

Guide to the Chalice Choir

Chalice Choir is the oldest and largest of the choral ensembles at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus. With approximately 65 members, Chalice Choir sings at the 11 AM service. The choir performs music of all types—spiritual, secular, classical, modern, international, folk, popular—and is always looking to be challenged. It also seeks out opportunities to perform large choral works and has recently done the Fauré Requiem, the Vivaldi Gloria, and the Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein, all with orchestral accompaniment.

SO, HOW DO YOU JOIN?

It's easy! Just arrive a few minutes early to any Thursday night rehearsal and talk to the director! The musical backgrounds and abilities of singers in Chalice Choir run from the most novice amateur to the most experienced professional. There are no auditions for this choir. All are welcome and choir members are always willing to help each other out. In fact, the choir is rather like a large extended family always waiting with open arms to welcome new singers. Members enjoy each other's company and share both laughter and beautiful moments of music-making together on a regular basis.

Rehearsals

- We rehearse Thursdays 7:30 – 9:30 PM from late August to early June in the Worship Center.
- There are extra rehearsals and retreats in preparation for Holiday and Spring Concerts.
- Typically we have a short break in the middle of rehearsals when we make announcements and celebrate birthdays by singing “Happy Birthday.”

Sheet Music

- Music is distributed on a table at the front of the Worship Center during rehearsals.
- It is good to arrive a few minutes early to pick up the new music and return performed music.
- Choir members will want to mark their scores with director indications.
- We only write in our music in pencil, as markings in highlighter and pen are irreversible.
- Pencils are supplied by the Choir Council and are on the music table.
- Some people like to write their name in pencil on the cover of their music along with the performance date.
- When you see a name on a piece of music, please leave it for that person.
- Any questions about sheet music can be directed to the volunteer choir librarian or the Music Director.
- All members need to use some type of black pocket folder when singing on Sunday and in performances.
- The Music Director periodically orders standard choir folders with your name embossed if you wish to purchase one.

Sunday Mornings

- Since Chalice Choir sings at the 11:00 am service, choir members arrive by 10:15 to warm up and rehearse the music for the service, which includes one anthem and a closing.
- We take off one Sunday per month.

- All Choir members who feel comfortable singing the music for that service are welcome to sing even if they were unable to attend the previous Thursday's rehearsal.
- Members of the choir are free to sit anywhere during the service.
- We walk up to the risers after “The Naming” to sing the main piece.
- The Choir walks up to the risers again for the closing during the final hymn.

Special Performances

- There are typically two concerts each year - the Holiday Concert and a Spring Concert.
- The choir often has extra rehearsals and/or lengthened regular rehearsals in preparation for these concerts.
- These concerts are usually shared with the other First UU choirs.
- We sometimes perform for other church functions.
- There are also other occasions to perform within the church, for memorial services and in the community on a volunteer basis.

Attire

- We do not wear choir robes.
- Unless otherwise suggested, attire is at the discretion of individual choir members.
- On certain festive occasions the director may ask for more specific attire.
- Due to allergies we encourage you to avoid fragrances and scented deodorant.

Baby Sitting

If you need babysitting for rehearsals or Sunday morning, contact the director, as the church can provide this.

Communications

- The Church hosts a Chalice Choir email group, which is used for choir specific announcements.
- Once you join the choir, contact the choir director or music director to be put on the email list.
- Once you are on the list, in order to send messages to the Choir, you must use the email address you gave to the director. The address you use is choir-members@firstuucolumbus.org
- The Choir has a roster that is updated regularly which contains members' addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and birthdays.
- The Music Director maintains a Facebook account for all musical events at First UU.

Social Activities

- Many choir members meet after Thursday night rehearsal for pizza and conversation – everybody chips in to pay for the pizza and drinks.
- Traditionally, some other social activities have included: Post concert potlucks, New Years Eve Party, End of Year Picnic, and Summer Activities.

- We circulate cards recognizing the joys and sorrows of choir members.
- Decade birthdays are celebrated with a special rotating “gift”.

Choir Structure

- There is a Music Director who is responsible for coordinating church musical activities.
- There are two choir directors – one for the Chalice Choir and one for the Spirit of Life, Rising Voices and Peace Pals.
- The Chalice Choir sings at the 11:00 service and the other choirs primarily sing at the 9:15 service.
- There is a church pianist who accompanies all the choirs and other musical functions.
- There is a Chalice Choir Council elected by members of the choir.
- The Choir Council's roles are:
 - To facilitate communication between the choir and the director
 - To facilitate choir activities and recruitment and retention of new members.

Contact: musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org

6-Mar-11

Users Guide



to the

Chalice Choir

**of the First UU Church
of Columbus**



Come sing with us!