

Sola Gratia Musicians, Inc.
Membership Guidelines
2019-2020

Please note: Each chorister must print a copy of these Membership Guidelines and keep it in his/her music binder. It will be used for reference during the choral year.

Attendance Policy

Participation in SGM is a year-long commitment. Choristers are expected to make weekly rehearsals a priority. The development of a choral ensemble requires consistent attendance on the part of each chorister, as every rehearsal moves the group forward toward concert performance goals. Absences are strongly discouraged unless necessary, limited to two per semester. Please email (firthfamily@gmail.com) or call ([267-625-4362](tel:267-625-4362)) Janice Firth regarding absences or late arrivals.

No excused absences are permitted for mandatory rehearsals and concerts unless providentially hindered (death in family, serious illness). **These dates for 2019 are: December 11, 13, 18 and 19; and for 2020: April 1, 3, 8, 9 and 15.** Non-attendance will result in withdrawal from SGM without refund and will negatively impact future choir eligibility.

Should a schedule conflict arise during the year with any activity (sports, drama, ballet, etc.) or opportunity (mission trip, youth group event, etc.), choristers agree to keep their commitment to attend mandatory rehearsals and concerts.

Cyber charter school students are welcome in SGM if parents commit to reschedule required testing and any other school district event if it conflicts with mandatory rehearsals or concerts. Parents agree to check with their school district early in the fall for alternate testing dates and locations.

Choristers should plan to arrive 10 minutes before their rehearsal. Attendance will be taken. Habitual lateness may jeopardize a chorister's continued participation in SGM. Mandatory Rehearsals, Extended Morning Rehearsals, and the AM Service Concert will involve prolonged time frames for all choirs.

Advanced Ensembles are open to Laudate Choir members. Auditions will take place on Wednesday, September 4, after Laudate rehearsal, starting at 12:00 pm. When a chorister auditions for an Advanced Ensemble, he/she agrees to register upon acceptance. Advanced Ensemble members are asked to view as priority additional concert opportunities as they become available during the year.

Cell Phone Policy

The use of cell phones (and other electronic devices) during rehearsals and concerts is not permitted. Under no circumstances should they be stored with a chorister's belongings or on

the student's person. Cell phones and texting devices are to be left with parents, in vehicles, or at the check-in table in the facility lobby. In case of an emergency, please call Janice Firth (267-625-4362), and she will contact the student in a timely manner. Her cell phone is also available for students' use if the need arises.

Communication with Families

SGM will keep families informed regarding all necessary details through weekly emails. Parents and choristers should **check their email the day before each rehearsal and concert**. If a family's email address or phone number changes during the year, updated info should be sent promptly to SGM's administrator: Janice Firth (firthfamily@gmail.com).

Concert Attire & General Appearance

In keeping with SGM's mission as a Christian educational organization, a modest appearance for rehearsals, concerts, and all SGM-related activities must be maintained. Please avoid outfits that allow skin or underwear to show at the waist. No tank, strap, or low-cut tops should be worn, as well as shirts with inappropriate expressions, short-shorts, mini-skirts, or leggings worn as pants. Improper attire will be addressed at the discretion of the administrator.

SGM strives for its choirs to have a unified look for all performances. Families commit to acquiring proper concert attire according to the following guidelines:

Concert attire for guys: Black dress slacks (no cargo pockets); black dress socks, shoes and belt; a solid white, collared, long-sleeved dress shirt; and a solid black bow tie (provided by SGM). A black vest will be purchased and owned by each guy in Laudate Choir during the fall semester (approximate cost \$30, to be purchased through SGM).

Concert attire for Laudate Choir girls: Solid black formal choral gowns will be purchased and owned by each girl in Laudate Choir. The \$65 purchase price is due on September 18. Payment plans may be requested; please see Janice Firth. Measurements/fittings will take place at the September 11 rehearsal. Opaque black tights and black dress shoes (flat or low-heeled) are to be worn. Pearl necklaces will be loaned out by SGM for concerts. Upon graduation, gowns may be donated to SGM or sold to an upcoming Laudate Choir member.

Concert attire for Cantabile Choir girls: Solid black skirts below the knee; opaque black tights; black dress shoes (flat or low-heeled); and a solid white, collared, button-down, long-sleeved blouse.

Not acceptable concert attire for girls: Knit tops; short sleeves; blouses unbuttoned too low or with cami showing; boots or platform shoes; tight/pencil skirts; skirts above the knee; and light gray or smoke-colored stockings. If in doubt, please check with the administrator well in advance of concert season.

Concert attire for Prima Choir girls: A dressy dress with sleeves, below the knee in length; dress shoes.

Concert attire for Prima Choir guys: Black dress slacks (no cargo pockets); black dress socks, shoes and belt; a solid white, collared, long-sleeved dress shirt; and a solid black bow tie (provided by SGM).

Members of all choirs should have hair neatly combed. Unnatural hair colors are not permitted. Simple jewelry for girls is permissible. Body-piercing jewelry should not be worn, except for girls' earrings. Please avoid colognes or perfumed products out of courtesy to other choir members.

Conduct Policy

Our efforts should be defined by an excellence of personal moral character. Directors and parents are to be honored, esteeming them very highly in love because of their work. Relationships and communication among choristers should be inclusive, encouraging, wholesome, and reflecting a spirit of unity. Choristers should:

- make every effort to welcome and befriend new choristers.
- give full attention to the choral director during rehearsals and concerts, and not distract others from doing the same.
- be respectful of other choristers — taking care to refrain from gossip and belittling.
- avoid inappropriate topics of conversation and the use of coarse or foul language.
- refrain from boy-girl pairing off during rehearsals and concerts.
- discuss items of concern with the choral director or administrator in a timely manner, rather than with other choristers.

Discipline Policy

While SGM strives to provide adequate supervision of choristers during rehearsals and concerts, parents are ultimately responsible to ensure that their children abide by SGM's Membership Guidelines.

Should a chorister fail to abide by SGM's conduct policies, the following steps will be taken by the administrator and/or music directors:

- 1) A verbal reminder will be given. (The chorister will be reminded of the guidelines and his/her signed commitment to abide by them.)
- 2) Should a verbal reminder not suffice, the chorister's parents will be contacted via email, phone, or in person.
- 3) The chorister may be put on probationary status – i.e. a warning that his/her continued participation in SGM is in jeopardy.
- 4) The chorister will be required to withdraw from SGM. Tuition will not be refunded. Future eligibility for enrollment in SGM will be decided at the discretion of the administrator and music directors.

The severity of an offense, and/or the occurrence of repeated offenses, will be taken into consideration in determining if probationary status or withdrawal is warranted at any time.

Fundraising

Each family is encouraged to solicit *at least* one program ad. Details will be available at the parent meetings.

Medical Policy

Please notify Janice Firth at firthfamily@gmail.com with changes in choristers' medical information. Medical forms will be available at rehearsals and concerts in case of emergency.

Music

Choristers are responsible for their music. They will mark their music as instructed by the choral director, using pencil only. Replacement cost for lost or seriously damaged music will be reimbursed to SGM. Should lost music be found and returned in good condition within a calendar year of the loss, charges will be refunded.

Parent Service Commitment (PSC) and Parent Meeting

At least one parent from each family must participate in an online informational meeting at 7:00 pm on August 22 or 26, 2019. Both dads and moms are strongly encouraged to participate. Each family will select a PSC from a list distributed via email prior to the meeting. SGM reserves the right to require volunteers to comply with applicable laws regarding child safety and welfare.

Publicity Policy

SGM reserves the right to use photographs or videos of the choirs for promotional purposes.

Rehearsal and Outside Practice (*does not apply to Prima Choir*)

Bring a black, one-inch binder with inside pockets, a pencil, and a water bottle labeled with your name. Choristers commit to regularly practicing their music at home according to expectations shared in weekly rehearsals. The directors will assign deadlines for music memorization.

Rehearsal/Concert Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather

Email messages will be sent by 7:45 a.m. for a rehearsal cancellation and as early as possible in the event of a concert cancellation.

Scheduling Policy

SGM's by-laws state that rehearsals, concerts and SGM-related activities will not be scheduled on Sundays.

Solicitation

Sales, solicitations, and mass distribution of fliers, advertisements, etc., are prohibited. Choir database, email address lists, and SGM Facebook page are only for SGM business and communication between members. Mass emails using the list are considered a violation of choir family privacy.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition is due in full at time of online registration. See the SGM website for the early registration discount and multiple children discount.

Tuition includes a non-refundable \$50 processing fee. While tuition is non-refundable once rehearsals begin, if a serious medical condition prevents a chorister from completing the choir year, a prorated refund may be given at the discretion of the administrators.

A \$10 t-shirt fee will be collected from new choristers at the October 16 rehearsal. Returning choristers who need a larger size or replacement t-shirt will order them at the same time (\$10).

Use of Rehearsal/Concert Buildings

It is important that families/choristers move only in areas SGM has rented. Those waiting during choir rehearsals may use the study hall or fellowship room at Bethany Church.

Chewing gum is prohibited throughout the buildings. Food is allowed only in designated areas.

Website (www.SGMusicians.org)

Families should refer to the website for dates for mandatory rehearsals and concerts, concert details, etc.

Revised 5/13/2019