

SARATOGA  
VOICES  
*the power of singing*

CHORUS  
MEMBER  
HANDBOOK

Revised 7/8/25



PO Box 76, Burnt Hills, NY 12027  
518-416-4060  
[www.saratogavoices.org](http://www.saratogavoices.org)

**Artistic Director and Conductor:** Noah Palmer  
**Accompanist:** Karen Becker

**Saratoga Voices Board of Directors:**

Mike Brun	<b>Treasurer</b>
Carol Drake	<b>Past President, Concert Production Chair, Finance Chair</b>
Cathie Grant-Goodman	<b>Artistic Committee Chair</b>
Kim Locker	<b>Secretary, Administrative Committee Chair</b>
Ashley Oates	<b>President</b>
Noah Palmer	<b>Ex Officio, Artistic Director</b>
Doug Davis	
Mary Frances Miller	
David Skilbred	

**Saratoga Voices Section Leaders:**

Pat Markowski and Jan Moseman	<b>Soprano Section Leaders</b>
Linda Marschilok and Rebekah Oakes	<b>Alto Section Leaders</b>
Roy Fruiterman	<b>Tenor Section Leaders</b>
Dan Brunelle and Don Tosti	<b>Bass Section Leader</b>

**\*\*\*Contact Dan Brunelle at [saratogavoices@gmail.com](mailto:saratogavoices@gmail.com) with any questions you may have.\*\*\***

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

**Vision:**

**Expand:** Increase the choral arts repertoire to include musical theater, folk, gospel, a cappella, rock and world premieres.

**Nurture:** Highlight the health and social benefits of singing in a large, diverse, and committed choral group.

**Innovate:** Create state-of-the-art programming with audience participation, multimedia, and visual arts.

**Engage:** Continue to grow as a vital part of the greater Saratoga region's artistic and cultural life.

**Educate:** Provide an educational component with training, resources, and performance opportunities.

**Inspire:** Support the next generation of vocal artists through the Vocal Scholarship Program offering opportunity, mentorship, and community recognition.

**Mentor:** Mentor school and university choral groups. Feature guest artists from young artist programs.

**Cultivate:** Nurture appreciation of and support for the choral arts regionally and nationally.

**Collaborate:** Work as partners with instrumentalists, dancers, and arts organizations to produce unique choral experiences.

**Singer Registration:**

In order to have a sufficient amount of music, all singers (new and returning) are asked to pre-register for either the full season (fall, holiday and spring concerts) or for the current upcoming concert in the fall. Online registration forms are usually available by mid-July at <https://saratogavoices.org/get-involved/join-our-chorus/>. Registration forms can also be printed out and mailed to Saratoga Voices. Singers are encouraged to pay in advance using a credit card and the secure Square platform, but can also opt to pay in person (cash, check or credit card) at the first rehearsal.

**Pre-registration is necessary for us to order sufficient copies of music for singers. A singer who does not pre-register cannot be guaranteed music at the first rehearsal.**

**Auditions:**

Saratoga Voices uses auditions as a chance for our Artistic Director, Noah Palmer, to meet new singers and evaluate the vocal and musical skills of individual voices.

**Audition Information and Audition Requirements can be found by clicking on the following hyperlinks:**

- 1) [https://saratogavoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SV-AUDITION-INFO-25\\_26.pdf](https://saratogavoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SV-AUDITION-INFO-25_26.pdf)
- 2) [https://saratogavoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SV-AUDITION-REQUIREMENTS-2025\\_2026.pdf](https://saratogavoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SV-AUDITION-REQUIREMENTS-2025_2026.pdf)

**Membership Commitment:** SV choir members are highly encouraged to perform in all of the season's regularly scheduled concerts. Saratoga Voices MUST 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 or tell a Board member. Only those singers participating in a concert are allowed to attend rehearsals for that performance.

While 100% attendance is the goal, the number of allowed absences from rehearsals will be determined on a per concert basis. The excused absences for the 2025-26 season are:

1. Fall concert rehearsals – 3 absences
2. Holiday concert rehearsals – 2 absences
3. Spring concert rehearsals – 3 absences

Any singer absent for more than the allowed absences MUST consult with the Artistic Director.

**Membership Fee:** There is a participation fee of \$60.00 for each concert. This fee is non-refundable after three weeks and is due in full regardless of a singer's ability to participate in the concert. A yearly participation fee of \$200.00 is available, a savings of approximately 20% of the total concert season costs and is to be paid at the beginning of the fiscal year.

**Music Scores:** For each performance, music must be purchased by each singer. The cost varies according to the music score. These scores MUST be used in rehearsals and performances. This measure greatly maximizes the efficiency of rehearsal time.

#### **Rehearsals:**

- Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 7:00-9:30pm, with extra rehearsals prior to each performance.
- Rehearsals are held at the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School, 88 Lake Hill Road, Burnt Hills, NY 12027. If a change in venue is needed, as much advance notice as possible will be given.

#### **Membership Expectations and Rehearsal Etiquette:**

Saratoga Voices singers are expected to prepare to sing challenging choral masterworks at a high standard of musicality. In order to ensure success, singers must study their music at home and be prepared for each and every rehearsal with notes and rhythms reviewed ahead of time. This includes marking your scores with notes sent by the Artistic Director in-between rehearsals.

Regular attendance at Wednesday rehearsals is expected. 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 provided. Please wear one.

Bring pencils and highlighters. Mark scores as indicated by the Artistic Director.

Please – no perfumes or scented lotions. They may cause problems for other singers.

**Concert Dress:**

- Concert attire will be announced 1 month prior to each concert.

**Supporting Saratoga Voices**

There are many costs of running an organization like Saratoga Voices. As a Saratoga Voices singer, you are encouraged to support the choir financially (in addition to participation fees), and by volunteering your time and expertise.

- Committee participation.
- Ticket sales: A large audience adds to our revenues and also motivates the performers to sing their best. Be sure to tell your friends and family about our concerts, our Facebook Page, and our web site: [www.saratogavoices.org](http://www.saratogavoices.org).
- Choir fundraisers.
- Providing refreshments at rehearsal breaks.
- Patronage (personal tax-deductible donations) and sponsorships are our primary inflow to the operating budget.
- Sponsorship (e.g., covering the cost of a musician or soloist for a concert, or supporting the Vocal Scholarship Program with a gift).
- Soliciting matching gifts and contributions from other organizations.
- Advertising sales for concert program books.

**Please complete the Member Involvement & Support Form when completing the singer registration form. It can be found by clicking on the following hyperlink:**

<https://saratogavoices.org/member-support-survey/>

**Thank you!**