

Bread & Roses Participation Information

Welcome! We are pleased you are interested in joining Bread & Roses! We want you to have some additional information about our chorus. If you haven't already, check out our website: breadandroseschorus.org for photos and more general information.

OUR DIRECTOR is Peggy Safford. She can be reached at peggysafford@gmail.com or 815-895-5547.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The members of Bread & Roses are devoted to developing and enjoying our musical skills, sharing them with each other and the community, and providing a community of women who deliver messages of peace and justice, protection of our fragile environment, diversity, women's empowerment and acceptance for all.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

We invite any woman who enjoys singing to join us. We do expect that you are able to, at the very least, match a pitch. Our pieces are in 3-or 4-part harmony (SSAA) and although we usually sing in sections, you may be expected to sing your part next to someone who is singing a different part. Our members have varying degrees of musical backgrounds and expertise. We encourage this diversity and will assist you as much as possible in your personal musical growth. ANY musical experience you have will be helpful. Ability to sight read/sight sing music is NOT required and we do not hold auditions.

A copy of our "Commitment and Responsibilities Covenant" is included in your packet. All members are expected to agree with our mission statement and subscribe to the covenant.

REHEARSAL DETAILS

We rehearse on Sunday evenings from 5:45 to 8:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church in DeKalb. We start on time, so if you wish to socialize, use the restroom, etc. please come a few minutes early. There is a short break approximately halfway through the rehearsal for stretching, announcements, and business matters. If you are unable to attend a rehearsal it is imperative that you let Peggy know as early as possible. (See #4 of the Covenant.)

We generally rehearse during school semesters with summers off. Specific starting and ending dates are determined each semester. There is also a required tech. rehearsal a day or two prior to the concert. There may be additional activities – such as sectional or ensemble rehearsals or committee meetings - which are scheduled as needed.

Members are expected to attend rehearsals regularly so as to build a cohesive singing unit. (Again, see #4 of the Covenant.) You are encouraged to bring water with you in order to stay hydrated. (We are encouraged to NOT use the church's bottled water.)

MUSIC

Once you have decided to become a member of Bread & Roses, we will lend you copies of music, assign you to a section, and get to know you. Members are asked to rehearse with a pencil (and eraser!) in hand (**no pen or highlighters**, please) and encouraged to mark their music as needed. You will also need a 3-ring binder to hold your music.

DUES

Dues are currently \$40.00 per year or \$20.00 a semester, generally paid at the Annual Meeting in June – or at the start of the semester. Checks should be made payable to Bread & Roses. Inability to pay dues should not keep any woman from joining our chorus. If this is an issue, speak with our Treasurer, Jan vander Meer, to handle the situation confidentially.

PERFORMANCES

We generally have a full-length performance at the end of each semester. A beneficiary is selected from the community and all proceeds from each concert (after expenses) are donated to them. We also sing for some shorter performances for area organizations on an occasional basis.

All members who have regularly attended rehearsals and practiced diligently participate in performances. If you are not completely comfortable with any given piece you may ask to sit out for that number. Members are strongly encouraged to STUDY, PRACTICE, and LEARN the music outside of rehearsals. Audio files are emailed to assist in learning the notes, but only attendance at rehearsals will make you performance-ready.

Performance dates for the upcoming year are: fall concert Nov. 23, 2019 (3:00 pm); spring concert June 6, 2020 (3:00 pm) – Bread & Roses 25th Anniversary. ☺

Note: Call times and tech. rehearsal information will be announced at a later date.

Members provide their own black performance binder to hold their music. Performance attire may vary; we have recently been wearing all black.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Bread & Roses operates with a consensus style of governance where everyone has a chance to voice their opinion and have a say in the final decisions. Our **Steering Committee** is comprised of four members plus the director who oversee chorus business. Every member is expected to participate in general publicity and concert set-up or clean-up. Individual **Section Leaders** assist in monitoring attendance and helping with any performance-readiness issues.

We hold our Annual Meeting in June to review the previous year and plan for the next year. Everyone is expected to attend this meeting and to sign up for at least one of the working committees: **Concert, Membership, Music, and Publicity/Public Relations.**