



MEMBER HANDBOOK

Welcome to the McKenzie Community Chorus! We are delighted to have you join our musical family. This handbook is designed to provide you with basic information on the operation of the chorus and guidelines for your participation in our ensemble. As a non-audition community choir, our primary goal is to foster a love of music and community through song.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the McKenzie Community Chorus is to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where community members of all skill levels can experience the joy of choral singing, artistic growth, and the power of communal harmony.

MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY

The McKenzie Community Chorus is a non-audition, beginning-level ensemble. We believe that everyone has a voice and a place in our choir. We proudly serve a diverse demographic, welcoming singers from ages 13 to 102+. No prior musical experience is required—only a desire to sing and a commitment to the group.

DIRECTOR & LEADERSHIP

Our rehearsals and performances are led by Jamie Sieminski, who brings a passion for music education and community building to every session. The chorus is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers and board members who manage the logistics, music library, and community outreach.

Jamie Sieminski, Music Director

Jamie Sieminski is a choral director, vocalist, and K–12 music educator with over ten years of experience in music education and ensemble leadership. She has directed school choirs, developed standards-based curricula, and

prepared students for polished, collaborative performances. Her performance credits include Eugene Opera, the Eugene Symphony, and Eugene Concert Choir's Eugene Vocal Arts, and she provides private voice instruction with an emphasis on healthy vocal technique. She holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from the University of Oregon, with an emphasis in secondary choral education, and was awarded the Densmore Scholarship for vocal performance in recognition of artistic and vocal excellence.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are the foundation of our musical progress. Because we are a beginning choir, rehearsals focus not only on learning concert repertoire but also on basic vocal technique and music reading skills. Regular rehearsals are held weekly during the concert season. Please arrive 10–15 minutes early to pick up your music, greet other chorus members, and prepare your seating area. A short break is provided during each rehearsal for rest and community connection.

Folders & Music:

All members are expected to have a black folder. Please bring a sharpened pencil to every rehearsal to mark instructions provided by the Director. Music will be assigned by number and will be distributed during the first rehearsals. Music is expected to be returned after each performance in the condition it was assigned other than pencil markings. Members will be held financially responsible for misplaced or damaged music.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Consistent attendance is key to our success as an ensemble. If you are unable to attend a rehearsal, please notify the Chorus Manager or your section representative as soon as possible.

Illness Policy:

**** To keep our community healthy, please do not attend rehearsal if you are feeling unwell or exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness. Your health and the health of our members is our priority.**

CONCERT GUIDELINES

Performances are our opportunity to share our hard work with the community and attendance is required. Failure to attend will result in a reevaluation of membership.

COMMUNICATION

Most communication will occur via our weekly rehearsals and through email updates. We encourage all members to stay informed about schedule changes, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to speak with the Director before or after rehearsal, or use the provided contact information.

POLICY STATEMENT

Non-Discrimination: The McKenzie Community Chorus does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender identity, national origin, or disability. We are committed to providing a safe and supportive space for all.

