

## MasterSingers Information 2021/2022 Concert Season

We are so excited to get started on a new season & look forward to making some great music together. Here is some helpful information to help you navigate our little group. New members, this is a great tool for you as you kick off your MasterSingers experience. Returning members, this will be familiar info with a few additions so give it a look.

### Singer Safety & PPE Requirements

This is probably the biggest question on everyone's mind as we return to rehearsal & the board has outlined the following safety protocols which must be followed by every singer for safe participation.

- Face masks must be worn at all times during rehearsal, singers may provide their own masks or use a provided disposable mask
- Snack breaks will be taken outside as long as the weather allows, we will re-evaluate when the weather changes
- Snack breaks will consist of pre-packaged snacks
- Social distancing will be our goal, we may incorporate a singer seating chart or change rehearsal space to allow for additional space
- Singers are asked to make use of provided sanitizer & have their temperature checked upon arrival at the church
- Singers must sign a participation waiver at their first rehearsal
- Singers must self-monitor their health & not come to rehearsal if they are feverish or ill
- While vaccination is highly recommended, we recognize that there are many reasons why a member may not be vaccinated. We require members share their vaccination status with the Artistic Director or Board President

Regarding COVID-19 exposure - should a MasterSinger become exposed to COVID-19 during the rehearsal period we require the singer notify the MasterSingers Artistic Director immediately so risk to other singers may be assessed. Singer privacy will of the utmost importance & will be protected by the Artistic Director.

Member safety is our primary concern. Please be patient as we navigate the situation & know that all guidelines are subject to change.

### Singer Information & News

MasterSingers Omaha members have many ways to get MasterSingers news. Our primary method of communication is via email. Info relating to a specific performance will go out via email to everyone participating in that performance. General information will go out to our list of active singers. Make sure your email address is correct & update it if it changes so you don't miss any of our emails.

We also have a singer information page on our website that is updated weekly with rehearsal order, announcements, news & more. You can find it anytime at <http://www.mastersingersomaha.com/singer-info.html>

One of the greatest tools we have for those of you on Facebook is our special MasterSingers Omaha Members group. Everything we send via email goes up on this group page & it's a great place to ask questions, get feedback, & post if you will be absent from rehearsal. Members also share fun memes, news, & cool stuff so we recommend joining if you haven't already. You can find our group through the MasterSingers Omaha business page or at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1488568211413605>. Trouble finding us? Check with a board member & we will get you added in.

### Rehearsals

- Rehearsals are held at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 5410 Corby Street
- Rehearsals start at 7pm. Please arrive prior to that time and be ready to go at 7pm, someone will be at the church by 6:45 pm every rehearsal evening
- A rehearsal schedule has been emailed to you, it will also be available in the "Singer Info" page on the website and on the MasterSingers Members Facebook group

- A weekly rehearsal song order is also posted to the sites above as well as emailed to the group
- Please, to make rehearsal more productive and enjoyable for everyone:
  - Please set your phone to buzz/vibrate during rehearsal
  - Please refrain from returning your messages/checking Facebook, etc. during rehearsals
  - Please no humming of entrance pitches, don't tap too loud, & don't play your entrance pitch on a phone or tablet
  - Please no perfume or cologne, we have allergies
  - Please keep talking to a minimum
  - Never be afraid to ask questions or for a second chance at something!

### **Section Leaders**

Each vocal section has a dedicated section leader available to answer questions & assist singers. These are members with a wealth of experience & they are happy to help. Section leaders will be announced at the first rehearsal for each concert. Singers are welcome to connect with their section leader at rehearsal or by email for assistance.

### **Absences**

We know life happens so if it's close to rehearsal time & you won't be able to make it please post to our private MasterSingers Members Facebook group, email [mastersingersomaha@gmail.com](mailto:mastersingersomaha@gmail.com), or text Kate Simmons at 402-680-2979.

If you know you will be missing rehearsals in advance please email [mastersingersomaha@gmail.com](mailto:mastersingersomaha@gmail.com) so we can add it to our schedule & won't worry when you aren't in attendance. If you are missing more than 3 rehearsals make sure & let us know too, so we can make sure you get all the important notes when you return.

If you are late to rehearsal & the doors are locked please text Kate Simmons at 402-680-2979 so we can send someone to let you in.

Finally, if for any reason you decide not to continue with the ensemble please, please, please send us a quick email & let us know of your change in plans. We worry & in addition to needing that info as we prepare for our performance we want to make sure you are safe & well.

### **Music**

- PDFs & MP3 files of all our songs are available in our MasterSingers Dropbox, MP3 files include individual part tracks & full ensemble to help you practice
- Singers may print the PDF music for use at rehearsal, use a tablet to view digital PDFs at rehearsal, or you may purchase a printed packet of music for \$10.00
- Please practice your music outside of rehearsal, if you are having difficulty please speak to our Artistic Director or any board member about additional practice assistance
- Occasionally solos are available, these will be identified early in our rehearsals & MP3s are available in our Dropbox for audition practice. All members are invited to audition for any available solos
  - Sometimes we repeat songs, and sometimes those repeated songs have solos in them. In this case the solo has already been auditioned & assigned. The MasterSinger who was previously assigned the solo will have the option to repeat the solo or pass. If the MasterSinger passes on their previous solo then open auditions will be held.

### **Singer Dues & Other Financials**

We ask our members to pay singer/membership dues on an annual basis. These dues help us provide concert materials, purchase music, & promote our upcoming performances. If you are unable to afford dues for any reason scholarship funds are available, email [mastersingersomaha@gmail.com](mailto:mastersingersomaha@gmail.com) or talk to any board member. This information is kept confidential & NO ONE DOESN'T SING BECAUSE OF SINGER DUES.

Dues for our 2021/2022 concert season will be \$45.00 per concert or \$115.00 for the full season. Returning members may notice an increase of \$5.00 per concert/\$15.00 per season. This is our first dues increase in 15 years & was a necessary change as performance costs increase.

All money (dues, music packets, etc.) is collected by Kate Putnam, Board Treasurer, or her designated representative & may be paid with cash or check at any rehearsal. We appreciate timely payment of singer dues & music packet money. Within three weeks of our first rehearsal is greatly appreciated.

### **Regular Season Performances**

MasterSingers members audition once are invited to join us for any and all upcoming performances based on their schedule & availability.

#### 2021/2022 Season

##### Jazz to the World 11 – What’s Old is New Again

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

6:00 p.m. Performance

##### An Evening of Broadway Legend Stephen Sondheim

Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

6:00 p.m. Performance

##### Hot Fun in the Summertime: Road Trip

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

6:00 p.m. Performance

### **Tickets**

Over 90% of our audience comes from singer invitations so we need our singers to commit to helping us get the word out to friends & family. Singers will have the option of purchasing an unlimited number of discounted member tickets.

We will be increasing our ticket prices for the first time in nearly a decade. Singer discount tickets will be available for \$12.00 each & can be picked up in rehearsal. An announcement will be made when tickets become available.

Advance tickets will be available online for the discount price of \$15.00 each (with additional processing fees at checkout). Door tickets will be available for \$20.00 for adults, \$15.00 for students & seniors. Children 12 & under are free & do not need a reservation to attend.

### **Concert Dress**

Specific concert dress will be announced at rehearsals as each performance approaches. We aim to use clothing pieces that you already own as much as possible. Past concert dress has included black pants/skirts & tops for the ladies with a solid-colored pashmina & black pants & button downs for the men with coordinated ties.

Occasionally we may require the use of MasterSingers branded apparel that is purchased by singers at their own expense. Many times new members may be able to borrow needed pieces from other members but when that is not possible the group will facilitate a purchase to acquire what is needed. If you need an item but are unable to purchase it let a board member or our Artistic Director know & we will find the necessary funds to cover your uniform needs. Again, money is never a barrier to being a MasterSinger.

### **Additional Performances**

Each season the MasterSingers will occasionally add additional performances outside of our regular season concerts to reach new potential audience members & engage with the community. These performances or "run-outs" are optional and open to all members. Most run-outs will use music from our current concert season but occasionally you may be asked to learn additional numbers. Sign-up sheets for all run-outs will be available at rehearsals as dates are set or you can email mastersingersomaha@gmail.com and add your name to the list.

We are unsure of the status of our regular season run-out performances at this time. We will keep everyone in the loop as information becomes available.

### **Fundraising**

While concert ticket sales do provide a lot of our annual budget they don't cover everything. To make up the difference & give us the ability to grow MasterSingers pursues several fundraising avenues annually. We ask that our members support & participate in fundraising efforts to the best of their ability. Support includes helping to fund and/or volunteer at our cabaret fundraisers, parades, special engagements, etc.

Our primary fundraising efforts include ...

**RAFFLE BASKETS** - Each concert & fundraising event will feature a raffle basket with tickets available for purchase at the event. These baskets are made up of items donated by MasterSingers members or items purchased with donated funds. Themes and wish lists for these raffle baskets will be announced at rehearsal & singers can help by donating items or cash, or by collecting items or services from area businesses for inclusion.

**CABARETS** - Two of our biggest non-concert events are cabaret style fundraisers held during the season. These events include food, drink, and music performed by members of the MasterSingers. All members are welcome to sign up to perform - solos, duets, small groups are all welcome. Singers will be added to the program on a first come/first served basis and sign-up sheets will be available at rehearsals. The MasterSingers board will be evaluating the possibility of an upcoming fundraising cabaret for our 2021/2022 season. Details will be made available as they are confirmed.

We hope this information is helpful to you! Board members will be identified at rehearsal & members should feel free to connect with any board member or our Artistic Director for information & assistance at any time. See you at rehearsal!!