

Be GVMVC's DREAM SINGER

whatever your level of proficiency

- 1. Think of yourself as “a Member,” rather than as a “Volunteer.” You are a partner in the work and success of our choir.**
 - A volunteer asks, “Will I take part in the work?”
 - A Member asks, “What part of the work can I take?”
- 2. Just Show Up (Woody Allen).**
 - Amazing things can happen if we are just there.
 - Prioritize Choir and try to minimize time conflicts.
- 3. Communicate—especially about attendance.**
 - If you will be absent or tardy, or need to leave early, let the director know (in advance, if possible).
- 4. Be early.**
 - Live by the show business creed: If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late. Don't be late!
- 5. Your body is your instrument.**
 - Take care of it. Learn good choral posture.
 - Would you expect to play well on a bent flute or a broken guitar?
- 6. Mark it!**
 - Always have a pencil ready (NOT a pen, marker, or colored pencil). And an eraser.
 - Mark music diligently. Don't rely on memory.
- 7. Time is precious—use every minute!**
 - When the music stops, don't talk.
 - Rehearsing a section, the director probably stopped for a reason, so please listen.
 - At the end of a piece, the director will probably have comments to make.
- 8. When other parts are rehearsing, don't talk or sing.**
 - You can profit from what they learn, since your part may have similar passages.
 - Mark your music, too, without waiting to be told.
 - Be ready to join in immediately when cued. Avoid the need to ask, “Where are we?”
- 9. Focus!**
 - When the director is speaking, don't “turn off,” just waiting to sing again. Imagine the director is talking to you.
- 10. Look Up!**
 - Watch the director. Be on the beat. Watch for the preparatory beat and breathe early.
 - Follow the director's interpretive gestures (dynamics, etc.). Start and stop precisely.

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11. Be expressive.

- Your face is the window of the soul, and our music-making must have soul.
- Practice facial expression in rehearsal; don't wait until the performance.

12. Be Low-Maintenance.

- Sit where you are asked to sit.
- If temperature is a problem in the room, wear layers.
- Unless necessary, don't interrupt the group time by asking questions or making suggestions. Especially avoid show-off questions.
- Don't be a prima donna. Seek to blend in, musically and personally.
- Complain only if you are desperate, or really feel that the Choir's mission is at stake, and then, do so in private.
- Don't take more time than others, for announcements, prayer requests, etc.

13. No Cliques

- Make it your mission to reach out to the new person, the person who may need an encouraging word.
- Develop a welcoming eye. To make the whole Choir feel like family, you may have to spend time later with your already-friends.

14. Practice between rehearsals. Use the tools provided to learn your part.

- Make a "hit list" of problem spots throughout rehearsal that you need to work on.

15. Hold Up Your End.

- Contribute to the non-musical workload
- Do what you do best. Help plan events; help with publicity; bring food.
- Help set up or take down chairs, staging, etc., etc.
- Many hands make light work.

16. Be an Encourager—to your fellow singers, the accompanist, the director.

- Our choir is a team, and like all teams, we win all together.

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