



The Voix Ensemble Chorus
Program 2024-2025 Handbook

Introduction

Hello and welcome to Jacqui's Music Studio Choral program!

This handbook will outline everything you need to know about our choral program. It can act as a contract of sorts for the director (William Sawyer), choral members, parents, and admin for Jacqui's piano studio. It will also be explained during the first rehearsal to make sure we all get the ins and outs of it. I (William Sawyer) will always be available for further questions or concerns in regards to this handbook and anything related to the choir. As long as choral members participate, practice, and encourage each other, we will have a great time and a great choral experience for all members involved, whether it be their first choral experience or their thirtieth.

-William Sawyer

The best way to reach me is via email:

williamsawyerrecords@gmail.com

Dates to Remember:

For Saco:

- February 26th, 2024
- Rehearses Mondays at 6:30pm - 8pm at 12 Beach Street Saco, Maine 04072

For Cumberland:

- February 29th, 2024
- Rehearses Thursdays at 6:30pm - 8pm at 52 Tuttle Road Cumberland, Maine 04021

For both choirs:

- **Dress Rehearsal is June 7th, 2024**
- **Performance is June 8th, 2024**

General Expectations:

1) Rehearsal Expectations:

Choral members are expected to arrive on time and be ready to rehearse. They will have their music ready to go with any general notes that may have been emailed prior. Members should make sure they listen to the director, are quiet while other parts are rehearsing and actively sing throughout the rehearsal. We are all learning and some voices may not be fully developed yet into amazing perfect singers. Members are expected to be aware of this and leave the comments to the director to make. Together we will make a fantastic sound and members are expected to encourage others around them, not to discourage. Discouraging fellow members won't be tolerated and will be brought up as soon as it is known for a conversation with a parent or others following the incident.

2) Rehearsal Etiquette:

During rehearsals, there will be many times members will be given a direction (ie. take out this piece of music, go back to measure ... , get into a circle, etc) and these will have to be relatively quick moves. Members are expected to listen to the directions and follow as best as possible in the moment. If questions are needed, please raise your hand and William will try and get to your question as soon as possible. There are times of course that he may miss a hand, but a gentle reminder (not shouting) is always welcome. Please make sure not to be chewing any gum, no food of any kind during rehearsal, and please bring a water bottle! Arrive a little early to fill up your water bottle at the fountain if needed so that it does not interrupt the rehearsal.

3) Redirection:

We all hope to have perfect etiquette and perfect direction following skills but there are times that this isn't possible. Everyone has their own life and feelings involved in them. During rehearsal, redirection will be given if needed. Now this could just include a quick "copy me" situation, quiet room technique, singing the beginning of a piece, as well as other methods. If these redirects don't work and it is a specific individual, they may be asked to sit outside of the rehearsal or have their position changed. This is not to "punish" but more to make sure the integrity of the group is not

compromised. The issue will be addressed following the rehearsal with the parents and the individual involved in order to create a smooth transition back.

4) Sickness

If you are sick, don't show up to rehearsal. If you would like to "zoom" in, we can make that available but we want to make sure that everyone is as healthy as they can be. Being sick in a room where everyone has to be singing is not a good way to keep everyone safe and healthy. Please reach out via email to Jacqui or Will just to make sure and let them know.

5) Bathroom

If you need to use the restroom during rehearsal (please try your best to go before rehearsal starts) please just raise a hand and tell Will where you are going. This is mostly for safety reasons and so the director will know where the members are.

6) Forgotten/Lost Music

If you forget your music, you can look on with someone else on your part. There will not be extras available for you in these situations. Extra music turns into lost music and that costs money. If you lose your music, you may be asked to pay for an additional music binder. This shouldn't happen and we are willing to work through certain situations on a per need basis, but your music is your music to hold on to. We purchase this music and expect to get it returned so please make sure to keep these safe from being lost.

For those who are the "losing things" type, Will is planning to have the pdfs available through a google classroom. This would mean you could leave the music at the studio and still be able to rehearse at home so that the music does not get lost.

7) Late arrivals

We all have "life" that happens at times. If you arrive late, just come in quietly and start where we are singing. Five to ten minutes late isn't the worst thing in the world but if you are arriving after warm ups are done more than two times, there may be a follow up conversation just making sure that we all agreed to these times and procedures. Will came to direct and work and wants to have the best

sound possible. Missing parts due to tardiness is lost rehearsal time with those few. Every minute counts on the sound of the choir.

Performance Expectations

Everyone is expected to perform. Sickness happens and other life situations happen and we will miss you for the performance if any of these situations arise. Members are expected to arrive at the designated time for performances (no later unless previously notified), they are expected to perform, and they are expected to have a ride home afterwards.

Dress for the concert will be each member's choice of the following:

Button down shirt (solid color), Dress pants, Dress shoes

Dress (solid color at least with the bottom to the knee), Dress shoes

We want to look uniform to an extent but also want to express our own creativity. Please make sure to follow these guidelines and have no patterns on the shirts (graphic patterns specifically) while also making an attempt to look performance ready. However you picture a chorus to look, come looking as such to the concert by following these guidelines.

If you have any issues with this, please reach out and we would be happy to accommodate specific needs.