



## Rocky Mountain Chorale

### Singer's Handbook

Spring 2012 Season

The mission of Rocky Mountain Chorale is:

1. to promote participation in and appreciation of the art of choral singing in the community
2. to entertain members of the community through the presentation of concerts, including for people who would not normally be able to attend choral concerts
3. to provide community members with the opportunity to participate in choral singing and to further their musical education, through taking part in rehearsals, concerts, training sessions and related musical activities.

Rocky Mountain Chorale does not discriminate against any employee, volunteer or program participant based on age, race, sex, color, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, marital status, gender, veteran status, political service, affiliation or disability.

**Purpose:** Rocky Mountain Chorale (RMC) is a mixed choir employing a professional conductor, accompanist, and other musicians as necessary. RMC's membership covers a wide spectrum of age and musical experience, from students to retirees. Our repertoire ranges from African folk songs through modern American choral pieces to major classical choral works. In addition to preparing fine music in a light-hearted atmosphere, we have social get-togethers on a regular basis.

**Information:** All scheduling and program information about the Chorale can be found on the website at:

**[www.rockymtnchorale.org](http://www.rockymtnchorale.org)**

This website is updated regularly. Please check the Member Area section often to find out about RMC's schedule.

**Rehearsal Music:** A link to selected rehearsal music (midi and mp3 formats as well as YouTube videos) can be found on the Web at <http://rockymtnchorale.org/member-info/rehearsal/>. Ask a board member for the password.

**Auditions:** Auditions for the Chorale are held in August for the Fall semester and in January for the Spring semester. Specific information about times can be found on the website.

**Programs:** We present two major programs each year, and we sing selections from those same works at two community outreach programs each semester.

**Administration:** Annually the Chorale members elect a board of directors to manage the Chorale. The board is responsible for Chorale policies and programs. Members are encouraged to attend the board meetings, which will be announced to the membership at rehearsals.

**Attendance:** Being a member of RMC means a personal commitment to the Chorale in terms of time, learning music, and being present for rehearsals and performances. All members are expected to attend scheduled rehearsals as well as the concert performances. In the event that a member will be absent from a rehearsal, the member should notify his or her section leader in advance.

If a member misses more than three rehearsals during a semester, he or she will not be allowed to sing in the concert unless prior arrangements have been made with the conductor. If you have unexpectedly missed two rehearsals, please contact the conductor before missing a third rehearsal.

Attendance at the Pre-Concert Rehearsal is mandatory.

**Tickets:** Chorale members are expected to promote the concert and to sell tickets in order to build an audience. Face value for tickets is typically \$10 per ticket for adults and \$8 per ticket for students and seniors, although the prices may be raised if a special situation, such as a concert with a large number of instrumental accompanists, warrants. Children under 5 are admitted for free. For the Spring 2012 concert, tickets will be \$10 General Admission and \$8 for Seniors (60+) and Students.

**Pre-paid Tickets:** Members are encouraged to pre-purchase concert tickets at a discounted rate of \$7. Prepaid tickets may be purchased in any quantity, with a minimum of 5. Pre-paid tickets may be purchased up to two weeks before the first concert date. Members may do anything they would like with pre-paid tickets (including reselling them for up to their face value).

**Music:** Members are issued music for their use during each concert season. The Chorale borrows, buys, or rents music as necessary and member dues cover this expense. **Members are encouraged to mark their music as needed but use only a No. 2 pencil. Never highlight or permanently mark the music in any way.** The Chorale librarian will hand out music at the beginning of the season and will collect music following the last concert of the semester. If a singer leaves the Chorale before the season ends, music should be returned at the final rehearsal attended.

**Folders:** RMC requires that singers use black folders for all performances. The version that many Chorale members use is “The Black Folder,” which may be ordered on-line at <http://www.musicfolder.com/en/us/index.php>

**Performance Attire:** Concert dress for the Chorale is white from the waist up (except men’s jackets and ties), and black from the waist down. More specifically:

**Men:**

White dress shirt and black everything else (shoes, socks, pants, jacket, and bow tie). A tux (without tails) is great if you have one, but not required. A black bow tie is required.

**Women:**

Long black skirt, black hose, black dressy shoes (not extremely casual), and a long-sleeved white blouse. Previously, women purchased a blouse sourced by the Chorale. Singers leaving the Chorale who have one of these blouses are urged to return them. Blouses in like-new condition will be bought back for \$15. New singers wishing to purchase a used blouse, when available, may do so at a cost of \$15.

For the Outreach Concerts, the tops for both men and women are to be long-sleeved pastel shirts. Bottoms for men will be black trousers and shoes. For women it will be black shoes and black trousers or skirt of at least ¾ length.

**Dues:** The Chorale is funded by dues that members pay and by ticket income from the concerts. This money is paid to the conductor, assistant conductor, and accompanist; to the venues where we rehearse and perform; to cover music costs, to pay concert musicians, and for many other purposes. Listed below are the dues procedures used by RMC:

- ‡ Membership dues are \$60.00 per semester per member. For two or members who live in the same household, the dues are reduced to \$50.00 per semester each. Dues for students in full-time education are \$30 per semester.
- ‡ Dues for existing members are due by the end of the fourth rehearsal.
- ‡ Dues for new members are due six weeks after the new member starts and should not be paid until the members are sure that they are comfortable with the Chorale. We require new members to make a \$20 deposit before taking music home. This deposit is either returned or applied toward the payment of dues as is applicable.
- ‡ Members with financial hardship may request to have some or all dues waived on a semester-by-semester basis. To do this, they need to speak personally with either the president or the treasurer of the Chorale.
- ‡ Dues will not be refunded. Any member who leaves the Chorale before the middle rehearsal of the season may ask to have their dues applied to a future season. Dues for members who leave after the middle rehearsal of the season will not be credited.
- ‡ Only members who have paid dues or had dues explicitly waived will be allowed to sing in the dress rehearsal or concerts.
- ‡ All members who have either paid dues or had dues waived will be listed in the concert program.
- ‡ Those members who paid but were unable to sing will be listed in the program with an asterisk denoting that they will not be singing.

**Donations:** RMC relies on donations for a significant portion of its expenses, and welcomes contributions from members over and above the required fees. RMC is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization, and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed. Ask the Treasurer if you would like a tax receipt for your donation. (Note that dues are not tax deductible.)

**Payments:** Members are requested to make payments by check whenever possible.

Contact Information:

Board members for the Spring 2012, season:

President	Van Rudd	(303) 870-0416
Vice-President	Tom Satter	(303) 543-8755
Secretary	Christina Brady	(720) 771-4459
Treasurer	Marilyn Powell	(720) 565-0406
Publicity	Aisha Sayles	(303) 332-9942
At-Large	Cecile Penland	(303) 499-6776
Conductor	Art Bragg	(303) 910-1743
Librarian	Kay Norris	(303) 442-5081

E-mail may be sent to all of the above people by using their “office name”@rockymtnchorale.org, for example, e-mail sent to vicepresident@rockymtnchorale.org would go to Tom. Also, e-mail may be sent to the entire board of directors by sending to [board@rockymtnchorale.org](mailto:board@rockymtnchorale.org).

**Rehearsals:** Monday evening rehearsals for Spring 2012 will be held at First Baptist Church, 1237 Pine St., Boulder. Regular rehearsals are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm with one ten-minute break that includes snacks provided by one of the sections. Sectionals and small group rehearsals are sometimes scheduled on Monday evenings before the regular rehearsal. Additional sectionals may be scheduled throughout the semester if the section leader and conductor believe they are necessary. Please arrive five to ten minutes early to rehearsals. Coming in late negatively affects the concentration of the group and slows down the rehearsal.