

GIVING VOICE CROSSTOWN 2022-2023 SEASON

INFORMATION FOR SINGERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for joining Giving Voice Chorus, where people living with Alzheimer's and their care partners sing in choruses that foster joy, well-being, purpose and community understanding. We are happy to have you in our choral community!

Program Components: Giving Voice is comprised of people who love to sing, including those living with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia, their care partners, and volunteers from the community that assist the group. Each semester singers of all abilities learn a new set of songs during weekly rehearsals. These rehearsals are conducted by a professional choral conductor and are designed to include both familiar and new songs, as well as opportunities to learn more about one another. The rehearsals culminate in a public performance (participation is voluntary) showcasing the accomplishments of the singers. Our winter concert is in December and our spring concert is in May.

Giving Voice Volunteers: When needed or requested, volunteers are available to partner with singers during rehearsals in order to assist with the song book, the sheet music and to enhance the overall experience of singing in the chorus.

COVID protocols: Giving Voice Crosstown follows the policies of Meetinghouse Church, which currently does not require masks within its buildings. Changes will be communicated via email.

FALL SESSION: Thursdays at 10am, Sept 15 (Open House) through Dec 8, CONCERT Friday, Dec 9 at 11am. No rehearsal Thanksgiving week.

SPRING SESSION: Thursdays at 10am, February 23 through May 11, CONCERT Friday, May 12. No rehearsal March 30.

Rehearsal Location: Hearth Room, Meetinghouse Church, 6200 Colonial Way, Edina, MN 55436. Room changes, if necessary, will be communicated via email. There is free parking at Meetinghouse Church.

What to expect each week:

- **10:00am – 10:15** Brief social time in Commons (outside of Hearth room)
- **10:15 – 11:30** Rehearsal in Hearth room
- **11:30 – 12:00** Social time – stay as long as or as little as you'd like!
- Our motto is, "There is no wrong in this room!" We are accepting of everyone's effort to learn and enjoy the rehearsals to the best of their abilities.

Folders: Singers may take their folders home each week for review or may leave them with us for safekeeping. We will have a few extra folders on hand in case of forgotten folders.

Concert Attire: Black pants or skirt with white shirt or blouse. We will provide a purple scarf for each singer.

Concert preparation: It is important to attend every weekly rehearsal if at all possible. In addition, we will have practice CDs available early in each session so that singers may practice at home on their own or with the assistance of a care partner.

Communication: We will send email communications each week. If you have questions, please contact Barb Halvorson @ 952-224-9524 or givingvoice@meetinghouse.church

REHEARSALS – KEY INFORMATION

- Singers and their care partners can choose to sit together or in different vocal sections. Volunteers are available, if desired, to sing with a singer who is sitting separately from their care partner. Talk to one of our volunteers/leaders if you have questions.
- Singers should bring their music binders and name tags to each rehearsal, keeping their name tags in the front pocket of their binder between rehearsals.
- Singers are encouraged to mark up or highlight their sheet music or lyrics in a way that is helpful to them.
- If rehearsals are canceled due to weather, chorus members will receive an email. Those who do not have email will receive a phone call.

CARE PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Whether you are sitting with your singer or not, be mindful of their needs throughout rehearsal.
- Please accompany your singer to the restroom and wait for them in the hallway before returning to the rehearsal room.
- Please be aware of your singer's location at all times when not seated.
- Please come with anything that might be needed for unexpected situations, for example, a change of clothes, medications, etc.
- Please communicate to staff any changes in health, behavior, or personal needs that affect you or your singer's comfort level at rehearsal.
- For both care partner and singer, standing during rehearsal is completely voluntary. If your singer has a volunteer, please let the volunteer know if your singer should not be standing.

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Singing (weekly, 10am-12pm):

- Assist and get to know the person/persons you are helping.
- Help manage the 3-ring tabbed binder of music
- Repeat instructions and requests from our Chorus Director
- Answer questions, etc.
- Socialize after rehearsal (rehearsal ends at 11:30)
- Some of our volunteers are always paired with a particular singer and others are assigned to a singer based on the needs of a particular rehearsal. Because we have more female volunteers than male, from time to time, our female volunteers may be asked to assist a male singer.

Hospitality (11:15-12:15):

- Procure snacks
- Set up snack tables
- Connect with singers after rehearsal ends at 11:30 - greet them, serve snacks, etc.
- Clean up/store excess snacks for next week

Steps to Take If You Would Like to Volunteer with Giving Voice Chorus

- Complete the registration form and return it to Barb Halvorson (Meetinghouse Church, 6200 Colonial Way, Edina, MN 55436)
- Please let Barb know if there are any planned absences during the semester. 100% attendance is ideal but not required.
- Contact Barb with any questions @ 952-224-9524 or givingvoice@meetinghouse.church

LEADERS/CONTACTS

Debbie Richman, Artistic Director

Debbie Richman brings a rich musical and professional background to her role as Artistic Director. She has a clear heart for working with individuals and families impacted by dementia, and decades of singing experience including the MN Chorale and National Lutheran Choir, not to mention leadership roles at the Alzheimer's association, nursing homes and senior housing facilities. Debbie holds a BS in Speech Communication/Mass Media and Music Therapy with a Vocal Performance Minor from the University of Oshkosh.

Jean Orbison Van Heel, Collaborative Pianist

Jean Orbison Van Heel is an accomplished collaborative pianist and music director with experience ranging from musical theater and operettas to solo and choral literature. Jean holds a BA from St. Olaf College, where she was actively engaged as an instrumentalist, singer, and accompanist.

Barb Halvorson, Volunteer Coordinator and Administrative Assistant

Kris Henderson and Sally Manhard, Steering Committee Co-Chairs

givingvoice@meetinghouse.church

952-224-9524 (Barb)

612-220-5541 (Sally)