



HCS Membership Policies and General Information Fall 2017

The Houston Choral Society is a professional-quality civic chorus dedicated to performing great choral music to enrich the soul and advance the choral arts to Houston audiences. We have set a goal to efficiently use the time volunteered by members, and our Artistic Director, Dr. Kevin Klotz, to further develop The Houston Choral Society's reputation as a premier choral arts organization. In part, this will be accomplished by maturing the quality of our performances via the personal dedication and training of our valued members. To that end, we want to summarize some of the policies and information each member needs to know. **Please see the HCS Handbook for Members for more in-depth information about our policies and procedures.**

- **Commitment:**

We expect that all members will attend all of the rehearsals scheduled this semester for any concert in which they plan to participate, and will arrange to free themselves from all work-related duties and/or social and family engagements during the rehearsal evenings of the week before a concert so that The Houston Choral Society may rely on their full participation for either or both of the Spring concerts. So, we expect all singers to:

1. Be prompt for at ALL rehearsals
2. Attend ALL rehearsals unless there is an unavoidable conflict (including the Choral Workshop)
3. Attend ALL dress rehearsals (failure to attend may result in your inability to perform in the concert).

Here are the dates:

- **Monday, October 2** and **Thursday, October 5** for the concert **“Oktoberfest”** on **Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 7:30**

(Please see the Handbook for Members for the Attendance Policy.)

- **Rehearsal Etiquette:**

Each member will follow the requirements above, use the rehearsal tools to prepare for each rehearsal, and follow appropriate rehearsal etiquette (no chatting or commenting or correcting other singers, no humming of one's part, no scents which might cause other members an allergic response, etc.)

- **Tuition/Registration Fees:**

There is a tuition/registration charge of \$50.00 per semester. If you are a student, you are eligible for a scholarship; please speak with the Registrar (Elizabeth Ferrio) about a student scholarship.

- **Concert Attire:**

Each member is responsible for acquiring appropriate, standard attire for concerts.

Women must purchase our standard black skirt and camisole/jacket at a cost of approximately \$100.00, and the standard concert jewelry at a cost of approximately \$16.00.

Men must purchase, rent, or borrow a black tuxedo.

Note: If you are currently in financial need, we may be able to provide some financial assistance for your tuition and/or attire expenses. Please complete an **Application for Financial Assistance**.

- **Musical Scores**

Each member must sign out a set of the music scores for a concert.

The music should be marked with the Director's notes using a #2 pencil.

Immediately after the performance, the scores should be returned in good condition.

Most scores are available for purchase. If a member wants to purchase one or more of the scores, he/she should contact Elizabeth Ferrio to determine the cost of the score(s).

- **Waiver and Grant of Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights:**

In consideration for permission to participate in performances of The Houston Choral Society (the "Society") and in consideration of the similar waivers of others that will benefit the Society, each participant agrees to waive and hereby grant to the Society any and all rights in copyrights and all other intellectual property rights under United States and worldwide laws protecting copyrights, patents, and other intellectual property rights relating to any performances given or sponsored by the Society, whether in the past or in the future. As between the Society and each of the members, the Society is the sole owner of all mechanical recordings and images of its rehearsals, performances, and other activities, and is free to publish and distribute to the public any music and images that he/she participates in performing and in which he/she appears with no further permission and no royalty or other compensation.

- **Other Expectations:**

We hope that, as time goes on, you will want to be more involved in the operations of HCS. Please complete a **Volunteer & Funding Opportunities** form so that we know what skills you may be able to offer to our organizational efforts.

Each member is requested to invite friends and family to attend our concerts, and is provided with tickets to sell for each Concert. We encourage you to make every effort to sell these tickets. Note that there is a 15% discount on tickets for your family members. If you are able to sell more tickets, please contact your Section Leader for additional envelopes. If you can sell (10) or more tickets, we have a Group Rate discount of 15% off the price of each ticket.

We encourage each member to become a Patron of HCS at whatever level is appropriate. Our Patron Drive happens in September/October, but pledges are accepted at any time. Please see our Patron Chair, Bob Qualley, if you need a Pledge Form.

We expect that you will enjoy yourself while singing with HCS, and that you will work to improve your vocal quality and the overall quality of the choir.