:

- Concert Manager - Tom Keller, John Darrow
- Tickets - Phoebe Segal, Tom Olkowski
- House Manager – Vacant at this time; seeking replacement
- Concert Program Booklets - Marcia Bollo
- CD Gratis Distribution - Catherine Porter
- CD Sales - Theresan Kaefer

Reporting to VP Fundraising Carl Kettler
Program Advertising – Dorothy Scott
Group Sales - Jean Joslyn
Rebates – Elise Marren
Benefit Chair – Sarah Schwartzer

Reporting to VP Operations Julie McDowell
Membership - Emily Rivera
Computer Services - Jim Miller
Music Librarian - Anne Zald
Social - Laura Koroski
Archivist - Jane Kenamore
Webmaster - Jim Miller, Andy Hullinger

We invite you to talk with any of these Coordinators about the work they do, and feel free to talk with any Board member about where your interests and skills can help support the ongoing work of NSCS.