



MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

2024 – 2025 Season

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RAINIER CHORALE

P.O. Box 5336

Kent, WA 98064-5336

www.rainierchorale.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Rainier Chorale is committed to pursue excellence in the performance of choral music, to provide a challenging creative outlet for its members, and to produce enjoyable musical experiences for its audience.

VALUES STATEMENT

Rainier Chorale values each of its members, maintains a cohesive performing group, encourages each person to grow as a musician, and fosters fellowship among its members.

Rainier Chorale values integrity and fairness in its business and fundraising practices.

Rainier Chorale values many styles of music, and performs a variety of concerts, drawing from works by sacred, secular, classical and popular composers.

PRINCIPALS AND BOARD

Artistic Director:	Ron Bayer ronjbayer@comcast.net	(253) 820-7821
Board Members:		
President:	Christina Polzin christina.polzin9@gmail.com	(425) 922-2055
Vice President, Publicity:	Carissa Eaton Carissa.m.eaton@gmail.com	(253) 797-8149
Secretary/Wardrobe:	Libby Gibson eagibson44@comcast.net	(253) 630-0589 (206) 384-2447 cell
Treasurer/Grants:	Sonia Handforth-Kome bohako@yahoo.com	(206) 605-9368
Ticketing:	Emily Pierre Emilypierre3@gmail.com	(425) 691-8677
Grants & Fundraising:	Amara Reitz Amara.joy@hotmail.com	(425) 919-9119
Social Activities:	Robbi Baskin ddbrbaskin@comcast.net	(206) 218-2120 (253) 638-0057
Facilities/Auxiliary & Membership:	Jon Glenn jglenn.g@gmail.com	(206) 659-2288
Website/Membership:	Kay Cummings kittykayann@comcast.net	(206) 592-2950

Rainier Chorale was established in 1983. The Chorale is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization led by a Board of Directors elected by the general membership. Monthly dues, ticket sales, grants, fundraisers, and donations from public and private sources fund the Chorale program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors consists of nine elected members, each serving a three-year term. The Board elects the officers from its own ranks at the first Board meeting of each new season. The officers are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Board primarily attends to issues relating to the internal management of the Chorale, assuring the organization continues to achieve its musical goals. In doing so, it works closely with the Artistic Director and is ultimately responsible to the Chorale membership. The Artistic Director is not a member of the Board, but serves in an advisory capacity.

The Board meets monthly. All Chorale members are welcome to attend the meetings, though they do not have a vote. Non-board members may contact the President in advance to add agenda items.

For more detailed information about the Board, please refer to the Rainier Chorale Bylaws (available upon request, or as posted on the website).

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ron Bayer has been the artistic leader of the Rainier Chorale since the 1996-97 concert season. He has retired after spending many years as the director of choral activities, and Director of the Fine Arts Division at Green River College in Auburn. Ron was inducted into the Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame in 2004. He began his teaching career at the high school level in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where he gained recognition as a strong, traditional choral director and also a leader in the then-emerging vocal jazz scene. After completing a nine-year stint in the upper Midwest, he came to the Pacific Northwest following the lure of the mountains, teaching briefly at Mount Vernon High School before starting at Green River.

Ron received his bachelor's degree in music education (in both vocal and instrumental music) at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and a master's degree in choral music and conducting at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he studied with Harold Decker. Further graduate studies in jazz education were pursued at Western Michigan University where he studied piano with and assisted Steve Zegree.

An avid mountaineer in his off time, Ron is currently in demand as an adjudicator, clinician, pianist, and arranger.

SECTION MANAGERS

Section	Name	Phone	E-Mail
ALTO	Shari Hanbey	360-367-0645	clanhanbey@msn.com
BASS	Ean Paget	425-687-7245	epaget@gmail.com
SOPRANO	Cheryl Habgood	253-307-7955	chabgood7955@gmail.com
TENOR	Arnold Bernabe	510-432-0694	arnoldbernabe@gmail.com

Section managers are the organizational leaders of their respective sections. They are responsible for taking attendance at all rehearsals and performances, and for reporting absences to the Artistic Director. They may be asked to relay important information via telephone and e-mail prior to rehearsals, such as an unexpected change of rehearsal site.

CONCERTS

Traditionally, Rainier Chorale presents three concerts each season, with two performances (Saturday and Sunday) of each concert. (Our concert season and performances can be found on our website www.rainierchorale.org) Special event concerts may also be added to the season or may take the place of a regular concert.

REHEARSALS

Regular rehearsals are held on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 24419 94th Ave S. Kent, WA. Occasionally, due to schedule conflicts, rehearsals may be held at alternate sites. Please note: notice will be given in such circumstances.

Please silence all cell phones during rehearsals. If you must make a call or send a text message, do it during the scheduled break.

NO cologne, perfume, scented hairspray, or aftershave as a courtesy to those with fragrance sensitivity.

Saturday rehearsals (usually one per quarter) are scheduled by the Artistic Director. These rehearsals are held at alternate sites. Saturday rehearsals are considered regular rehearsals, so attendance is expected. So you can schedule ahead, specific dates will be decided early in the season and shared numerous times in our weekly bulletin.

Dress Rehearsals are generally held the Thursday or Friday night prior to each concert. Concert attire is not required, but attendance is mandatory.

A complete rehearsal and concert schedule will be made available at the beginning of each quarter or may be found on the website. While the rehearsal schedule is designed to teach the majority of the music, each member is responsible to work on the music on their own. Members may record rehearsals to assist in learning the music during the week.

ATTENDANCE

The musical quality of the Chorale's performances, the development of ensemble artistry, and the morale of the organization depend upon regular and prompt attendance at all rehearsals and concerts.

Each member is expected to be on time for each rehearsal, concert, and business meeting. If a member misses three rehearsals during a quarter for any reason, they may be asked to meet with the Artistic Director to demonstrate their knowledge of the music in order to perform in the concert. Attendance at both performances in a quarter is expected; exceptions must be approved by the Artistic Director.

The Artistic Director may grant leaves of absence, although the member may be asked to prove sufficient knowledge of the music in order to perform in the upcoming concert. Should a member miss a quarter, they will be required to meet with the Artistic Director to renew their membership.

VOLUNTEERING

Members are expected to sign up for committees at the beginning of the season to help spread the workload across the entire membership and not rely on the Board members plus a few others to handle everything it takes to run the Chorale. It takes many volunteer hours to put together the details for each concert – setting up rehearsals and the venue for performance, programs, flyers, tickets, plus many other tasks. That doesn't include the hours that the Board members donate to the running of the choir organization.

NOTE: If your company offers compensation for employee volunteer hours, please contact the Treasurer to apply for those funds.

MEMBER EXPENSES

DUES:

Each member pays dues on a quarterly basis. The amount of dues is by quarter as follows:

First Quarter you sing in the season:	\$125
Second Quarter you sing in the season:	\$125
Third Quarter you sing in the season:	\$125

WARDROBE:

Class I Costume: Winter and Spring Concerts

Option 1:	Black dress (selection available through Southeastern Performance Apparel – purchase will be made through Rainier Chorale). Black shoes and stockings. Necklace and earrings purchased through Rainier Chorale. Board members will assist with purchase.	Cost: \$100.00 approx.
Option 2:	Either rent or purchase: Black shawl collar tuxedo, white dress shirt (non-Oxford cloth, non-button down nor a stand-up collar), black dress shoes and socks.	Cost: variable
	Tie and vest set purchased through the Chorale.	Cost: \$40.00 approx.

Class II Costume: Pops Concert

All Membership:	Short-sleeved colored shirt ordered through Chorale. Option 1: shirt is worn as a jacket with a white scoop-neck shirt underneath. Option 2: Shirt is worn buttoned and tucked in with a black belt. Black pants & Black closed toe shoes. The Pops Concert theme may dictate variation of the exact costume.	Cost: \$40.00 approx.
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Note: Once you begin singing with the Chorale, you will be responsible for dues and wardrobe expenses (once they have been ordered), even if you leave the group before the end of the quarter.

MUSIC FOLDER: Music must be in a black choral folder for each concert. A variety of folders are acceptable. Many members purchase a professional choral folder. Members are responsible for finding their own music folders. The Vice President or Librarian will provide source information at start of the season.	Cost: \$35.00 approx.
TICKETS: Members are expected to sell tickets to family and friends. Season tickets are available for best value. Cost of season tickets may vary depending upon special events during the season.	Presale Per-Concert Cost: \$25 general; \$20 seniors, students & children under age 12 Buy at the door? - door prices additional \$2 per ticket!
TRIPS: The Chorale plans a variety of performing trips, which the members are encouraged to join. Members are expected to pay for their own expenses, although fundraising events may be used to defray part of the costs.	Cost: Variable

HELPING HAND FUND

Financial aid is available for some member expenses. Please see the Board President or appointed board designee to apply. Your request will be reviewed in confidence by the President, who will then notify you of the decision made. The Helping Hand grant is for one quarter at a time; those seeking assistance will need to apply each quarter.

MUSIC

The Librarian issues each member a packet of music at the beginning of each quarter; this packet is expected to be returned after each concert. The music is the property of Rainier Chorale. Rehearsal notes must be made in pencil, not pen. Markings do not need to be erased before return. Please note: If you leave the Chorale before singing a concert, it is your responsibility to contact the Librarian and arrange to return the music immediately.

AUDITIONS

The Artistic Director will listen to singers before or after rehearsals on Tuesday nights. Prospective members and former members returning after an absence may make arrangements with him for other times.

Solo auditions will be announced throughout the season. Due to time constraints, prospective soloists are expected to learn their chosen pieces prior to the audition. The Artistic Director may also assign solos without an audition as he deems appropriate.

WEBSITE – www.rainierchorale.org

Be sure to visit the Members Hall section of the Chorale's website weekly for any announcements and updates. The website contains important information such as member rosters, calendar of events, Board information, and ticket order forms – as well as a few fun things. You can quickly obtain contact information for the Board, Artistic Director, and other key personnel. It's also the best way to change your contact information should you move or have a new e-mail address.

Contact Kay Cummings at (206) 592-2950 or kittykayann@comcast.net to obtain a log-in ID and password in order to access the member portion of the site.

SOCIAL EVENTS

We work hard, and we like to play too! A number of organized social activities are planned each year. A post-concert party is held following each Sunday concert. It's a great chance to mingle and get to know other Chorale members in an informal setting. Stay tuned to announcements at each rehearsal, as well as on the website, to find out more details. If you would like to help organize an activity, we're always looking for helping hands and good ideas! Just talk to any Board member.

FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

No single source provides enough revenue to totally support the Chorale. It is through everyone's cooperation and participation that we keep Rainier Chorale financially solvent. Donations over and above the dues are welcome. Donations are tax deductible, and benefactors are listed in the program at Chorale concerts.

Members are strongly encouraged to participate in annual fundraising projects. These events not only help to support the Chorale, but they also contribute to our ongoing scholarship funds.

One easy way to help the Chorale is through Corporately sponsored matching programs. If you have an employer that matches your giving each year consider the chorale for your charitable donations!

TICKET SALES

Ticket sales are the single-most effective means of raising funds, as well as promoting the Rainier Chorale in the community. Members are expected to actively promote and sell tickets for each concert (the goal per member is at least five tickets for each concert weekend). The Board may deem mandatory sales quotas necessary.

CONCERT APPEARANCE AND ETIQUETTE

Each member is responsible to acquire the prescribed costume for each concert. The object of our uniform is to allow us to look like we all belong to the same group. Members who choose not to comply with the dress code will be asked by a designated member of the Board of Directors to make the necessary adjustments or may be excused from the performance.

Jewelry: At the Holiday and Masterworks concerts, only the chorale-provided necklace and earrings may be worn. At the Pops concert, small pearl or gold stud earrings only. Otherwise, NO necklaces, dangly earrings, additional jewelry, or sparkly accessories (including hair accessories and body glitter) of any kind. Wedding rings are OK.

Makeup and Hair: Please be aware that flamboyant make-up and hairstyles are a distraction for our audience, so we request that you do your best to blend in.

Perfumes and Scents: NO cologne, perfume, scented hairspray, or aftershave as a courtesy to those with fragrance sensitivity.

Chewing Gum: Gum chewing interferes with your ability to sing and is a distraction to our audience, so no gum chewing while on the risers.

Cell Phones & Other Noise Makers: Silence your watches; leave cell phones off stage.

Folders & Music: Bring only folders and music on stage (no pencils, purses, programs or other materials whatsoever). Please carry your music in your right hand when entering and exiting the stage.

On Stage Behavior: At the completion of a section, turn the music quietly to the next chorus cue. Do not turn pages with the soloist. At the completion of a piece of music, acknowledge the audience, but do not turn to the next piece until the Director signals.

Applause: Do not applaud our own.

LEAVING THE CHORALE

We hope you sing with us for a very long time, but we understand that things change and you may need to take a break or leave the Chorale. If you are considering this, please be sure to have a conversation with the Artistic Director so that he is aware of your upcoming absence. Keep in mind that you may need to wait until there is an opening in your section before you can return. When you decide to come back, contact us and give us advance notice so we can plan for you.

Before you take a break, all dues and fees including wardrobe expenses must be paid in full, and all music must be returned to the Librarian. If you decide to leave permanently, please consider donating your outfits to the Chorale. This will help us provide wardrobe to singers who need a helping hand.

2023-24 SEASON AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, September 3, 2024	First Rehearsal of Fall
Saturday, October 19, 2024	Holiday Concert Rehearsal and Pot Luck-KUMC
Thursday, December 5, 2024	Dress Rehearsal- KUMC
Sat/Sun December 7/8 2024	Holiday Concerts-KUMC (both shows 3:00pm start)
Saturday, December 15 2024	Festival of the Nativity (Bellevue)
Tuesday, January 7, 2025	Masterworks- First Rehearsal
Saturday, February 8, 2025	Concert Rehearsal and Brunch (9:30am)
Thursday, March 28, 2025	Dress Rehearsal
Sat/Sun, March 29/30, 2025	Masterworks Concert-KUMC
Tuesday April 1, 2025	POPS Concert- First Rehearsal
Thursday May 29 2025	Dress rehearsal TBA- Green River College
Weekend of May 31 June 1 2025	POPS Concert- Green River College

Saturday rehearsals throughout season, if required – TBA

