

## Notes from the Director

I am extremely pleased to be working with you. From the outset, I was impressed by your commitment and dedication to making music at the highest level and the breadth of the repertoire that you have presented. Choral music comprises a boundless repertoire, not just in terms of longevity, but also variety - and your programs have offered an extensive sampling. I fully intend to continue in that vein and look forward to exploring the vast array of possibilities with you, both old and new.

I think one of the reasons people enjoy making music together is that it offers an opportunity not only to engage in something that is simultaneously gratifying to the intellect, the emotions, and the senses, but also to be a part of something that is bigger and greater than we are, individually or collectively. In that sense, it is truly magical. In the present time, the importance of community cannot be overstated. And this is what a musical ensemble offers - a reason to come together in the service of something that we all love doing and sharing. As I see it, our common goal is simple - to make the best music we possibly can and to do it in a spirit of generosity, compassion, and collaboration.

I look forward to the journey with you.

Lisa

## Rehearsal Times

Regular rehearsals are Monday nights, 6:45 - 9:00 at St. James Episcopal Church Essex Junction. There are occasional special rehearsals which may be at other locations.

### Missed Rehearsal Policy

Let Lisa Jablow know well in advance when you know that you are going to miss a rehearsal due to an unavoidable conflict.

In case of illness or emergency, notify Lisa by email as early as possible, and no later than 3 p.m. on the day of rehearsal, or by Thursday for any special weekend. When you return to rehearsals, it is your responsibility to make sure that you have all current markings in your score. It would be prudent to ask a fellow section member about these and any other changes that you missed.

No more than two Monday rehearsals should be missed during each term, unless you get the director's approval. Each singer needs to make every effort in his or her personal schedule to avoid any conflicts in the month prior to performance.

### Rehearsal Cancellation Policy

In the event of inclement weather requiring a cancellation of the rehearsal, every effort will be made to notify members by 4 p.m.

## VERMONT CHORAL UNION

### Membership Guide



The Vermont Choral Union draws inspiration from more than ten centuries of classical a cappella music. Sharing a passion for artistic achievement, our singers explore timeless works of the past, along with today's newest compositions. We strive to delight our audiences with programs that portray the rich and diverse history of choral singing.

The Vermont Choral Union  
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[www.VTChoralUnion.org](http://www.VTChoralUnion.org)



## Concert Dress

See Mary Ellen Jolley for details.



## DUES

Dues are collected at the beginning of each concert season (September and January).

Dues are \$50 per person per season, \$100 for the year.

## Making the Most of Rehearsals

- Check email regularly for announcements and updates throughout the week and just ahead of rehearsal.
- It is highly advisable that you spend extra time on your own to learn texts and notes. Once a new piece is introduced, all notes should be reasonably solid by the following week. A rehearsal CD will be provided to assist you. There are numerous online resources available to you such as YouTube and other streaming services, as well as rehearsal apps such as Singerhood. Some of our repertoire will be quite challenging to learn within the allotted rehearsal time. The more prepared you are with notes, rhythms, and text, the more time can be spent shaping the music.
- Drink plenty of water to keep yourself hydrated - and bring some to rehearsal.
- Avoid wearing perfumes, colognes, or other scented products at rehearsals or performances: many people are sensitive to fragrances.
- Be in your seat and ready to sing by 6:45.
- Give the director your full attention and stay focused, even when your section is not singing. You may be asked to join in at any moment and valuable time is lost when we have to stop and help people find their place in the music.
- Mark your part liberally in pencil. Your brain will not always remember certain details but your pencil will.
- Be patient with the music-shaping experience. At times, we may change the sitting/standing arrangement to see what sounds best for our ensemble. Be prepared to sit/stand in different places at rehearsals and for performances. Placement affects the sound of the group and your ability to hear one another.
- The most important habits to cultivate are looking up from your music and listening. The music is merely a roadmap. Our job as an ensemble is to lift the notes off the page and to create an experience for ourselves and our audience. That can only be achieved if we are focused on the same things – watching and listening. After all, music really only exists in the hearing.
- Be supportive of one another. Please leave all differences and disagreements at the door.

Lisa J.