



PROSPECTIVE MEMBER PACKET



MISSION & VISION

OUR MOTTO

EMPOWER | ENGAGE | INSPIRE

VISION STATEMENT

To be a community leader of inclusion and vocal excellence in Kentuckiana.

MISSION STATEMENT

To bring together a diverse group of people who share the love of vocal music, and to create a comfortable and encouraging space where they can feel empowered to take risks, to learn, and to grow together in harmony.

To be welcoming to all members of the community, including those who have been marginalized and underrepresented, which is reflected in the ways we speak, interact, and perform.

To engage with and enrich our local communities through performances and service. To put on performances that are entertaining and emotional, while always striving to reach higher levels of emotional and musical proficiency and excellence.

STRATEGIES

1. Create a connected space for people to feel empowered, comfortable, engaged, and inspired through music.
2. Encourage and educate members to build musical skills and personal accountability.
3. Be active and visible within our communities to bring the magic of music and enrichment of care to all people.
4. Develop projects, performances, programs and partnerships that propel and amplify the vision.
5. Develop leadership opportunities and organizational excellence to achieve administrative and financial health and sustainability.



AUDITION PROTOCOLS

GENERAL INFORMATION

All audition materials are available at greatrivervoices.com/join.

These materials will include:

- Audition guidelines
- Sheet music for audition songs
- Learning tracks for audition songs
- Video with instructions for visual audition (available soon)

There are 4 options for how to complete the vocal audition:

1. Sing along with the recording (Voice part omitted)
2. Sing along with the recording (Voice part quiet)
3. Sing IN a quartet (alone on their part)
4. Sing WITH a quartet (2 on their part)

AUDITION PATHS

I - GUEST ATTENDANCE AUDITION PATH:

Visit several rehearsals as a guest:

- Meet with the designated music team member (usually the director) for voice part designation
- Work with the assigned section leader on audition materials, if needed.

Schedule an audition:

- When ready, schedule an audition, making sure to decide which vocal audition option you wish to use. [See above for options.]
- Audition on designated date.

II - OPEN AUDITION PATH:

Download and work with audition materials

until ready to audition:

- [Click here to view the page](#)

Contact Great River Voices to schedule an audition

date and time:

- Email chapterengagement@greatrivervoices.com to request an audition date that coincides with a rehearsal night.
- Decide which vocal audition option you wish to use [See above for options.]
- Audition on designated date, at the end of rehearsal.

We suggest that prospective members that are interested in auditioning to attend at least two rehearsals before requesting an audition. These rehearsals will help you get acquainted with the repertoire and the chorus's singing style.

NOTE OF IMPORTANCE:

Auditions will take place at the end of a rehearsal on the scheduled date.

All our songs are memorized for performances, and the same expectation applies to auditions

—candidates should come prepared with the audition song fully memorized.

The candidate will be contacted with results after the musical leadership has discussed (this discussion and feedback may occur in the same night immediately following the audition).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW OFTEN DOES THE CHORUS REHEARSE?

Great River Voices rehearses every other Wednesday from 7–10 PM. Many of our singers juggle multiple ensembles and commitments, so we believe fewer rehearsals, paired with individual practice, work best. However, we remain flexible with rehearsal length and frequency based on members' availability and the chorus's needs.

REHEARSAL LOCATION:

Rehearsals are typically held at the Thoroughbred Hall (Jim Miller Hall) at 10609 Watterson Trail, Jeffersontown, KY 40299. If there is a change in rehearsal location, you will be updated via our Facebook page or email.

DO I HAVE TO AUDITION TO SING IN GREAT RIVER VOICES?

Every singer must pass an audition to be part of Great River Voices long-term. We believe the process should be low-stress, serving as both an opportunity for the music team to understand each singer's voice, knowledge, and ability, and for singers to get a clear sense of what's expected to sustain participation. Just as we audition the singer, the singer is also auditioning the chorus experience. The [Audition Protocols](#) document outlines the exact process, but we aim to be as accessible as possible and can accommodate needs beyond what is outlined if necessary.

WILL REHEARSALS BE STREAMED?

All rehearsals are currently live-streamed, with recordings saved and uploaded to our YouTube channel for review by those with the link.

IS THE CHORUS AFFILIATED WITH ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS?

Our chapter is officially chartered as "Northern Kentucky, KY" with the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), and Great River Voices is the ensemble it supports. To participate long-term in rehearsals, performances, and competitions, singers must become dues-paying BHS members.

IS THERE A COST TO BEING A MEMBER?

As mentioned above, BHS chapter membership is required to be a participating singing member of Great River Voices. While our long-term goal is to be accessible to anyone, by being able to subsidize or cover the membership costs for anyone who needs the financial assistance, it will take time to build up the funds to do so sustainably. Cardinal District (our geographically designated and independently run district of the BHS) membership and a BHS membership (determined by age) will be required. The dues are below:

Cardinal District: \$35/yr

BHS Adult: \$180/yr

BHS Youth (25 and under): \$90/yr

BHS Senior (75 and over): \$135/yr

Unlike most choruses, Great River Voices does not charge any Chapter dues. Instead, we use a tiered donation program and encourage everyone to donate to the chorus the amount of money they're able to, which enables us to cover various expenses such as music, learning tracks, director fees, rehearsal venue, show production, etc

WHAT BENEFITS COME WITH PAYING MEMBERSHIP?

Along with being able to participate fully with Great River Voices in competitions, festivals, and performances, BHS membership also comes with exclusive discounts on sheet music, learning tracks, and merchandise, early access and discounts on registrations for annual events and conventions, a subscription to the bi-monthly magazine and weekly e-newsletter, eligibility to compete in quartets as well as the chorus, and much more. If you participate in GRV's donations program, there are various gifts given to you depending on the level in which you donate.

MINIMUM AGE

We do not have an official minimum age. For all singers under 18 years of age we follow the BHS policy that either a guardian always be present at rehearsals and performances, and/or have an adult member of the chapter be that singer's sponsor. Before any singer under 18 years of age joins the chapter we will have a consultation with the singer and their guardians to go over requirements and expectations and make sure they can commit to those things. The singer will also need to pass the same audition requirements as anyone else joining the chorus.



HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

COVID-19 / OTHER CONTAGIOUS DISEASES:

- GRV will not require proof of any vaccinations
- When healthy, masks are optional
- When feeling ill:
 - **Negative Covid test:** Required masking, distancing, and observing only (no singing)
 - **Positive Covid test:** Stay home and following current CDC recommendations
 - When feeling very ill, stay home.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Scented Products:
 - Avoid scented products like perfumes, colognes, aftershaves, body sprays, hairsprays, etc., in respect to those with sensitivities and/or allergies to such products.
- Body Odors:
 - Understanding of cultural differences, being conscious of body odors, both natural and otherwise (cigarette smoke, food smells, etc.)
- Food Allergies:
 - If bringing food into rehearsal, be conscious of airborne allergens such as nuts and citrus.

RISER SAFETY:

- Beverages are allowed on the risers, but must be in closable containers.
- Sheet music should not be placed on the risers.
- Should you need to leave the risers, do so gently and quietly. Do not push anyone.