

The Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut (MCC) is an organized choral ensemble dedicated to performing serious choral music. Our goal is to be numbered among the best musical organizations in the area. We require our members to be dedicated to vocal excellence and to be fiscally responsible for the future of the ensemble. Membership in MCC means that each member is committed to:

1. **VOCAL PROFICIENCY** - In addition to the consistent and timely attendance of normally scheduled rehearsals, it is expected that each member shall increase his/her personal proficiency through such methods as listening to rehearsal tapes, home study and practice of the music and vocal instruction (if necessary).
2. **TIME** - Each Member must realize that the MCC cannot exist if the only time allocated by the member is for singing. In addition to our normal rehearsal time, there must be time reserved and allocated to other group activities, whether administrative or social, which will help to ensure the Choir's success in its development as a choral ensemble.
3. **FISCAL AWARENESS** - Each member must feel personally responsible for his/her fair share of the fiscal health of the organization. A dues payment of \$100 is merely the foundation. Ticket sales are mandatory. Special projects, fund raising activities, and other revenue solicitation efforts must be considered as part of every member's normal activity.
4. **MUSIC** - The MCC will be known for its professional presentation of a yearly series of concerts, which will usually consist of one each December, February/March, and May/June. The concerts will consist of various selections of secular and sacred music spanning the entire range of choral periods. Typically, the choir will perform with a chamber orchestra, instrumental ensemble or piano/organ.

Musical selection and selection of soloists is done by the Music Director. Featured soloists in a major choral/orchestral work will be contracted from among known professional singers. Choir members may be considered for incidental solos and quartet writings within a choral/orchestral work, where deemed appropriate by the Music Director.

Without effort and commitment in all these areas, the enormous potential and fun of choral singing cannot be maximized.

In our pursuit of choral excellence, the MCC and its members are committed to maintaining a high musical level of the choir through personal dedication, hard work and an understanding of the team effort needed to attain its goals.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Each member is responsible for the payment of \$100.00 in dues no later than the second rehearsal of the season.

Where there are multiple chorus members from the same household, the payment requirement will be 100% for the first member and 50% for each subsequent member. For example, two members from the same household would have a combined financial obligation of \$150.

TICKETS

Even though ticket sales contribute only a small percentage to our annual budget, selling tickets is an important activity. For one thing, we need to sing to people, not empty seats. Therefore, singers are expected to purchase or sell \$100 in tickets for each concert, unless otherwise indicated at the beginning of the season.

Where there are multiple chorus members from the same household, the ticket obligation will be 100% for the first member and 50% for each subsequent member. For example, a combined ticket obligation of \$150 for a two-member household.

Ticket prices are kept in line with those of other major chorale ensembles in the area. Current prices for an MCC concert are \$20.00 for general seating and \$15.00 for senior/student discount seating.

MUSIC

Payment for music will be due upon receipt. There is no discount for multiple member households.

REHEARSAL / PERFORMANCE RECORDINGS

Payment for recordings will be due upon receipt. There is no discount for multiple member households.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

While your commitment to MCC includes a financial obligation, we understand that there are times these payments (membership dues, tickets, music, recordings) can cause a financial hardship. To help alleviate this concern, a payment schedule can be worked out with the Treasurer on a case-by-case basis.

In order for our choir to look its very best on performance night, it is important that all members are aware of the dress guidelines and **follow them to the letter.**

MEN: **Black Tuxedo** **White Shirts** (no ruffles)
 Black Plain Bow Tie **Black Cummerbund**
 Black Shoes and Black Socks

Please do not wear any cologne during a performance. Some of the members might be allergic to it and react badly during the performance.

WOMEN: For MCC sponsored performances, please wear **all black FLOOR LENGTH (NOT mid-calf and NOT ankle length)** with the following guidelines:

MAY BE a formal black dress - the dress *must* be floor length.

MAY BE a skirt or palazzo pants and blouse combination – *must* be to the floor.

NO strapless, sleeveless, off the shoulder or spaghetti strap gowns. The use of a shawl with any of the above is also not permitted. The top must have a modest neckline. **No cleavage, please.** It need not be long sleeve, but the shoulder is to be covered.

NO sequin or beaded designs.

To sum it up, the look is a simple but elegant floor length black outfit.

Comfortable black shoes and black hose.

For Performances with other groups, may be either white on long black or black on long black as announced. Long black can be either a blouse or skirt/pants combination. When dress is black on black, you may wear a long black dress if you choose.

Please do not wear any perfume/cologne, hairspray etc. during a performance. Some of the members might be allergic to it and react badly during the performance.

If you have any questions about any of these guidelines, please feel free to call any of the officers in the choir. We can give you hints as to where to purchase various items.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to our first performance together.