



Jubilate

Vocal Ensemble

MEMBER GUIDELINES (updated Aug. 8, 2017)

Who we are

We are an auditioned community choir whose mission is to:

- Present excellent singing in a variety of musical genres from all eras;
- Give special emphasis to Canadian music;
- Premiere new compositions, and
- Promote educational and outreach opportunities.

Rehearsals and attendance

We rehearse on Monday evenings at **the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 949 49th Ave. W., from September until May**. Rehearsals begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m. (or 9:45 at the discretion of the director), with a 10-minute break in the middle. Singers are strongly urged to arrive by 7:20 so they can find their spot, move a chair, line up the repertoire, greet friends and settle down in preparation for the 7:30 downbeat.

Singers who can't make a rehearsal are required to advise their section leader. Generally only one absence is permitted per term. Choristers may choose to use two of their three allowable annual absences within a single term with prior approval from their section leader. Extreme circumstances such as severe illness or work or family emergencies should be discussed with the section leader and Music Director (Eldon McBride).

Exceptions will be at the discretion of the section leader and Music Director; permission to perform the next concert may also be subject to a test by the Music Director.

On occasion the Director will hold a Sunday Rehearsal to give singers absent from regularly scheduled rehearsals a chance to catch up. Dates TBA.

Be prepared. Please practise your repertoire at home so you are able to keep pace with the rest of the choir and be prepared to work on the finer points of the music beyond

pitch and rhythm.

JVE is happy to include singers with disparate ranges of music education and experience. It follows that some singers need to do more homework than others. Sight reading, applying basic theoretical concepts, singing with 'schmeck,' tuning and blending are skills that each singer needs to nurture continually. Each week the director will send out the repertoire lineup for the next rehearsal so that singers can come properly prepared to sing without pounding notes.

Attitudinal preparation

Negative undercurrents can undermine or even destroy any choir. Music is the most subjective of the arts, so personal opinions naturally vary widely, especially in regard to repertoire, dress code, etc. As the choir continues to grow and improve, JVE singers are urged to accentuate the positive by being part of the solution.

Section leaders

Section leaders are named by the music director. They are responsible for keeping track of attendance, organizing sectional rehearsals if required, and providing musical guidance to members.

Current section leaders are:

Soprano	Shelley Brown
Alto	Lia Wolfe
Tenor	Robin Salkeld
Bass	Jim Colbert

Member website

The JVE website is an important resource for the choir – with information and music help.

Fees

Fees contribute towards the costs of the director, accompanist, guest musicians, promotional activities, program printing, rehearsal space rental and sheet music purchase. The fees are \$300 a year payable either in one lump at the beginning of the season, or in two installments of \$150 at the first rehearsals in September and January. Full-time students are eligible for a 50% reduction in fees. Cheques are to be made out to Jubilate Vocal Ensemble and are submitted to the treasurer. Fees are non-refundable.

Trips

From time to time the choir takes out of town trips, and members generally pay their own way. Those who have difficulty covering their own travel expenses (ferry, hotel etc.) are invited to speak to the choir treasurer, George Fitch, to see if any financial assistance is available.

Performances

Our 2016-2017 concert season is comprised of three major performances. Dress rehearsals generally occur from 7:20 - 9:45 p.m. on the nights before the concert dates. There may be additional performances, including Schmeckfest. Please study the calendar carefully.

Concert Attire

Women: as designated by Wardrobe Mistress.

Men: ditto.

Please refrain from using perfumes, aftershaves or other scents.

Day rehearsals

There will be three Saturday rehearsals (retreats) planned during the year. In the 2017-2018 season, the first of these will be on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Shaughnessy Heights United Church from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Choir members are expected to attend.

Sectionals

To better prepare singers for concerts, the choir is considering discarding past sectional arrangements in favour of joint sectionals: one for men, one for women. These would likely be held on weekday evenings. To be discussed and confirmed.

Ticket Sales

A commitment to singing in JVE entails a parallel commitment to help bring audiences to share in our music. There is no quota system, but choir members are urged to join in our ongoing effort to remain financially viable by increasing the size and scope of our audiences.

E-mail communication

Please resist the temptation to spam fellow members, especially about non-choir matters. Important e-mails concerning all of us will be regularly sent by our director (Eldon), president (Lindsay), and list manager (Doug).

Summary

Unconditional acceptance of these guidelines is necessary for your participation in JVE. If you have any questions or concerns about any of them, please don't hesitate to take them up with your section leader.