



# Grass Valley Male Voice Choir

Post Office Box 1698 • Grass Valley, CA 95945

[www.GVMaleVoiceChoir.org](http://www.GVMaleVoiceChoir.org)

## Be GVMC's Dream Singer

Whatever your level of experience

Being a “Dream Singer” isn’t about perfection—it’s about presence, preparation, and being a good teammate. These principles help create a choir culture where rehearsals are productive, performances are strong, and everyone feels valued.

### 1. Think Like a Member

See yourself as a **member**, not just a volunteer.

- A volunteer asks: “Will I take part?”
- A member asks: “What part can I contribute?”

Members are partners in the success of the choir.

### 2. Just Show Up

(A wise reminder often attributed to Woody Allen.)

- Amazing things happen when we simply show up
- Prioritize choir whenever possible
- Minimize schedule conflicts

Consistency builds momentum.

### 3. Communicate—Especially About Attendance

- If you’ll be absent, late, or need to leave early, let the director know
- Advance notice is always appreciated

Good communication shows respect for the group.

### 4. Be Early

- If you’re early, you’re on time
- If you’re on time, you’re late

Arriving early helps rehearsals start smoothly and calmly.

### 5. Your Body Is Your Instrument

- Take care of it
- Practice good choral posture
- Treat your body with the same care you would any instrument

A well-aligned body supports a better sound.



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## 6. Mark Your Music

- Always bring a **pencil and eraser** (no pens or markers)
- Mark instructions clearly and consistently
- Don't rely on memory alone

Your music is your rehearsal partner.

## 7. Respect Rehearsal Time

- When the music stops, listen
- Avoid side conversations
- The director likely stopped for a reason

Every minute of rehearsal matters.

## 8. When Other Sections Are Rehearsing

- Don't talk or sing
- Listen—you may learn something that applies to your part
- Mark your music
- Be ready to rejoin immediately when cued

Stay engaged, even when you're not singing.

## 9. Stay Focused

- When the director is speaking, stay mentally present
- Don't “check out” while waiting to sing

Imagine the director is speaking directly to you.

## 10. Look Up

- Watch the director
- Stay on the beat
- Observe preparatory cues
- Follow interpretive gestures
- Start and stop together, precisely

Eyes up = ensemble unity.



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## 11. Be Expressive

- Your face reflects the soul of the music
- Practice expression in rehearsal—not just in performance

Expression is part of musicianship.

## 12. Be Low-Maintenance

- Sit where assigned
- Dress in layers if temperature varies
- Save nonessential questions for appropriate moments
- Avoid “show-off” questions
- Blend musically *and* personally

Support the group experience.

## 13. No Cliques

- Make an effort to welcome new singers
- Offer encouragement to those who may need it
- Build community intentionally

A welcoming choir is a strong choir.

## 14. Practice Between Rehearsals

- Use the tools provided
- Keep a short “hit list” of problem spots to work on

Preparation makes rehearsals more rewarding.

## 15. Hold Up Your End

- Help with non-musical tasks
- Contribute where your strengths lie
- Assist with setup, teardown, events, or publicity

Many hands make light work.



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## 16. Be an Encourager

- Support fellow singers
- Encourage the accompanist and director
- Celebrate progress

We succeed together.

## Final Thought

A Dream Singer is not defined by skill level alone—but by attitude, preparation, and generosity of spirit. When we each bring our best selves to rehearsal, the entire choir benefits.