

Choir Matrix Handbook 2023-24

Sarah Kaufold, *Artistic Director* | Email: sarah.consonare@gmail.com

Rehearsals: Sundays 3:00-4:30pm at Storrs Congregational Church

Website: consonare-sing.org

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning choir members for *Choir Matrix*! As a choir sponsored by *Consonare Choral Community*, we are greatly looking forward to making music together again this season. The policies outlined below are intended to provide you with a useful source of information about the program, especially considering current health safety measures. **Please read them carefully.** We are requiring all singers to read and complete a Google Form *Health Waiver and Agreement* ([located here](#)).

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are essential for learning the music and for developing rapport and collaboration needed for ensemble singing. The policies contained in this section help us to optimize our rehearsal time together.

- Please arrive at all rehearsals on time.
- Please contact the Artistic Director ahead of time if you are not able to come to a rehearsal.
- Refrain from conversation during rehearsals and direct any questions to the Artistic Director.
- Staying hydrated is important for singing, so bringing a water bottle is encouraged. Other drinks, food, and gum are not permitted in the rehearsal space.
- Avoid wearing perfume or cologne during rehearsals and performances.
- Silence your cell phone and leave it in a bag or coat pocket.

The Artistic Director will assist choir members in using good vocal technique for the health of their voices. Please do not hesitate to approach the Artistic Director if you are experiencing any vocal issues or concerns.

Health Protocols

Wearing a face mask during choir is not required; however, we maintain a mask-friendly environment. All singers and personnel must do the following to participate in any in-person sessions (rehearsals, performances, meetings, etc.) for *Consonare Community Choir*:

- Not attend any in-person session if experiencing any known symptoms of illness related to COVID-19 or symptoms not related to a known, non-communicable medical condition.
- Not attend any in-person session if tested positive for COVID-19 for at least 10 days after the start of symptoms or positive test.

If singers are unable to attend a rehearsal for any reason, an email will be sent each week with notes on the music learned and online resources (see link under “Extra Help” below). We have increased the number of rehearsals this session to allow for flexibility when singers need to miss rehearsal due to illness.

Extra help

Consonare Community Choir members come to the choir with varying abilities and different levels of past experience with choral singing, however we continue to strive for artistic excellence in our choral experiences. Some choir members may prefer substantial practice outside of the formal rehearsal time to learn the music.

To aid with at-home practice, we have a **singer resource website** available with listening links to each song as well as audio links of each part recorded separately for those who find it helpful. If conditions allow, we will return to holding sectionals during the week for those interested. We strive to provide support to help every committed member participate fully.

Our resource website is located here: <https://consonaresing.wixsite.com/resources/choir-matrix>



Musical scores

You will receive musical scores for the current season as they are introduced in rehearsal. You should mark with a pencil any details of interpretation based on the Artistic Director’s suggestions. The scores will be returned to the *Consonare* library at the end of the season. Please bring a folder to house the music scores (3-ring binder is best).

Performances

The Artistic Director will notify you of the dates of any live performance opportunities each season, which are also available on our Singer Resource Website. Please check these carefully and let her know immediately if you have a conflict. Any live performances are subject to postponement or cancellation to adhere to local health guidelines or inclement weather.

The clothing for indoor performances is a black dress or black top and pants. However, the attire for outdoor performances will be more casual in nature based on the expected weather.

Usually there is a dress rehearsal in the concert venue before a performance. This rehearsal is especially important because it allows the Artistic Director to hear the choir in the specific acoustics of the performance space. She may need to move singers within their section to adjust for vocal quality and blending of voices.

Civility and Professionalism

Choir Matrix is inclusive and we seek to create an atmosphere where everyone is welcome and their contributions are valued. Choir members are expected to treat others with civility and respect. If a conflict arises, you should attempt to discuss the problem with the other individual privately. If this does not resolve the issue, you can speak to the Artistic Director or a board member at any time.

Inclement Weather and Public Health Cancellations

You will be notified via email if inclement weather makes it necessary to cancel any rehearsal at the last moment. We will be following guidance from our rehearsal venue and local health officials to determine if cancellation of any rehearsals is necessary due to public health concerns. In the event of cancellation, rehearsals will be held virtually.

Photos / Videos

Occasionally, photos and/or video are taken of the choir for publicity purposes to use in promotional flyers and social media. Choir members are not tagged by name in any of these media. If you do not wish to give consent to allow your photo to be used or for your likeness to be seen in the video, please advise the Consonare of your wishes in writing.

Fees/Donations

A participation fee of \$30 is due at the beginning of each season. This fee helps defray the cost of purchasing musical scores. If the fee is a hardship, please contact the Artistic Director.

Consonare Community Choir is sponsored by *Consonare Choral Community*, a nonprofit organization, registered as tax-exempt with the IRS 501©(3) designation. Donations to support our choirs and programs are always welcome and tax-deductible.

Consonare Choral Community

Mission: Cultivating consonance and building community through choral music in Connecticut.

Consonare Choral Community Incorporated, through sponsorship of several performing ensembles, strives to:

- **create** affordable opportunities for musicians and community members to experience quality choral music
- **explore** the practices of consonance and collaboration through creative choral programming
- **promote** an inclusive and intergenerational atmosphere for all singers
- **nurture** the creative potential of every singer through the encouragement of healthy vocal techniques and artistic excellence within the choral setting
- **enrich** the lives of a diverse population of musicians and the greater community through singing

Current Programs

- *Voices of Concinnity* - professional chamber choir
- *Choir Matrix* - soprano/alto voices (youth ages 14+ may join)
- *Consonare Youth Choir* -- youth singers ages 6-14
- *Consonare Community Choir* -- open to all singers in the community

Board Members

Kara Hart, *President*

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Alex Walker, *Treasurer*

Sarah Kaufold, *Artistic and Executive Director*

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