

# WHY, WHO, HOW and WHEN of Choir

## *Answering More Questions than You Knew to Ask*

### I. The WHY of Choir

#### a. The Definition Of A Choir

- i. An organization where people of various backgrounds and experiences with a common love of singing and a desire to worship come together to lead others in worship.

#### b. The Purpose Of A Choir

- i. To demonstrate and practice the four-fold ministry purpose of the choir: Ministry to God, one another, the corporate body of Christ-followers and the spread of the Gospel to the unbeliever.
  1. Choosing to be worshipers first, ministers second
  2. To be a place where one can become “family” with other like-passioned believers;
  3. To be an example of worshipers to the larger corporate body, establishing an atmosphere of celebration in our corporate worship gatherings;
  4. To minister a message of hope, joy, peace, consecration and love to a lost and dying world
- ii. To be a place of growth spiritually, musically and relationally.

### II. The WHO of Choir

#### a. The Type of Person You Should Be

- i. A born again Christian - through faith in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ii. A committed, sincere, devoted worshiper of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- iii. A regular attender and supporter of Faith Assembly, having attended for 3 months. (Exceptions at the discretion of the Worship Pastor.)
- iv. Accepting the responsibility of a ministry position at all times, striving to live a lifestyle consistent with the high standards of Christian morals and ethics.
- v. Teachable and flexible, able to receive correction, encouragement, suggestions and constructive criticism in the interest of what will benefit the team effort in worship.
- vi. Striving to develop an active devotional life through daily Bible reading and prayer.
- vii. Supportive, accountable and submissive of those in authority over the ministry in word, attitude and deed.
- viii. Seeking to promote unity in the body by personal ministry and edification to other members of the worship ministry.
- ix. Possessing a servant-heart toward ministry.

**b. The Things You Must Do**

- i. Be at least fourteen years of age (unless special approval granted by the director).
- ii. Complete the Choir Application Form.
- iii. Complete an ability and range assessment with the director immediately following your second rehearsal.
- iv. Attend to two consecutive weeks of rehearsals before ministering in a Sunday morning service.

**c. The Skills You Must Have**

- i. The ability to match pitch. (Those who have yet to master this skill but show potential for development may be granted membership on a trial basis. A reevaluation with the director to be scheduled at the end of three months.)
- ii. The willingness to learn how to follow a part and to memorize.
- iii. An openness to musical development, applying suggestions and comments made by the director.

### III. The HOW of Choir

**a. Getting Counted**

- i. Your new C.A.P.!
  1. After your second week you will be given a C.A.P., Choir Accountability Partner.
    - a. If you must miss a rehearsal inform your Choir Accountability Partner before rehearsal.
    - b. In turn if your C.A.P. must miss a rehearsal he/she is to inform you before rehearsal.
    - c. If both C.A.P.s are to miss a rehearsal, please contact the music office (239-543-2700 or [Ronna@FaithNFM.com](mailto:Ronna@FaithNFM.com))
- ii. Signing-In
  1. Attendance sheets will be placed around the choir room by section.
    - a. As you enter, place a check beside your name.
    - b. If your C.A.P. can not attend **and** has contacted you, place a "C" beside their name.

**b. Getting Supplied**

- i. Music
  1. Immediately upon completion of your range assessment at the conclusion of your second rehearsal you will be assigned a music folio slot.
  2. Since we work several weeks ahead on our music, please bring all of your music from your folio slot into rehearsal

ii. Practice Recordings

1. Recordings for upcoming music will be distributed in two ways:
  - a. CDs - Distributed from the counter in the choir room
  - b. Online – Via the SONGS page on our website: [www.worship.FaithNFM.com](http://www.worship.FaithNFM.com). (See director or section leader for password.)

**c. Getting Informed**

- i. The worship ministries office strives to deliver information in a variety of formats.
  1. The Choir Notes Newsletter is distributed weekly at choir rehearsal and includes the evening's rehearsal schedule, upcoming choir specials and other news.
  2. The website, [www.worship.FaithNFM.com](http://www.worship.FaithNFM.com), includes news, schedules and song recordings for members of Faith Assembly's Worship Ministries.
  3. Twitter. Follow "FaithMusic" on twitter.
  4. Text messages from Twitter. You can choose to receive Tweets (Twitter posts) from FaithMusic. To receive texts messages via your cell phone just text "Follow FaithMusic" to 40404. Please note: standard text messaging rates apply.
  5. Email – You'll have the opportunity to share prayer needs and praise reports during rehearsal that are given to the choir intercessory prayer team and emailed to the choir (if you allow).

**d. Getting Dressed**

- i. Regular Choir Attire – The Choir Shirt (worn 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)
  1. Immediately following your second rehearsal you will be fitted for a choir shirt that you will wear when the choir ministers on Sunday mornings.
  2. The shirt is to be worn only when the choir sings.
  3. You will be responsible for storage, laundering and upkeep of the shirt.
  4. The shirt is to be worn with the tails out with black slacks and dark shoes.
  5. No ties or other accessories are to be worn with the shirt.
  6. The shirt remains the property of Faith Assembly Choir and is to be returned if you are unable to continue your involvement in the choir
- ii. Combination of black and white (4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)
- iii. Your Choice Sundays (1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)
  1. You may wear an appropriate outfit of your choice.
    - a. All outfits are to be modest and well-fitting
    - b. Inappropriate dress for platform would include low cut blouses, short skirts, sweat shirts, torn jeans, shorts, etc.

- iv. **Other Choir Attire**
  - 1. Concert attire will be black shirts and black slacks with dark shoes.
  - 2. On very special occasions, formal wear may be required.
- e. **Grooming Habits of the Conscientious Choir Member**
  - i. Many people are very sensitive to scented products such as colognes, perfumes, hairspray and hand creams. Please refrain from wearing heavily-scented products any time the choir is gathered.
  - ii. The practice of good personal hygiene is expected – please be bathed and wear lightly scented or non-scented deodorant.
  - iii. Excessive jewelry and make-up that would draw undue attention in the choir loft is to be avoided.

## IV. The WHEN of Choir

- a. **The Rehearsal**
  - i. All choir rehearsals begin at 7:00 on Thursday nights unless otherwise announced. Ending times vary throughout the year.
- b. **The Worship Service**
  - i. The choir sings every Sunday in all morning services (Summer Choir sings every other Sunday) unless otherwise announced.
  - ii. Park in the south parking lot.
  - iii. Be in the choir loft ready to start at 7:45 am for sound check.
  - iv. Be back on stage in place behind the curtain no later than three minutes before the start of each service.
  - v. Occupy the platform enthusiastically with purpose!
    - 1. Remember your position as a minister.
    - 2. Remain attentive.
    - 3. Avoid being a distraction.
    - 4. Worship with body, mind and spirit!
  - vi. The choir is dismissed from the stage during the first song of the second set unless otherwise instructed by the director.
  - vii. Exit through the rear outside doors and reenter the sanctuary quietly through the main foyer.
- c. **Other important worship service stuff**
  - i. Indiscrete entrances and exits from the stage are distracting to the worship experience. Anyone arriving after the service has begun will not be allowed to sing in that service.
  - ii. For your own spiritual health you are expected to attend one complete service of your choice.

## **Answers to Commonly Asked Questions:**

**Q. How soon can I sing on a Sunday morning?**

A. You are allowed to sing in a public service following your second consecutive rehearsal.

**Q. May I take music home to practice?**

A. Yes, you may, provided you bring your music with you to rehearsal each week.

**Q. If I miss a rehearsal may I sing on Sunday anyway?**

A. Yes, you may, but only if you have missed only one rehearsal and not two or more consecutive rehearsals.

**Q. Do I have to pay for my own Choir Shirt/Blouse?**

A. No. The worship ministry supplies one shirt for you. However, an offering is collected during choir rehearsal for the "Choir Attire Fund".

**Q. Am I expected to sing in all services?**

A. Yes, unless you have a condition or unusual circumstance that would preclude you. See the director for approval.

**Q. Do I get to hold my music when the choir sings?**

A. No. The choir communicates so much more effectively when the music is memorized. That is why we provide you with tools such as CDs and MP3 files. Words to the songs are displayed on stage monitors for your **quick** reference.

**Q. Should I still come to choir even if I am having throat issues?**

A. Yes! First off, your very presence is a positive impact on the rest of the choir, even if you can't vocalize. Secondly, you can still learn from the instruction given by the director.