

THE BACH SOCIETY
OF SAINT LOUIS

Chorus Membership Acceptance Form: 2021-2022

The Bach Society Chorus is an auditioned ensemble of experienced singers committed to artistic excellence in the performance of choral and choral-orchestral masterpieces, notably the works of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Bach Society Chorus Members are expected to:

- Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by August 30, 2021 (proof of vaccination required)
- Abide by all guidelines listed in the Rehearsal Safety Protocol document
- Comply with the rehearsal and performance schedule and commit to participation for the full concert season (approximately September 2021 – May 2022)
- Maintain a high level of musical excellence by coming prepared for each rehearsal
- Be good stewards of distributed sheet music and prepared to pay for a replacement if necessary
- Follow performance attire guidelines
- Notify the Music Director of any absences or late arrivals
- Abide by the Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, included as an addendum to this form
- Read weekly email communications and respond to necessary inquiries

COMMITMENT:

I have read and pledge my commitment to the requirements for membership in the Bach Society Chorus, including details listed in the Rehearsal Safety Protocol document and the Anti-Discrimination & Anti-Harassment Policy. I confirm that I am fully-vaccinated for COVID-19 and I am aware that, despite the safety measures taken by the Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL), it is still possible that I could contract COVID-19 from other individuals. BSSL makes no claims or assurances as to the safety of the activities in which I am participating or as to the adequacy of any safety measures that BSSL may implement in connection with rehearsals and performances. I understand that I am responsible for independently assessing the risks of participation in the BSSL chorus. Furthermore, I grant permission for use of my name and photograph in association with BSSL for its promotional and marketing activities.

Signature _____ Date _____



Chorus Rehearsal Protocol for the 2021-2022 Concert Season

Adopted July 12, 2021; subject to change

COVID Vaccination: Members of the Bach Society Chorus are now **required to be fully vaccinated** per the CDC guidelines. Every member must provide proof of vaccination prior to the first rehearsal of the season (August 30, 2021). Details about how to provide proof of vaccination will be shared at a later date.

Pre-Rehearsal Health Self-Check: Every member will be required to perform a health **self-check** consistent with the CDC health guidelines prior to each rehearsal. **Members who have a fever, cough, or any hint of illness** are excused from in-person rehearsal and should stay home. A remote attendance option for sick individuals is still under consideration and the attendance policy will be more relaxed than in years past.

Sign-in Sheet: Attendance for in-person rehearsals will be recorded and retained for contact tracing. By signing in, members assert that they are symptom-free prior to the start of each rehearsal.

Liability waiver: Prior to the first rehearsal, each member will sign a form waiving liability against BSSL relating to COVID-19.

Masks are not required for rehearsals since each member is required to be vaccinated. However, members who wish to wear a mask for any reason are welcome to do so.

Social Distancing is not required for rehearsals since each member is required to be vaccinated, but we may spread out more in the rehearsal space than in the past.

Initial Rehearsals will be limited to 2 hours with no break, and we ask singers reserve the **new rehearsal time of 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Please note that this window will likely expand from 7:00-9:30pm after the October concert.

Printed Music: Copies will be handed out at the first rehearsal in the same manner as before.

Additional Visitors: For now, we will prohibit visitors from attending regular rehearsals.

Audience and Concert Safety Protocol: A detailed protocol will be released prior to the start of ticket sales for each concert, taking each venue into consideration, along with health data and local restrictions. The COVID Response Committee will reevaluate safety considerations for each event of the season.

COVID-19 Exposure: **Members who have been exposed or tested positive for COVID** should notify BSSL immediately. We will comply with public health recommendations and will notify anyone who attended a rehearsal and was at risk of exposure. If a singer receives a positive test, we ask that they refrain from attending rehearsals for the duration recommended by the CDC at that time.



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ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY **Adopted July 2020**

Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL) strives in its endeavors to maintain a healthy, safe, and productive environment free from discrimination, whether based on race, ethnicity, skin color, religion or spiritual path or world view, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, relationship status, or age. Bach Society of Saint Louis will not tolerate harassment, discrimination or inappropriate conduct in any form by any BSSL employee, volunteer, Board Member, chorus member, orchestra member, or independent contractor.

Inappropriate conduct, discrimination and/or harassment may include that which is done in person, via email, online, on any social media platform, or any other written, oral or visual format. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Intimidating or threatening people in any way
- Touching people (sexually or non-sexually) without their verbal or non-verbal consent
- Making unwanted sexually suggestive comments or gestures
- Violating others' implicit or explicit boundaries, including personal space
- Stalking or following other people without consent (virtual or physical)
- Repeatedly asking a person to do something beyond the context of Bach Society institutional activities (sing, socialize, etc.) who has clearly declined to do so.
- Degrading, shaming, or disrespecting other people for any aspect of their identity.
- Repeatedly and/or intentionally mis-gendering people
- Revealing, sharing or broadcasting personal information or sexual orientation without the affected person's expressed consent

Discrimination and harassment claims should be reported directly to the Executive Director or Chairperson of the Board or by emailing info@bachsociety.org. Complaints will be addressed promptly by the Executive Director in all appropriate cases, or by the Chair of the Board of Directors in consultation with the Chair of its Personnel Committee. If the complaint remains unresolved within a reasonable time, it will be referred to the full Personnel Committee for review and resolution. The Board, in its discretion will take appropriate actions which could include, but are not limited to, dismissal of an alleged offender or offenders from their position(s) within the organization and/or removing or prohibiting the offender(s) from concerts or events. It is the intention and policy of the Bach Society of Saint Louis to resolve all reported harassment claims fairly, expeditiously and in full consistency with this statement.



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CHORUS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance Policy

Chorus members accept a commitment to attend all rehearsals, sectionals, dress rehearsals and performances. Members sign in at each rehearsal.

Rehearsal Absence

When an absence is unavoidable please notify the conductor directly:

314-578-BACH (2224), dsparger@charter.net

A member will not be allowed to perform in a concert if he/she misses:

- three rehearsals during a preparation period
- two consecutive rehearsals immediately prior to a concert
- the dress rehearsal.

(Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the conductor)

Concert Absence

A member unable to perform in a concert will notify the conductor in writing, including the reason for the absence, at the earliest opportunity. A member who fails to notify the conductor will be dropped from the roster. For a last-minute illness or emergency, call the conductor.

Snow/Ice Policy

Because our membership comes from a broad region with differing weather conditions, each member must make a personal decision in inclement weather. When conditions warrant a cancelled rehearsal, an email will be sent to the chorus list.



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CHORUS CONCERT ATTIRE

Dress Rehearsal Attire

Dress rehearsals are casual and typically do not require concert attire. Whenever the Chorus rehearses in anything other than casual attire, advance notice will be given.

Formal Concert Attire

- Black tuxedo with white tux shirt and black bow tie (red pocket square for the Christmas concert). Coat buttoned when standing
- Floor-length, all-black dress or palazzo pants with a dressy black blouse
- Ankles should be covered and palazzo pants should have the look of a skirt from an audience perspective
- Long sleeves or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves only; shoulders must be covered
- No velvet, sequins or sparkles

Informal Concert Attire

- Long-sleeved black shirt, open collar (undershirts must be black or not visible); black pants
- Full-length black dress, a black skirt and blouse, or dress pants and blouse
- Sleeves may be any length, but shoulders must be covered

Footwear and Accessories

- Black tights or trouser socks should be worn with black flats, low heels or black dress shoes
- Small earrings and necklace permitted

General Concert Restrictions

- Cell phones
- Alarm watches
- Cologne or perfume (but don't forget the deodorant!)
- Jewelry that jingles