



MEMBER HANDBOOK 2025-2026

Welcome to the Bel Canto Singers of Daytona! We're glad you're here.

This handbook will provide you with an overview of member responsibilities, how the choir operates, and opportunities to contribute your time and talents to ensure its success.

Membership

- Membership is by audition-only. Members are selected based on criteria such as singing ability, blend, sectional balance, and vocal needs for the season.
- Auditions are held each September and may be scheduled by request throughout the season.

Rehearsals & Music

- **Weekly rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Daytona State College Jeanne M. Goddard Center (Bldg. 230), Room 123.** Use parking lot 'S'. Rehearsals begin in September and conclude in May.
- Additional rehearsals or sectionals may be scheduled by the Director throughout the season as needed.
- Always check the choir calendar for the latest updates, as some rehearsals are held at different locations prior to each concert.
- All sheet music will be provided to members by the choir, along with a black folder. If you will not be singing a concert, or decide to leave the group, you should return your music and folder to Librarian Donna Davis at your last rehearsal. Members not returning music or folders in a timely manner may be charged for the replacement cost.
- Members should always bring a pencil to rehearsal to mark their music. Please *do not* mark your music in pen or highlighter.

Attendance & Absences

- To adequately prepare for the concerts, it is important that every member attends rehearsals regularly and arrives on time.
- **If you have a conflict and will miss a rehearsal or concert, please notify Recording Secretary Diane Allen** at 407-492-6136 or uconnfan05@yahoo.com.
- Excessive absences could make you ineligible to sing in a concert.

Communications

- Information and documents will be shared via the Bel Canto Members' website at <https://sites.google.com/view/belcanto/news-and-solos?authuser=0>
- Please check your e-mail regularly for communications from Bel Canto Singers and Artistic Director Adam Stich. If Bel Canto e-mails go to your spam folder, please mark them 'not spam' so that you will receive them in your in-box.
- **If your e-mail changes, please update Corresponding Secretary Kathe Grammer** at mezzogram@gmail.com so you will continue to receive all communications from the choir.
- Additional communication tools such as the Band App may be set up by the Artistic Director to facilitate choir communication.

Concert Attire

Members are responsible for providing their own concert attire as detailed below:

Women: Standard Bel Canto black formal gown and plain black closed-toe pumps or flats. (*New members will be advised on how to order this dress.*)

Men: Standard black, single-breasted tuxedo with vest; white formal shirt with studs and wingtip collar; black bow tie; plain black dress shoes with plain black socks. The tux may be purchased or rented at any formal wear store.

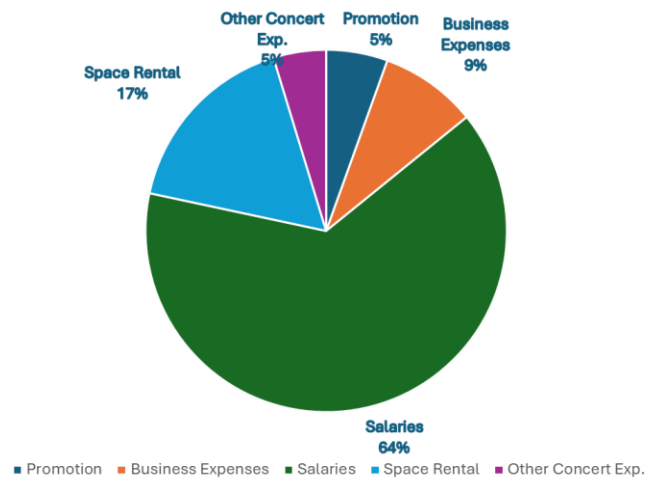
All Singers

- Personal jewelry: A wristwatch and rings may be worn as well as small single stud/post earrings of gold, silver, or pearl. Please do not wear large hoop or dangling earrings, bracelets, necklaces or chains.
- Do NOT wear any perfume, cologne, or aftershave during concerts. Some members may be sensitive or allergic to these scents. Be conservative in your use of hair spray, soaps and other scented products, however a good deodorant is always appreciated!
- Carry your music in the black folder provided by the choir.

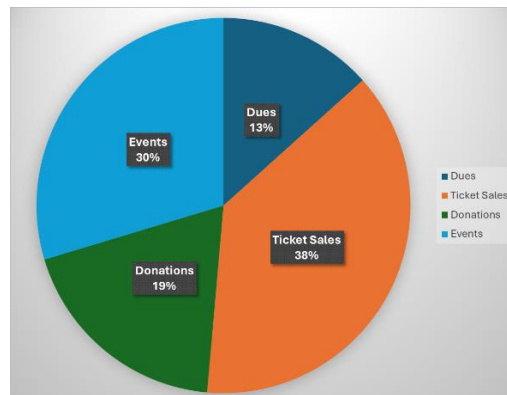
Budget & Membership Dues

- Bel Canto is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors, and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.
- Annual expenses include venue rentals, new music, and salaries for the Artistic Director, Accompanist, and any additional musicians hired. The choir is funded by a combination of concert revenue, grants, donations, fundraising events, and member dues.
- The annual budget is approximately \$30,000. Please see diagrams below for a high-level overview of choir finances.
- **Membership dues are \$125 annually and should be paid at the beginning of each season, preferably by October 31, or by January 31 if you join in January.** You may submit your dues payment to Treasurer Patty Blais by check, made out to 'Bel Canto Singers', or by Zelle (bcstdtreasurer@gmail.com).
- Failure to pay dues could make you ineligible to sing in concert.
- If the dues present a hardship for you, please talk with the treasurer or president to discuss options and work out a payment plan.

Bel Canto Expenses



Bel Canto Income



Ways to Support the Choir

You can help us build awareness of the group and ensure a large audience for our concerts by promoting the choir in the following ways:

- 'Like' and 'share' information about choir concerts and fundraising events on social media.
- Invite and encourage your friends and family to attend our concerts and events.
- Post concert/event announcements on community bulletin boards at your local Starbucks, Panera, Publix, etc.
- Distribute concert/event fliers to neighbors, put on windshields, share at the hair salon, barbershop, craft club, etc.
- Ask your church or synagogue to promote our concert by including an announcement in the bulletin.

As a volunteer-run organization, Bel Canto relies upon the efforts of its members to be successful. There are many ways to get involved:

- Assist the music librarian with sorting and shelving music.
- Join the Fundraising Committee to assist with events and help identify new ways to raise money for the choir.
- Volunteer to work at an event. Help with decorating, running the silent auction, or checking people in.
- Run for a Board seat. Elections are held annually.
- Assist the Concert Manager with set up/tear down and ticket sales for concerts.
- New volunteer opportunities will be announced as needed.

To support Bel Canto throughout the year, here are some additional ideas:

- Run a birthday fundraiser on Facebook to raise money for Bel Canto.
- Consider a tax-deductible donation to the choir.

Your support makes a difference. *Thank you!*

2025-2026 Bel Canto Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| President | Jeanne Luke |
| Vice President | Beth Pierce |
| Treasurer | Patty Blais |
| Concert Manager | Tree Hazard |

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Corresponding Secretary | Kathe Grammer |
| Recording Secretary | Diane Allen |
| Member at Large | Ida Bailey |
| IT Specialist | Linne Player |
| Artistic Director | Adam Stich (<i>ex officio</i>) |
| Music Librarian | Donna Davis (<i>ex officio</i>) |