



SINGER'S HANDBOOK

2026-2027 SEASON

Welcome to the Dubuque Chorale! We're delighted that you've chosen to join us in carrying forward our rich tradition of bringing vibrant choral music to the Dubuque area community.

Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with this handbook. The Chorale Board of Directors and its Artistic Director, Dr. Amanda Huntleigh, are excited to hear your questions, comments, suggestions, and concerns.

We hope your experience making music with the Dubuque Chorale brings you lasting joy, connection, and fulfillment.

Please use this handbook as a first source of information for the routine operations of the Chorale. We encourage you to address specific non-routine questions to your section coordinator, committee members, or board members.

For more information, including a full digital version of the handbook, a rehearsal schedule, our membership directory, and practice resources for concerts, please visit our website at:

dubuquechorale.org

Password: family

2026-27 Season Schedule

On the Road Again (Fall Concert)

Saturday October 24 • 7 pm • Bread of Life Presbyterian Church (Hilltop Campus)

Sunday October 25 • 2 pm • Bread of Life Presbyterian Church (Hilltop Campus)

Holiday Concerts with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra

Saturday December 5 • 7:30 pm • Five Flags Theater

Sunday December 6 • 2 pm • Five Flags Theater

SongFest 2027

Saturday February 20 • 7 pm • Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium

Fauré's Requiem with the Driftless Strings

Saturday March 13 • 7 pm • Church of the Nativity

A Lifetime – A Moment (Spring Concert)

Saturday May 1 • 7 pm • Bread of Life Presbyterian Church (Hilltop Campus)

Sunday May 2 • 2 pm • Bread of Life Presbyterian Church (Hilltop Campus)

Dubuque Chorale Membership

The Dubuque Chorale welcomes members of high school age and above from the tri-state area and beyond. No auditions are necessary.

Cadenza

Cadenza is the Chorale's smaller, audition-only ensemble. Auditions are typically held in the fall. Members of Cadenza are required to sing in the full Chorale for at least half a concert season prior to audition, as well as throughout their time in Cadenza. Cadenza rehearsals are usually held on Thursday evenings from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. Cadenza singers are expected to notify their section coordinator as soon as possible in the event of a late arrival or absence. The attendance policy allows for 2 absences each semester. Any deviation from this will remain the purview of the Artistic Director.

Cost

The Dubuque Chorale asks each member to pay dues for the season. Dues are an important part of the Chorale budget and enable the organization to continue our mission of providing excellent vocal music to our community. However, dues should never be a reason not to join the Chorale, so financial assistance is available to anyone for whom dues are prohibitive.

- Dues for Full Season: \$110
- Dues for Students and Young Adults (age 26 and below): \$25
- Dues for Cadenza (in addition to full-season Chorale dues): \$30
- Dues for Half Season: \$60

We request that dues be paid as close to the beginning of the season as possible. Singers should pay their dues directly to the Board Treasurer at rehearsal. The Board Treasurer is responsible for tracking the payment of all dues.

Singers who have not submitted their dues in a timely manner will receive a friendly reminder via email and an invitation to complete a financial assistance form. Complete confidentiality is assured.

Financial assistance forms are available from the Board Treasurer. If a financial assistance form is requested, we ask that it be completed within two weeks after joining the Chorale. The completed form should be submitted to the Treasurer.

If no financial assistance form is completed within this two-week period and no dues are paid, the matter will be referred to the Artistic Director and the President of the Board to determine a course of action.

Rehearsal Attendance

The Dubuque Chorale meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Bread of Life Presbyterian Church. We request that all singers register for the Chorale at the beginning of the season.

Cadenza rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 8:30 to 9:30 pm at the same location.

- Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is expected.
- If a singer cannot attend a rehearsal or performance, they are expected to inform their Section Coordinator as soon as possible.
- In the event of an unexcused absence, the Section Coordinator will contact the member and let them know they were missed.
- If a member has a chronic problem with attendance, the Section Coordinator will bring it to the Artistic Director's attention. The Director and/or Board will decide the next course of action.

Performance Attendance

- For concerts with multiple performances, members who plan to miss a performance must get approval from the Artistic Director to participate in the concert.
- Members must inform their Section Coordinator as soon as they know they will miss a performance.
- Chronic problems with missed performances will be brought to the Artistic Director's attention by the Section Coordinator. The Director and/or Board will decide the next course of action.

Concert Attire

- Solid black dress clothes (blouses, dresses, skirts, dress slacks, tuxedos, suits)
- Dresses, blouses, sweaters and tops should have below-the-elbow sleeves
- Dresses and skirts should be below the knee
- Slacks and pants should be long

- Black tuxedos or solid black suits (should include a black dress shirt, may or may not include a black tie)
- Solid black dress shoes (no open-toed shoes or flip-flops)
- Opaque black stockings or socks
- No perfume, cologne, aftershave, or other heavily scented personal care products

Allergy Awareness Policy

The Chorale wishes to be a welcoming environment to members with sensitivities to strong aromas. For this reason, please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, aftershave, or other heavily scented personal care products at rehearsals and performances.

Inclement Weather Policy

Rehearsal cancellations due to weather will be posted on the Dubuque Chorale website (www.dubuquechorale.org) as well as on the Chorale's social media accounts. Announcements will also be made on the radio stations 92.9 KAT FM, KDTH, 101.1 The River, and KGRR. All singers are encouraged to use their own judgment regarding attending rehearsals in inclement weather.

In the event of rehearsal cancellation due to weather, the board will make every effort to announce the cancellation by 4:00 pm on the day of rehearsal.

Board of Directors

The Dubuque Chorale Board of Directors consists of the Artistic Director (ex officio), President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, four additional Chorale singers, and three members from the community. All members serve three-year terms that are renewable after the first term. Board members are elected by Chorale members at the annual meeting held in the spring. The Board meets monthly, usually at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at the offices of the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation. All Chorale members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

2026-27 Board of Directors

- Mark Niemer, President
- Tara Dunn, Vice-President
- Danielle Phillips, Secretary

- Greg Orwoll, Treasurer
- Macayla Albee
- Emily Amato
- Joe Amato
- Nick Anderson
- Doug Henry
- Michael Sivill
- Sarah Slaughter

Contact information for board members is available through the member directory at dubuquechorale.org.

Artistic Directors

Amanda Huntleigh – Artistic Director

Nathaniel “Than” Chesher – Associate Director

Karmella Sellers – Children’s Choirs Program Director, Legati Singers Conductor

Victoria Bausman – Children’s Choirs Staccati Singers Conductor

Section Coordinators

Sopranos Mary Bryant sopranos@dubuquechorale.org

Altos Danielle Phillips altos@dubuquechorale.org

Tenors Tom Taylor tenors@dubuquechorale.org

Basses Curt Zeimet basses@dubuquechorale.org

Board Committee Chairs

- Sarah Slaughter – Publicity and Marketing
- Mary Beth Ferring – Education and Outreach, Music Librarian
- Nick Anderson – Membership
- Greg Orwoll – Treasurer
- Joe Amato – Assistant to Treasurer
- Terry Eckhart – Fundraising, Governance and Legal
- Mark Niemer – Logistics
- Mark Oppedahl – Webmaster

Accompanists

- Sharon Jensen – Chorale Accompanist
- Amanda Hauta – Children's Choirs Accompanist
- TBA – Cadenza Accompanist

Sheet Music

Each singer will be provided with sheet music for the Chorale concerts they choose to participate in. Occasionally, members may wish to buy their own sheet music. It is each singer's responsibility to return all Dubuque Chorale sheet music following each concert. Each member must furnish and use a black folder to hold their music.

Tips for Chorale Members

- Arrive 10 minutes before rehearsal times and concert call times so we can begin promptly
- Bring a pencil to all rehearsals/performances to mark your music
- Listen attentively during rehearsals/announcements and refrain from unnecessary talking
- Turn off your cell phone or put it on vibrate during all rehearsals
- Encourage community attendance at concerts by helping with publicity and ticket sales
- Be willing to serve on a committee
- Consider serving on the board