

**VOICES OF MUSICA SACRA**  
**MEMBER POLICY & COMMITMENT AGREEMENT**  
rev. 8/11/2008

*After reading this Member Policy please sign the Commitment Agreement, and return it to the Membership Chairperson ASAP.*

With the following policies and commitments in mind, Voices of Musica Sacra looks forward to a mutually rewarding and enriching experience.

Mission Statement

Voices of Musica Sacra (VMS) is a chamber chorus whose members come together to share and perform sacred and secular choral music of excellence for the benefit of our local, national and international communities.

Objectives

To support our mission statement we will:

- Meet weekly for rehearsals to learn the techniques of singing choral music; to improve ensemble and community aspects of the group.
- Present two to three major concerts per year, more if occasion allows.
- Join with local churches sharing sung prayer in their worship services.
- Participate in additional choral events and concert tours when time and occasion permit.
- Sing repertoire from a wide variety of cultures and periods.
- Pursue excellence in all the above.

Auditions

We welcome new members after a trial rehearsal period and an informal audition with the music director and president of the board. Music ability, voice part and commitment to the group will be considered. Reviews will be scheduled as necessary.

Member Choral Commitment

Each member shall make a commitment to:

- Uphold the musical standards of the Voices of Musica Sacra chorus.
- Read and comply with the member policy of Voices of Musica Sacra.
- Attend rehearsals regularly and sectionals as scheduled, being properly prepared.
- Participate in formally scheduled events.
- Strive to maintain or improve his/her own vocal capabilities.
- Discuss any concerns with Section Leaders or Board members.

Annual Pledges

Annual pledges are \$250 for the choral year, September through June. Members will receive pledge requests from and may send payments to the VMS treasurer. Members joining in the middle of a choral year will receive a prorated request. Please note: If an employer has a matching donations program with a minimum matching donation amount, members are encouraged to pay pledges in increments which will qualify for such programs.

Member Administration/Fundraising Commitment

In addition to vocal contributions and annual pledges, the existence of VMS relies on the volunteer commitment of every member. Participation in at least one committee and involvement in concert ticket sales and fundraising activities, especially the annual dinner dance/auction, is requested to further the vision and future of our chorus.

Rehearsals

Unless otherwise announced, rehearsals take place Monday evenings, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. Sectional rehearsals will be scheduled as necessary. All members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and formal performances.

Members are expected to:

- Be prompt.
- Be prepared.
- Have a pencil ready for rehearsal notation. (Never use highlighters or ink on music.)
- Notify Section Leaders in advance of expected absences, and follow up with Section Leaders after any absences to learn about new music or information given.
- Attend rehearsals when unable to sing due to illness or injury (but not infectious) in order to maintain learning continuity.

Note: If a member is absent more than twice in a three-month period, this may put his or her vocal/choral preparation in question, and the director may, at his/her discretion, restrict the member from participation in formal choral events. If a member misses too many rehearsals, he/she may be asked to resign from the chorus.

Members are requested to:

- Bring their music to rehearsals in an appropriate music binder or three ring binder.
- Refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or aftershave.
- Bring extra paper for announcements and other note taking purposes.

### Music

Music is ordered, purchased and retained by Voices of Musica Sacra for its library. Occasionally, music is borrowed from other choral groups. Music shall be carefully protected by each member, and reimbursement will be required if music is lost or damaged. (Damage includes the use of highlighters, permanent markers, or pens.) Music should be promptly returned after performances.

### Soloist/Chamber Ensemble Selection

At the discretion of the music director, soloists and members of chamber ensembles may be selected from the choir membership, by appointment, audition or re-audition. At times soloists may be hired from outside the choir membership. Requirements for both soloists and chamber ensemble members include excellent vocal ability, roundness and clarity of tone.

### Concert Attire

Each member shall wear concert attire for public concerts/tours. Formal concert attire consists of a black tuxedo for men and a concert gown for women. Please refer to the full Concert Attire explanation for details and additional information about less formal events. Upon resignation from the chorus, women may return/donate their concert attire to VMS for use by future members or return it to the Concert Attire Coordinator for sale to future members on a consignment basis.

### Outside Performances

Many members of the Voices of Musica Sacra choir participate in choral events not associated with VMS. Participants must be sure to avoid infringement on VMS rights by refraining from implying representation of VMS unless permission is previously given by the music director or board of directors.

### Resignations and Leaves of Absence

If a member wishes to resign or take a leave of absence from Voices of Musica Sacra, please notify the President or Music Director. Music must be turned in to the Music Librarian. If a member wishes to take a leave of absence for longer than half of a choral year, he/she may have to re-audition when he/she wishes to return.

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Please sign this Member Policy and Commitment Agreement and return it to the Membership Chairperson. (Keep a copy for yourself, or refer to it on the Members section of the VMS website as necessary.)

I have read and agree to abide by the Member Policy and Commitment Agreement of Voices of Musica Sacra.

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*name*

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*signature*

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*date*