

2023 New Creation Chorus Membership Info

Purpose. The structure and activities of New Creation Chorus are designed to promote the musical, spiritual, and social growth of its members. The programs presented by New Creation Chorus are designed to provide an opportunity for singer and listener to join in worship of God through choral music sung skillfully and sincerely. Members are expected to promote group unity by interacting primarily with the broader group during chorus functions and avoiding cliquish behavior. Rehearsal time will be primarily spent learning music, learning how to sing it well, and meditating on the texts to be sung.

Rehearsals

- **Opening Night:** Tuesday evening, May 23. All applicants are expected to attend. This will be a “meet & greet” night at Terre Hill Mennonite High School, including music distribution, group activities, snack, and volleyball.
- **Weekly rehearsals:** Tuesday evenings, May 30 - September 5 at Living Water Mennonite Fellowship or Terre Hill Mennonite High School. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. with snack following. Several Tuesday evening rehearsals will be omitted based on the number of anticipated absences.
- **Sunday rehearsals:** June 25 and July 23. Afternoon practice starting at 3:30, supper, an evening practice session, and a recreational time. We ask all members to especially make these practices a priority.
- **Weekend Retreat:** August 18-20. Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Mark your calendars!

Program Itinerary.

- **Local Programs:** Sunday evenings Sep. 10 - Nov. 19.
- **Day Tour:** Sunday, Oct. 1 (morning and evening program)
- **Tour:** Thu. Nov. 9 – Mon. Nov. 13 to southern Ontario. Passports required.

Attendance Policy.

- **Rehearsals.** Members will “sign out” on an online sign-out form at least one week in advance of an expected absence. Members are expected to miss no more than three rehearsals and should talk to the directors if anticipating needing to miss more than three.
- **Programs.** Members are expected to demonstrate their commitment to the chorus by attending **all** programs. Members are expected to communicate with the directors well in advance if significant immediate family-related events, church obligations (e.g. communion), or emergency employment-related obligations interfere with program attendance. Members shall plan to arrive for programs one hour and 15 minutes prior to program start times.

Personal Appearance. Members are asked to avoid overly casual attire for rehearsals and tours and to observe the standards of the Keystone Mennonite Fellowship. **Men.** Men shall wear full length pants and shirts with collar or buttons. T-shirts are permitted only for recreational activities. Hair shall be trimmed in such a manner as to fulfill the meaning of “short hair,” not extending over the ears or shirt collar, and to avoid extreme or worldly styles. **Ladies.** Ladies’ clothing shall be of modest design with skirt lengths extending below the knees. Hair shall be worn up and under an unadorned, white cap-style covering or flowing veil aligning with the practice of the Keystone Mennonite Fellowship congregations.

Miscellaneous Expectations. Chorus members are expected to provide a black music folder and pencil to be used during rehearsal season as well as to purchase their chorus program outfits. Members are expected to practice music and/or do singing exercises outside of group rehearsal as assigned.

Cost. A \$60 **non-refundable** membership fee is charged to cover music costs, building rental, bulletins, etc. Applicants are expected to bring this along to opening night on May 23. Payment can be made by cash, check, or Paypal. Lodging for retreat will be approximately \$40 per person. Members will be asked to contribute toward tour expenses as they are able.

Application Process.

Fill out the *online* application form by **May 9**. Contact Lamar or Rhoda Harnish for the link. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age on June 1. If there are too many applicants, sign-up date, age, part sung (e.g. soprano, alto, tenor, bass), number of practices to be missed (and perhaps other factors) may be considered in determining membership. After reviewing your application, the chorus administrator will contact you regarding your membership.

Thank you for your interest in New Creation Chorus. If you have questions, contact any of the directors.

Music Director: Wilmer Gehman – (717) 598-2422, wgehman@gmail.com

Assistant Music Director: Austin Gehman – (717) 598-2079, austingehman31@gmail.com

Administrator Couple: Lamar & Rhoda Harnish – (610) 842-1990, (717) 269-9664, joybubbles76@yahoo.com