

2024 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 be attentive and active participants during rehearsals and be committed to learning the music. Members are expected to promote group unity by interacting primarily with the broader group during chorus functions over special friends and friend groups.

Rehearsals

- **Opening Night:** Tuesday evening, May 28. All applicants are expected to attend. This will be a “meet & greet” night at Terre Hill Mennonite High School, including music distribution, part auditions, snack, and group activities.
- **Weekly rehearsals:** Tuesday evenings, June 4 - September 3 at Living Water Mennonite Fellowship or Terre Hill Mennonite High School. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. with snack following.
- **Sunday rehearsals:** June 30 and July 28. These practices will start at 3:00 or 3:30 p.m., include supper, an evening practice session, and a recreational time. We ask all members to attend these practices if at all possible.
- **Weekend Retreat:** August 23-25. Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Mark your calendars!

Program Itinerary. (Itinerary will be distributed on opening night with music packets)

- **Local Programs:** Sunday evenings Sep. 8 - Nov. 17.
- **Day Tour:** Sunday, Oct. 6 (morning and evening program)
- **Tour:** Thu. Nov. 7 – Mon. Nov. 11

Attendance Policy.

- **Rehearsals.** Members are expected to attend all rehearsals unless they have signed 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 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 chorus functions and to present themselves in a manner consistent with the general practice of the Keystone Mennonite Fellowship. Jewelry of no kind shall be worn. **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 general 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 pay this fee on opening night on May 28. Payment can be made by cash, check, or PayPal. Lodging for retreat will be approximately \$60 person. Members are invited to contribute toward tour expenses as they are able.

Application Process.

Fill out the *online* application form by **May 13**. Contact Lamar or Rhoda Harnish for the link. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age on June 1. After reviewing your application, the chorus administrators will contact you regarding your membership. The size of the chorus will be at most 60 singers and is ultimately determined by the directors. The day and weekend tours will be limited to a busload (50 chorus members). Chorus membership may be determined by sign-up date, age, part sung, church affiliation, number of practices to be missed, and perhaps other factors.

Thank you for your interest in New Creation Chorus!

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

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