



Member Handbook

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www.CrescendoCommunityChorus.org

PO Box 9961, Spokane, WA 99209

CrescendoCommunityChorus@gmail.com

Offering youth an exceptional choral experience, inspiring musical development and personal growth

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About Crescendo

Crescendo Community Chorus is a 501c3 organization that is currently composed of a Preparatory Choir for children in grades 2-5 and Concert Choir for grades 5-12.

This handbook has been prepared to communicate information regarding policies and requirements for singers and their parents/guardians. Please read this document and keep it for future reference.

Mission

Crescendo offers choral music experiences and opportunities of excellence to all children in the greater Spokane region, helping each singer develop as a musician and as a person. Through rehearsals and performances, students develop in musical understanding and personal growth, leading to a greater sense of accomplishment and purpose.

A cornerstone of the Crescendo mission is the belief that all students can sing. Every student who registers for Crescendo will be placed in the appropriate ensemble for them. No student will be turned away from our opportunity to create music.

Vision

Crescendo desires to strengthen the musical education children receive in the Spokane community, providing singers with opportunities to learn vocal skills, have rich musical experiences, and grow in personal awareness.

Crescendo desires to:

- Offer all children in the Spokane area a quality choral education, regardless of their experience level
- Provide opportunities to learn and experience musical excellence, strengthening the self-esteem of each singer
- Inspire singers with the highest quality choral literature of a wide diversity, opening their ears to sounds from the entire human experience
- Schedule performing opportunities that are of artistic benefit to the singers and the community
- Create opportunities for singers to perform and socialize within Crescendo as well as with other choruses in the Inland Northwest

Values

Musical Excellence: Crescendo singers are motivated to strive for continued excellence in all areas of their lives as they are taught with quality choral repertoire, comprehensive musicianship skills, and proper vocal techniques.

Personal & Social Growth: Crescendo fosters leadership, dedication, accomplishment, self-worth, teamwork, pride, and appreciation of music among singers, parents/guardians, and audience members-- all things that greatly influence one's personal and artistic growth.

Education & Learning: Crescendo develops the singer's choral artistry in a joyful, caring, and nurturing environment. Committed, focused work leads to true accomplishment. Developmentally appropriate musical and choral challenges keep pace with the singers as their skills mature throughout the year.

Enjoyment & Enrichment: Our performances enrich the lives of our audiences while providing gratifying opportunities for students to showcase their hard work and musical growth.

Collaboration & Community Building: We strive to nurture beneficial relationships with the community and increase access to the choral arts to develop and expand appreciation of choral music.

Membership Policies

Each student's commitment to the program is a necessary part of each rehearsal and performance.

Rehearsals & Attendance- updated with Covid-19 guidelines

Rehearsals for both choirs are at Holy Names Music Center, 3910 W. Custer Drive. Prep Choir rehearses from 4:30-5:30 and Concert Choir from 5:30-7:30. Students need to be prepared for rehearsals to begin on time by remembering the following:

- Be in their designated seat with their music folders five minutes before the rehearsal is scheduled to begin.
- Use the restroom before rehearsal.
- Refrain from eating or chewing gum during the rehearsal.
- Bring water in a covered container. Do not share water with any other student!
- **Wear a cloth mask before, during, and after rehearsal- we will remove masks if necessary for the learning task, and if it is deemed safe by the latest research.**

A singer's absence from rehearsal adversely affects the individual's and the choir's overall progress; however, Crescendo recognizes and respects the busy schedules of singers and their families. Please plan ahead as much as possible to eliminate any schedule conflicts, and email the Artistic Director of anticipated absences and last minute illness as soon as possible. If the director cannot be reached before rehearsals, please contact us through our primary email (see contact information on page 5). If there is cause for concern over too many missed rehearsals, families may be contacted by the Artistic Director.

If schools in District 81 are cancelled due to weather, rehearsals will also be cancelled. If you are unsure of last minute weather conditions, check on both our Facebook page and website. At this point, all Monday holidays will continue with normally scheduled rehearsals except for Labor Day. Families will be notified if this changes at any point.

If a singer has a scheduling conflict with a performance, the Artistic Director should be alerted **at the beginning of the season** or right when the performance is added to the calendar. All other absences from a concert should be reserved for family or personal emergencies. Similar to rehearsals, all student voices are needed at performances to ensure the utmost success of the ensemble. Attendance at performances is required by all registered singers.

Attendance expectations in the time of Covid-19

Singers' temperatures will be checked at the door before every rehearsal, group activity, or performance (as directed by the current guidelines). If a singer is feeling sick with the symptoms of the Covid-19 virus [as described by the CDC](#), they will be directed to stay home and may be asked to follow along with rehearsals via Zoom or practice material and concepts at home. **Watch for updates this fall.**

If a student feels sick *but does not exhibit Covid-19 symptoms*, their presence at rehearsal is encouraged. Students will communicate their sickness with the director and will sit apart from the group and follow along with rehearsal in a way that is appropriate.

What happens if singing is not deemed safe or we are given another stay-at-home order?

At this time, we plan to continue singing, with strict safety measures, and at a lowered capacity. We look forward to using this time to build community and strengthen musical skills outside of ensemble singing!

If it is deemed necessary, we **will offer rehearsals live and online through Zoom**. We will do everything in our power to offer the same type of thorough and well-rounded music education that you would experience in-person.

Care of Music

Each singer will be assigned a music folder and music that is returned at the end of the season. Damaged or lost music and folders must be replaced, which is difficult and expensive. Please treat these items with respect. If a folder or music is lost, the chorister is financially responsible for its replacement. Music not returned in a timely manner will result in a \$20 repurchasing fee.

Communication

Email: Communication with Crescendo leadership is very important, and most information is communicated through email. **Please add CrescendoCommunityChorus@gmail.com AND CrescendoArtisticDirector@gmail.com to your contact list** so that our emails aren't sent to your junk folder. If your contact information needs to be updated or if you are unable to receive emails and prefer another method for receiving communication, please let us know as soon as possible.

Parent Meetings: Short parent meetings may be scheduled once or twice each semester. These meetings are extremely important in keeping families connected to the happenings of the choir, especially before big events. These meetings are brief and will take place at the beginning or end of your child's rehearsal time. It is important that at least one parent/guardian be in attendance at the scheduled meetings. If you are unable to attend a parent meeting, please email us in advance.

Parent Help

Crescendo Community Chorus has many varying needs throughout the year that are filled by the general membership. To meet those needs, each family is asked to contribute some of their time in order to ease the burden. Often, these needs are simply handing out programs, sending a snack to a retreat, bringing a pot-luck meal, providing help with riser set-up/take-down, or helping out at a retreat. Please watch for any of these opportunities and know your assistance is appreciated.

Uniforms

All singers receive a red Crescendo t-shirt that is worn at informal events throughout the year.

Concert Choir

Girls in Concert Choir are asked to wear black, long-sleeved, crew-neck cotton shirts with black dress pants and dress shoes. The organization will provide a red choir scarf that is only worn at more formal events and is to be returned at the close of the event. There is no additional cost for this item.

Boys need to wear black, long-sleeved, button-down dress shirts with a black tie. Please wear with black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Preparatory Choir

All singers in the Preparatory Choir will receive a white choir polo shirt that is to be returned when the singer either leaves the choir or completes the season. Families are responsible for making sure that girls also have a black skirt, black tights, and black shoes, and boys wear black slacks, black socks, and black shoes. Polos not returned will result in a \$15 fee.

Small earrings may be worn, and watches are allowed if covered by shirts so as not to detract from the appearance of the uniform. Keep hair accessories small and inconspicuous. It is imperative that we exhibit professionalism and pride at all public appearances. All singers are required to be in full uniform to participate in performances.

Performances

On days of performances, please arrive at the designated call time and location in full uniform for warm-ups and dress rehearsal. Parents are asked to wait outside of warm-ups unless permission has been given. The Performance Calendar will be continually updated throughout the year. Details and reminders will be sent in emails and on our website.

If concerts are deemed unsafe during Covid-19 restrictions, we will likely change or modify our concert plan. Concerts are an excellent opportunity for students to celebrate and share their hard work with the community. Even if our concert or performance parameters change, we will still offer this sharing opportunity for students.

Tickets

Crescendo schedules various performing opportunities throughout the year. At this time, Crescendo plans for both our Winter and Spring concerts publicized as "Suggested Donation" events.

Fees and Payments

Crescendo desires to be as affordable as possible. At this time, the registration fee will continue to remain at \$150 per semester. Discounts include:

- \$20 off for additional siblings
- \$20 off of one semester with a new referral

Please write checks to Crescendo Community Chorus or pay with cash, **and label all payments with your singer's full name.** If you would rather use PayPal and are willing to pay an additional processing fee, please contact us for more information. Payments are due by the second week of rehearsals.

Scholarships

Crescendo currently has limited scholarships available for up to 50 percent of tuition. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please request the scholarship application or download and print it from our website and mail it to us as soon as possible. All applications must be received by the first rehearsal to be considered.

Individual & Corporate Sponsorships

We are continually soliciting monetary and in-kind donations and sponsorships. Throughout the months of July and August, your family is encouraged to seek individual sponsors for your singer(s) if you desire. If you would like help in raising funds to cover your child's tuition fee, a sponsorship letter is available for you to use when asking both friends and family members for individual sponsorships this year.

Whether or not your child seeks a sponsor, there are other children who sing with Crescendo who would appreciate support. If you know of someone who is looking to sponsor a singer or become a donor, you may use the same letter or have them email Crescendo at any time of the year at info@CrescendoCommunityChorus.org.

Corporate sponsorships are also extremely valuable to Crescendo and can be crafted to encompass an entire concert season, a particular concert program, or a specific venue location or event. Sponsorship benefits may include recognition in print media and online, logo visibility, signage, on-site displays, or it may simply be the purchase of advertising space in our concert programs.

For more information or to pursue a sponsorship, please contact Jessica Eggers at CrescendoCommunityChorus@gmail.com.

Crescendo Leadership/Contact Information

All contact information is also available on our website on the Members page.

Crescendo's Primary Email

CrescendoCommunityChorus@gmail.com

Artistic Director

Stacia Cammarano

206-498-0706

crescendoartisticdirector@gmail.com

Board Members

President

Jessica Eggers

509-999-3819

Secretary

Jurene Phaneuf

509-294-1192

Treasurer

Rebecca Allington

treasurer@CrescendoCommunityChorus.org

Members

Karen Stahl

Susie Warn

If you are interested in serving on Crescendo's Executive Board, please contact the board president for more information.

Like & Follow Us on Facebook!

Besides our website, Facebook is a great way for us to share news about past and future events. If you are a Facebook user, please follow us and take every opportunity to share our posted events and updates on your personal pages or groups.

www.facebook.com/CrescendoCommunityChorus

Join our Private Facebook Group

Parents and older singers with Facebook accounts are asked to join Crescendo's closed group, **Crescendo Choir Members**. Messages specific to the choir are often posted here along with specific details for events.

Request to join as soon as you are registered!

Shop on Amazon with AmazonSmile!

Shop with AmazonSmile, and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to Crescendo Community Chorus! Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. Let us know if you need help setting up Crescendo as your charitable organization.