



General Information – please keep this handy!

Rehearsals in the time of COVID-19:

• **Normally, and ideally, rehearsals look like this:**

LOCATION: Rehearsals will be held at the Camrose United Church, 4829-50th Street

TIMES: The choir meets each Tuesday evening from 5:30-6:30 (JUNIOR), 5:45-7:15 (SENIOR), and 7:30-8:30 (*Vivo Cantando*) (members may determine that this group could meet another time, or for a slightly longer timeframe - decisions will be made with parental input!).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1) **For security reasons** (and depending on who else is using the building) the exterior doors to the church *may* be locked by the end of rehearsal Tuesday evenings. Someone will come open the doors for parents at the end of rehearsal. Joy-Anne's text number is 780-781-4087.
- 2) **Choristers are expected to come early enough** to go to the washroom beforehand. In order to avoid disruptions during rehearsal, choristers are asked to bring a **water bottle**. A break is provided, but singers' **presence and attention** during rehearsal time is expected.

PRACTICING AT HOME:

Practicing at home between choir rehearsals is expected! Often only a little time is needed in the day or two following choir, to simply reinforce concepts and information from that week's work. Your memory works best if you look at something within 24 hours of learning it! Then another quick brush up before returning the following week (or you could try "performing" for friends and family) is always helpful.

Music scores will generally remain at choir, to reduce damage and loss. Each choir member will be provided with a duotang folder with words to the pieces we are currently working on, as well as a rehearsal CD with which they can sing along while practicing. If members find they practice better with the music itself, they may sign out their music folders for the week. It is each chorister's responsibility to keep track of all scores. Replacement costs of \$4-\$5 per item are assessed by several of the lending libraries from whom we borrow, and will be passed on to choristers who lose or damage scores.

• **While dealing with COVID-19, rehearsals will look like this:**

LOCATION: Whenever possible, rehearsals will be held at the Camrose United Church, 4829-50th Street. If AHS protocols or Camrose United Church policy or other factors indicate in-person rehearsals are not appropriate, the rehearsal for that week may either happen online or in a modified in-person context (options might include dividing the group up into smaller sections, holding all or part of a rehearsal outdoors, online or in another venue with better ventilation). **WHEN IN-PERSON**, it is very likely that masks will need to be worn much or even all of the time, TBD. Each singer must either bring their own well-fitting mask that they would be comfortable singing in, or they may be able to purchase a home-made one from Joy-Anne for cost of materials (approximately \$5, maybe slightly more, as I am working on a new pattern). **PLEASE NOTE** that a mask that gets pulled down or falls down when talking/singing will not work! It needs to stay in place or it is not working. Face shields are optional - they do not seem to make a significant difference when the singers are not facing each other, but they do add an extra layer of protection when used in conjunction with masks.

TIMES: It will be ideal to keep the times consistent as much as possible, while understanding that there may be occasions where some flexibility on the part of singers may offer us the opportunity to get together and take advantage of an in-person option on another date. Communication will be key - as much notice as possible will be given for any changes, and in a spirit of understanding and acceptance; there may be more times this year when we cannot all be together, and we can work with that!

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. **Hygiene:** Each singer will be expected to enter with their mask on, and may choose either hand sanitizer or to use the washroom for handwashing prior to rehearsal - please arrive with enough time for this. There are two sinks in each of the women's and the men's/disabled washroom on the main level, and one in each washroom in the basement.
2. **Hand Sanitizer** will be available in the rehearsal space for any unexpected need to touch/adjust one's mask, or other items. **NO SHARING** of books, music, pencils etc. **EACH SINGER** needs to have their own water bottle, but this will only be consumed on breaks where we can move away from each other to temporarily (and properly) remove masks)
3. **SPACING** of a minimum of 6 feet will be scrupulously observed whether while moving in and out of rehearsal or elsewhere in the building. During rehearsal itself, space between singers will be a minimum of 8 feet..

Practicing at home

As above, each singer will be expected to do some learning or reinforcing on their own, Getting music to each singer will be a priority. A Music deposit may be requested in order to insure good care taking of any music scores handed out.

Uniforms

Items in orange are to be provided by each singer. **Items in purple** may be individual or group purchases - to be determined. **Items in red** are provided by the choir for each performance, to be taken back in at the end of each performance (ie: please do NOT take them home!). **Items in green** are provided to singers by the choir as part of their choir membership, and are to be kept in good repair throughout the current season, after which the singer may do with them as they like. **NOTE:** a replacement cost will be assessed for lost or damaged T-shirts, as individual reprints are more costly than bulk purchase.

ALL CHOIR MEMBERS	JUNIOR	SENIOR & VIVO
black dress pants (or skirt)	white turtle neck	white long-sleeved button up blouse/shirt
black socks (tights)	red velveteen vest	red scarf (girls), black clip-on tie (boys)
black shoes	casual performance (and travel) T-shirt	casual performance (and travel) T-shirt

Communication

Email is the **primary means of communicating** with such a large group. If you do not have e-mail, I will have print-out copies of any messages I have sent each week at rehearsal, and we can set up a phone chain for important last-minute information.

Texts or other apps:

If you prefer texts, I will set up a group texting option, as well as individual messages. Please inform me ASAP of your preference.

Please check your e-mail/texts for choir messages regularly.

Bulletin Board(s) - I also make a point of having important information AND SIGN-UP SHEETS in view on our bulletin board just inside the sanctuary door, so please try to come in weekly to see what is happening and whether you need to sign-up for any activities or events. Having you sign up individually is much simpler than me compiling everyone's answers from texts or emails.... thanks for your consideration.

Please come inside and check the bulletin board regularly (whenever in-person is happening!).



Schedule 2019-2020

NOTE: Bolded items are those performances or events at which **full attendance** is required.

Other events are on a sign-up basis

(ie: they depend on sign-up, and MAY go forward even if full attendance is not possible - watch the board and read emails/texts! Thanks)

September:

- 7 (Mon) Registrations Due
- 15 (Tues) First Rehearsals for all groups**
- 19 (Sat) Fall "Getting to know you" Workshop (ALL CHOIRS) - Outdoors? TBD!**
(12:30pm -4:00pm, weather permitting - we'll create a video from our day!!)

October:

- 30 (Fri)** Halloween retreat (BRSD Day off): Suggested time: 2:00pm-5:00pm. Goals: polish our individual parts for "In Flanders Fields", possibly begin making a video for the legion's Remembrance Day ceremonies?

November:

- 11 (Wed) *POSSIBLE LIVESTREAM OR VIDEO "VIRTUAL CHOIR": Camrose Legion Remembrance Day service, 11am (if live, lasts 1.5 - 2 hours, call time 10:00)*

December:

- 6 (Sun) **Lessons and Carols ALTERNATIVE**- possibly two times: 4pm and 7pm. Normally, we perform at the United Church. This year we may go carolling through the neighbourhood!
- 8 (Tues) Christmas outreach **PERFORMANCE** - may be able to perform somehow for either SingAble (Augustana inclusion choir) or out of doors at care homes? LAST rehearsal before Xmas.

January:

- 15** Midwinter retreat (BRSD Day off): Suggested time: 2:00pm-5:00pm. Goals: music challenge games! Polishing individual parts to prepare/create online or video (or combination) performance in February.

February:

- 21 (Fri) Dress rehearsal for "Share a Little Music" annual Dessert Theatre Fundraising Concert**
- probable 4:30 or 5pm call, 9pm finish for older singers (8 for younger)
- 22 (Sat) Dessert Theatre Fundraising Concert - "Share a Little Music"**
- 6pm live-streamed performance

March:

- 20 (Sat)** Spring retreat: Suggested Time 12:30-4:00. Goals: Musicianship challenge (Prizes!). Polish parts for performance/involvement in two things: 1) year end promo video "Why Choir?", and 2) "Music Monday", Monday, May 3, 2021.

April:

- TBA: Camrose and District Music Festival (if possible) - usually a Monday or Tuesday evening the week of Festival.
- TBA: Possible interactive workshop with guest choirs from Edmonton and Calgary! Details in the works...
- 27 OR 30 Final Dress Rehearsal and Concert - "Sing in Spring"** - live and in-person if at all possible, if not, perhaps a concert in the park?

May:

- 3 Music Monday! Details TBA, but some sort of performance to celebrate the importance of music in our lives.**

END OF OFFICIAL REHEARSALS!

EXTRA DATES:

June:

- 4 or 5 Jaywalker's Jamboree
(one of these, time and date TBA upon sign-up, often Friday after 4pm or Saturday around 10:30am)

*** Note that other dates MAY be posted as any opportunities arise, always on sign-up basis.**