



Grace Chapel Choir

Expectations and Explanations Guide

Who can join choir?

Anyone high school age and older may join the choir. If you are not a member of Grace Chapel we encourage you to become one. Pastor Joel will gladly answer any questions about what that means.

What about ability and experience?

The choir is a reflection of the church and is made up of individuals with varying abilities from those who have never read music to university-educated musicians. While you might not be sure where you fit yet, remember that this is a gathering of the church. It is a learning environment where you will be trained and encouraged, in this case towards musical excellence for the glory of God and the joy of others. We are committed to *musical excellence*, which we define as “*continually becoming better than I once was.*”

What is the time commitment?

Rehearsals

Wednesday nights, 7-8:30p in Room A.

The semesters run September-December and January-May.

Expect to be present for at least 75% of rehearsals to make a meaningful contribution. We use the term *Downbeat* for the official start to a music event. Please be in place and ready to rock by downbeat. *Call Time* is the suggested time to show up before downbeat.

Personal Practice

Practice time at home is vital. We are committed to being fully engaged with the text and embodying the message we are communicating through song. Therefore, we memorize our anthems, offertories, or special pieces. Be sure not to confuse *memorization* with *perfection*. Think of *memorization* as knowing something so well, you couldn't possibly make a mistake.

Each choir member is provided with the sheet music and recordings of your specific part to work with at home. Think of it this way: *you learn your part at home and learn everyone else's parts at rehearsal; practice is personal and rehearsal is relational.*

Singing in Church

We sing in all three worship services (Saturday night at 5:15p and Sunday at 9:15a and 11a) once a month during the choir season. You are expected to serve at all three services for consistency within the choir; *we truly rely on each other!* If you have a conflict with this commitment, please talk with Pastor Joel. Other than exceptions for extreme circumstances, members sit out that ministry weekend and join us for the next one. For these singing weekends we join with the worship band to lead corporate worship. Lyrics for the songs and hymns we lead are projected on a screen.

Seasonal Events

We enjoy performing in the annual *Night of Joy* Christmas program each December and special services at Easter time. All of these are planned well in advance so that times and details are communicated clearly at the beginning of the season.

How do I know what part to sing or where to sit?

We take 5 minutes with each person, one-on-one, to walk through a few simple exercises to help decide where an individual will make their strongest contribution.

Choir members are placed in standard sections: soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone/bass. These sections are overseen by section leaders who assist Pastor Joel in communicating musical and spiritual direction to the ensemble. Section leaders may reposition seating arrangements as needed from rehearsal to rehearsal or from service to service.

How do you organize all this?

Planning Center Online is the system we use to organize our people, music, rehearsals, and services. It works through your email and allows you access to our library of recordings to help you succeed at learning the music. Scheduling through Planning Center will help you stay on top of where you need to be, and when. There is a free app available for iOS and Android. Stream your practice tracks right from your device wherever you are! We send you weekly update emails on what we're focusing on for the next rehearsal and reminders on times for singing weekends.

What does the choir wear?

For rehearsals, come as you are, though keep in mind that strong cologne and perfume can cause problems. For service times, wear all black with your choice of one of three *bright and vibrant* solid colors as an accent. We change these seasonally. Autumn colors are green, orange, or purple. Spring colors are green, blue, or yellow. Pink is also an option for Easter weekend. Here is a detailed rundown of what we're looking for:

Gentlemen

Solid Black Dress Shirt

Long sleeve, button down, collared dress shirt tucked in.

No logos, prints, or patterns, please.

Black Slacks

Dockers style pants are acceptable. Black belt.

No navy blue, gray, denim, or cargos, please.

Bright Color Accent

Wear a solid bright-colored necktie, or an undershirt showing where your collar is unbuttoned.

Shoes

Black shoes with black socks. Shoes should be in good repair, able to hold a shine.

Ladies

Blouse/Top

No T-shirts, spaghetti strap tank tops, or hooded shirts.

No logos, prints, or patterns, please.

A thin black sweater or duster over a blouse of the accent color works great.

Skirt/Pants

Black; no navy blue, no gray, no denim. No shorts or cut-offs. Capri pants that stop below the knee are acceptable. Please remember that the congregation is looking up at the stage; therefore skirts must cover the knees when seated.

Bright Color Accent

Wear a solid bright-colored accessory, such as a headband, earrings, or large-beaded necklace. If you have more than one accessory, be sure they are all the same bright color.

Shoes

Black, with black or natural stockings. Sandals are acceptable but require a heel strap.