



Grass Valley Male Voice Choir

Post Office Box 1698 • Grass Valley, CA 95945

www.GVMaleVoiceChoir.org

Grass Valley Male Voice Choir (GVMVC) Handbook

This handbook outlines the core policies, expectations, and operational guidelines that support the musical excellence and community culture of the Grass Valley Male Voice Choir.

It is intended to be read alongside companion documents available in the Members section of the GVMVC website, including:

- **GVMVC Singer Guidelines**
- **Tips for Practicing Your Music at Home**
- **Fundamentals of Singing**
- **Dream Singer**
- Leadership role descriptions (Section Leaders and Mentors)

Together, these documents provide clarity, consistency, and support for all members.

1. Role of the Music Director

The Music Director (MD) is responsible for the overall musical quality and artistic direction of the choir. This includes:

- Selecting repertoire and determining performance arrangements
- Assessing readiness for performance based on attendance and musical preparation
- Assisting singers during rehearsal with tone, pitch, rhythm, tempo, and blend
- Conducting auditions, selecting soloists, and determining choir formations

The Music Director's decisions are made in service of the ensemble and the quality of performance.



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2. Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is essential to the success of the choir and the experience of fellow singers.

Rehearsals & Performances

- Choristers are expected to attend all rehearsals, sectionals, workshops, and performances.
- If you are unable to attend, notify your **Section Leader** as early as possible.

Workshops

- Missing a workshop is equivalent to missing three rehearsals.
- Choristers who miss a workshop must attend all remaining rehearsals to remain eligible to perform.

Absence Considerations

- Work obligations, illness, and family emergencies are taken into consideration when determining performance eligibility.

Final Rehearsals

- The final two rehearsals before a performance are mandatory.

3. Chorister Agreement

By participating in GVMVC, choristers agree to:

- Support the Music Director's decisions regarding repertoire, performance arrangements, and participation
- Attend rehearsals regularly and communicate absences promptly
- Miss no more than two regular rehearsals per performance cycle
- Attend at least two sectional rehearsals per cycle
 - If one sectional is missed, an additional rehearsal may be required
- Arrive on time and prepared for rehearsals and performances



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4. Illness & Health Considerations

The health of the choir community is important.

- **Mild symptoms:**

- Take a COVID-19 test
- If positive, stay home
- If negative and symptoms are improving, you may attend rehearsal while wearing a mask and maintaining distance

- **Severe symptoms:**

- Do not attend rehearsal, even with a negative test

(See the **Illness Policy** section at the end of this document for the current CDC-based summary.)

5. Inactive Status & Reauditioning

- Choristers inactive for one performance cycle may return if space is available.
- Choristers inactive for two consecutive cycles are required to reaudition.

6. Membership Dues

- Membership dues must be paid in full by the first rehearsal of each performance cycle.
- A \$10 replacement fee will be charged for lost or unreturned sheet music.



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7. Concert Attire

Choristers are expected to wear designated concert attire appropriate to each performance.

Blazer Attire

- Green blazer with choir logo (provided by the choir)
- White dress shirt, black slacks, black shoes (provided by the member)
- Cornish plaid necktie (provided by the choir)

Casual Attire

- Choir-logo polo shirt (provided by the choir)
- Khaki pants and black shoes (provided by the member)

Loaned items must be returned in good condition upon leaving the choir.

8. Rehearsal Conduct

Choristers are expected to:

- Be attentive and focused during rehearsal
- Avoid side conversations
- Bring a pencil and eraser to mark music
- Watch the conductor and be ready to sing when cued

Detailed rehearsal expectations are outlined in **GVMVC Singer Guidelines**.



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9. Music Preparation

Choristers are responsible for preparing their music outside of rehearsal by:

- Using practice tracks and rehearsal aids
- Reviewing YouTube or reference recordings as needed
- Staying informed of performance details, especially after an absence
- Reading and responding to choir communications in a timely manner

Guidance on effective preparation is provided in **Tips for Practicing Your Music at Home** and **Fundamentals of Singing**.

10. Fundraising Participation

After their first year of membership, choristers are expected to support GVMVC fundraising efforts. This may include participation in events and other activities that help sustain the choir's mission.

11. Physical Readiness

Choristers should maintain a reasonable level of physical readiness to support:

- Vocal health
- Standing during performances
- Holding and managing music

Reasonable accommodations will be made for members with physical limitations.

12. Administration of Guidelines

The Music Director and the GVMVC Coordinating Committee are responsible for interpreting and administering these guidelines to ensure the choir operates smoothly, fairly, and effectively.



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Additional Agreements

Media Release

By participating in GVMVC, choristers grant permission for GVMVC and InConcert Sierra (ICS) to use photographs, video/audio recordings, names, and testimonials for promotional purposes without time limitation.

Liability Release

Choristers acknowledge that participation in GVMVC activities may involve some risk and agree to release GVMVC and its agents from liability except in cases of gross negligence.

Commitment to Excellence

By adhering to these guidelines, GVMVC members help create a professional, supportive, and collaborative environment—one that allows the choir to perform at a high level while fostering camaraderie and mutual respect.

Illness Policy (CDC-Based Summary – December 2024)

- If you have a fever or new or worsening respiratory symptoms, please stay home.
- If symptoms are improving and you have been fever-free for 24 hours, you may attend rehearsal while wearing a mask and maintaining distance.

