



OSC Culture / Rehearsal Tips

We strive to be a member-driven chorus, taking personal responsibility for attending rehearsals, doing our homework, learning our music, getting on the risers on time, etc.. When you come to rehearsals fully prepared, we can move the music to the next level each week. Set your pace to match the fastest learner and you'll be astounded at how much you can accomplish!

- The chorus communicates via email and website updates. The general expectation is that members respond to emails within 48 hours, so check your emails frequently. It's important that you keep yourself informed of activities, expectations, homework, and other news. If you get an email about a performance, we need your response as quickly as possible in order to determine whether we can accept (or not).
- Avoid using REPLY ALL in order to reduce the volume of emails from 36 members.
- Director Kathy Scheel writes regular KATHY'S KORNER articles on our website. Browse through those for lots of information and vocal tips/reminders.
- If you are going to be absent from a rehearsal, contact your section leader and also let Kathy know as a courtesy via email or text.
- When the pitch is blown, it's time to focus.
- Avoid talking on the risers. If you have questions, try to whisper, or make a note and ask later. If someone next to you is asking questions, kindly let her know you're listening to the person up front.
- Use your smart phone recording app or get a small digital recorder and use it every week to get vocal exercises, updates on songs, section work. You can also ask your Chorus Sister or section leader to sing into it for you. Then listen to it during the week to reinforce what we worked on. This helps everyone keep moving forward musically.
- Wear your chorus apron to hold music, recorder, pencil, highlighter, water, mints.
- Work on all the music in the repertoire a little at a time so you're always ready for performances that come up. We don't have time to rehearse them all each week and Kathy expects us to stay ready.
- Conduct business/meetings before or after rehearsal – and take personal responsibility to be on the risers so rehearsal can start on time. We cherish our 2-1/2 hours of music each week!
- Refrain from using perfumed products at rehearsals/performances. Many people have allergic reactions to these scents that can create breathing difficulties, especially in close quarters on risers.
- Risers should be kept clear of paper, folders, or anything else that may be a tripping hazard. Food is not allowed on risers. Water is okay but should be kept in your chorus apron – not on the floor. Cell phone is okay (ringer turned off) if you are using it for chorus-related activities (recording or making notes/reminders). Absolutely no texting or non-chorus communications on the risers.
- No bare feet on the risers, but socks are okay.
- Step off the risers if you need to (i.e., restroom), but be as unobtrusive as possible and when you return, allow Kathy to indicate it's okay to return to your riser spot.
- Positive comments can be made in public; negative comments should be made privately.
- Check the rehearsal cancellation policy on the website. A good guideline is that if the Salem schools are cancelled due to inclement weather, it's possible that rehearsal will be cancelled, so check your emails and texts for updates from your section contact. Your section leader will communicate with you and it's imperative that we hear back from every member.
- To achieve a unified, polished appearance we have chorus costumes and makeup. We don't all have the same skin tones, but we must apply makeup with a consistent intensity for various types of appearance (casual/contest). We are all provided guidance on appearance and are very open to this input which is intended to help us look beautiful and a part of the ensemble.
- Volunteer to help on a committee or project. More hands means less work for everyone.
- There is an informal social gathering (afterglow) at Denny's following every Tuesday rehearsal. Come and visit with the others and have a great time. On Hawthorne across from CostCo.

- Tips for self-improvement:
 - Learning tracks – burn a CD and play it in the car, learn to sing your part with every other part without help. If you cannot burn a CD, ask your Chorus Sister for assistance.
 - Sectionals are for working on unity – not teaching you the notes. You are expected to learn the notes on your own.
 - Conduct regular self-evaluations on all songs in the repertoire. Listen to your recordings, analyze, fix errors on your own.
 - Sing in a quartet anytime! Get 3+ other women and sing thru chorus songs before going home. It's fun and helps you become a stronger member.