

SARATOGA
VOICES™
the power of singing

CHORUS
MEMBER
HANDBOOK
2021-2022



PO Box 76, Burnt Hills, NY 12027
518-416-4060
www.saratogavoices.org

Welcome to *Saratoga Voices*!

We are so glad you are singing with us this season. As a member of *Saratoga Voices*, you are joining a chorus that attracts passionate, devoted choral singers/vocalists across all age groups and vocations, from every corner of the Capital Region, performing a varied repertoire in a variety of venues. We are privileged to perform under the baton of the gifted and talented Artistic Director Dr. William Jon Gray. Singing with *Saratoga Voices* is exciting and rewarding and provides the opportunity to further develop your vocal skills.

"If it involves singing, we like to do it." Dr. William Jon Gray

Artistic Director and Conductor: Dr. William Jon Gray

Associate Conductor and Accompanist: Derek Stannard.

Saratoga Voices evolved from Burnt Hills Oratorio Society (BHOS) in 2021. Over the past few years, the chorus has diversified its repertoire and performance venues and broadened the definition of choral arts in the greater Capital Region. The organization realized that the BHOS name no longer represented who we are. In June 2021 the members voted to change the organization's name to *Saratoga Voices*.

Saratoga Voices is crafting a bold new vision into the 2020s to reflect its rich and diverse humanity. With the contribution of its many "Voices", it will embrace new ways to share the power of singing. The vision is to reinvent the choral arts with innovative performance formats.

Mission: *Saratoga Voices* embraces the choral arts within a vibrant, collaborative and skill-nurturing environment, striving for excellence in choral performances, including diverse artists and audiences to share the joy and power of singing.

Membership Commitment:

SV choir members are expected to perform in all of the season's regularly scheduled concerts.

Why the expectation? Consistency throughout the concert season is needed to allow Dr. Gray to know who is participating in each concert in order to prepare properly. If you cannot participate in a concert, you must indicate so on the annual registration form.

Vocal Placement Interview:

All members, returning and new, must meet with the Artistic Director and/or Associate Director, who will evaluate the vocal and musical skills of individual voices for choral placement. An ability to sing in tune and "match" pitches, as well as a demonstrated ability to read or be able to follow written choral music, is a requirement. A short video outlining the process is on the website at www.saratogavoices.org – Participation Tab

Registration and Fees:

The registration and fee payment forms are available on the saratogavoices.org website. These will also be collected at the first rehearsal. There is a participation fee of \$55.00 for each concert. This fee is non-refundable after three weeks and is due in full regardless of the singer's ability to participate in the concert. A yearly participation subscription is available at a savings of 20% of the total concert season costs, as explained on the form. The yearly participation subscription fee is due in full by the second rehearsal at the start of the concert season.

Music Scores:

For each performance, annotated music will be provided to each singer. The cost varies according to the music score and once purchased the music is not refundable. Our Artistic Director annotates the scores precisely to his vision. These scores must be used in rehearsals and performances. This measure greatly maximizes the efficiency of rehearsal time. When professional music scores are provided for a concert, singers must return their score in the same condition they received it.

Rehearsals:

- Rehearsals are every Tuesday from 7:00-9:30pm., with extra rehearsals prior to each performance.
- Rehearsals for the first concert begin Tuesday, September 7 through November 20 and will be held at the O'Rourke Middle School Chorus Room, 173 Lakehill Road, Burnt Hills
- For the rest of the season, we will rehearse at the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School Chorus Room, 88 Lakehill Road, Burnt Hills, NY 12027.
- Changes/cancellations regarding rehearsals will be announced by email and posted on saratogavoices.org

Rehearsal and Performance Etiquette:

- Learn the music, practice at home
- Attend Tuesday rehearsals regularly. Attendance will be taken.
- Singers are to arrive on time for rehearsals, which begin promptly at 7:00 PM. A 10-minute break is provided for announcements and socializing.
- Name tags will be handed out. Please wear one.
- Bring pencils. Further mark scores as the Artistic Director indicates.
- While 100% attendance is the goal, up to three absences are allowed. After that, the Artistic Director or Associate Conductor may ask a singer to discontinue participation.
- Cell phones must be silenced but may be used to record rehearsal sessions.
- **No perfume or aftershave, please! No chewing gum or texting! Private chatter is inappropriate during rehearsals and performances.**

Concert Dress:

- No perfume, aftershave, or glittery jewelry and please wear deodorant.
- Note that concert attire will be determined for every performance.

Supporting *Saratoga Voices*

There are many costs of running an organization like *Saratoga Voices*. As an SV singer, you are encouraged to support the choir financially (in addition to participation fees), and by volunteering your time and expertise. Personal contributions are tax-deductible. Please fill out the attached Member Involvement and Support Form and return it to *Saratoga Voices*, PO Box 76, Burnt Hills, NY 12027 or hand in at rehearsal.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Participate in providing refreshments at rehearsal breaks
- Assist with ticket sales: Be sure to tell your friends and family about our concerts, our Facebook Page, and our web site: saratogavoices.org
- Support chorus fundraisers
- Solicit Sponsorship (e.g., covering the cost of a musician or soloist for a concert)
- Solicit matching gifts, grants, and contributions from other organizations
- Promote advertising sales for the concert program book

Saratoga Voices Board of Directors.

Dave Johnson	President, Marketing Chair
Pedro Aviles	Vice President, Member Services and Communication
Debra Carrese	Treasurer
Joan Suda	Secretary, Advertising, Vocal Scholarship Program
Leslie Bottino	Finance Committee, Social Media, Marketing
Daniel Brunelle	Audio Visual and Production
Doug Davis	Marketing, Branding, Public Relations, Vocal Scholarship Program
Carol Drake	Production and Event Producer
Stacey Shinske	Marketing, Branding, Advertising, Social Media
Libby Smith-Holmes	Fundraising Chair, Grants, Public Relations
Gerry Tosti	Fundraising, Concert Production

Information or questions for the Board of Directors can be requested by emailing saratogavoices.org or by telephoning 518-416-4060.

Member Involvement & Support Form

I know I can contribute something specific to SV. My experience and interests are indicated below [please circle area of interest]:

_____ Outreach Activities

- recruitment
- youth
- community partnerships
- seniors
- corporate contacts
- data base management

_____ Marketing

- advertising
- sponsors

_____ Member Relations

- board of directors – community outreach
- rehearsal break refreshments
- special events (potlucks, donor parties, new member welcomes, preview party, in-house fund raisers, etc.)

_____ Production

- mailings
- program book and printed materials
- interface with contracted musicians and vendors

_____ Media Arts

- photography
- graphic arts
- internet and social media
- Audio/visual recording

_____ Financial Support

- grants
- fundraising
- annual appeal
- patronage
- corporate support
- Performance Endowment Fund
- legacy giving

Please tell us about your skill sets and availability!

I have experience with: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

The best time to reach me is: _____

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