



Season 14 (2023-2024) Membership Packet

The Olympia Peace Choir

theolympiapeacechoir.org |

contact@theolympiapeacechoir.org

Welcome to the Olympia Peace Choir!

Our Mission

The Olympia Peace Choir is an inclusive community chorus dedicated to using the power of song to create peace and promote social justice and environmental stewardship.

Board of Directors

Chair:	Barb Morson	bmorson14@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Sharon Hong Maurmann	shmaurmann@gmail.com
Secretary:	Karen Kievit	kzkievit@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Angela Rush	treasurer@theolympiapeacechoir.org
Vice Treasurer:	Natalie Sawyer	butchcrooner@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Lee Coslow Hutton	membership@theolympiapeacechoir.org
Performance Coordinator:	Nancy Spagat	nlspagat@hotmail.com
Social Media and Publicity:	Nancy Spagat with choir volunteer Karen Lunde	press@theolympiapeacechoir.org
News and Notes Lead:	Karen Ray	choirnews@theolympiapeacechoir.org
Member at Large	Kanina Chavez	nkchavez@comcast.net

Musical Team

Artistic Director:	Kerri Lynn Nichols	singforpeacebaby@gmail.com	360-789-2056
Accompanist:	Robert Jorgensen	rbjorgensen@hotmail.com	
Musical Sign Interpreter:	Debbie Koshelnik	turnegi@comcast.net	

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Public Website <i>Share with friends and family!</i>	Link: theolympiapeacechoir.org Website manager: Karen Lunde Email: website@theolympiapeacechoir.org
Public Facebook Page <i>Share with friends and family!</i>	Link: facebook.com/theolympiapeacechoir Social media manager: Karen Lunde Email: website@theolympiapeacechoir.org
Facebook Group <i>A private community for members and past members of the choir</i>	Link: facebook.com/groups/TOPCmembers Contact for invite: website@theolympiapeacechoir.org

Dues

Annual dues are \$280 for Season 14. The dues can be paid in full at the start of the season, or paid in installments that can be arranged with the Treasurer. Scholarship support can partially cover your dues; if you need scholarship support, contact Angela Rush (arushangela@gmail.com) to make arrangements. We invite anyone who can to “pay it forward” by paying more than the dues amount if you would like to support scholarships for those in need.

Chorus Connection—Your Online Portal for All Things Peace Choir! During the coming season, you'll likely hear this message repeatedly from our director and board members: ***"It's on Chorus Connection!"*** Because we use Chorus Connection for everything from sharing printable music to audio files to announcements, it's important to log in regularly and learn your

way around.

Getting on Chorus Connection

RETURNING MEMBERS: If you're a returning member who participated in Season 12 or 13, you already have a Chorus Connection account. Please do the following at the beginning of the season:

- Log in at app.chorusconnection.com/topc
- Click My Account and then My Profile.
- Make sure your profile information, especially your email address, is up to date.
- Please add a profile photo. It helps everyone learn who you are.

NEW MEMBERS: Our membership chair will add you to Chorus Connection. Please check your email for an invite. (If you don't see the invite, check your spam folder.) If you haven't received your invite, please email membership@theolympiapeacechoir.org for assistance.

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Navigating Chorus Connection

Sign in: app.chorusconnection.com/topc

Music: app.chorusconnection.com/topc/music

Calendar: app.chorusconnection.com/topc/calendar

Member directory: app.chorusconnection.com/topc/members

Whether you are returning or are a new member, if you have any difficulty navigating Chorus Connection, please contact us for help at membership@theolympiapeacechoir.org.

Rehearsals & Music Management

When: Mondays, 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1925 Boulevard Road SE, Olympia

Rehearsal etiquette

- This year you will enter directly into the rehearsal space. Come to the designated entrance welcome table upon arrival and sign in (we have electronic sign-in this year).
- Attend all rehearsals on time. The most important part of the rehearsal is the first 10-15 minutes when we warm up, tune, align hearts and minds, and work on technique. **Please be in your seat with music ready to go at 7:10 p.m.**
 - Please begin arriving at 6:45 to stagger check-in.
 - **If you arrive after the start of rehearsal, please sit in the back of your section until there is a natural transition or break**, and then move forward.
- Bring children only if they are choir members. Do not bring pets.
- Refrain from wearing fragrances. They can trigger allergic reactions, headaches, and asthma. ● Use good hygiene. (And consider avoiding garlic, onions, and spicy foods just before singing!) ● Do


not bring food or drinks (other than room temperature water) into the rehearsal space. ● Turn off phones and other devices that make noise. Phones can also be placed in Airplane Mode. ● **During rehearsals, please give your full attention to our director!**

- Don't speak with other choir members during the rehearsal; it's distracting to both your director and others seated nearby.
- Save socializing for before and after rehearsal and during mid-rehearsal break. ● The use of paper or sheet music is preferred. Music on tablets is allowed during weekly rehearsal, but not for dress rehearsals or performances. Please do not use phones for your music. ● **Avoid blurting out questions or comments during the rehearsal or our announcements.** We must optimize every minute of rehearsal! If our director asks for questions, please raise your hand or direct questions to your section leader. Section leaders will communicate with our director. ● Sing so that your voice blends. You should be able to hear yourself and the people around you. ● During our break, our director needs time alone to relax and plan. If you have a question or concern, please consult a board member or your section leader. Please use Kerri Lynn's email to communicate with her: singforpeacebaby@gmail.com. If you must speak with Kerri Lynn during rehearsal, please wear a mask to protect her.

● Feedback helps us grow, but please share your suggestions and opinions *privately* in a courteous, respectful way.

Music Management and Printing

Some music will be stored digitally in Chorus Connection, and some pieces will be handed out at rehearsal. After you complete your membership form and pay your dues (or set up an installment or scholarship plan), follow these steps:

1. Log into your Chorus Connection account (app.chorusconnection.com/topc) from a desktop computer or device connected to a printer.
2. Navigate to the Music section.
 - a. Desktop: Click **Music** on the top menu bar.
 - b. Print-enabled device: Click the three horizontal lines in the upper right of your screen, then select **Music** from the menu on the left.
3. Click on the blue **Music button** to the right of **2023-24 Season Resources**.
4. Click on the Season 14 Music folder.
5. Click the blue Open button to the right of each music title, then select the Print icon  (usually found in the upper right) to print.
6. If you don't have a printer at home, **you can print out your music at any Timberland Library branch. If you are a member, \$44 of FREE copies are allowed per month (copies are \$0.10 apiece). If you are not a member, you can still print your copies for \$0.10/ copy.** We will also identify choir members willing to help with printing music.
7. You can download music to your device by clicking the green Download button to the right of each music title.

Photocopying

We only purchase enough copies of each song for choir members to print one copy of their music for the season from Chorus Connection. You may not make additional copies of music, warmups, narrations, or other materials without express permission from our director.

Preparing your music for rehearsals

- Please purchase a black, non-shiny 3-ring binder no larger than 2 inches to hold your music. ● Make sure to put your name and email address or phone number inside your binder so it can be returned to you if you misplace it. We suggest you put your music in alphabetical order prior to rehearsal.
- Bring a pencil to rehearsal! You'll need it for making notes on your music.
- **Do not make additional copies of/or share our music in any way.** Composers earn their income through music sales. Music scores are also protected by copyright laws.

Song selection

It is the sole responsibility of our artistic director to select music for the choir, which is planned far in advance of the season. She gives careful consideration to the balance of different types of music, level of difficulty, balance of parts, the choir's budget, and the music's alignment with our mission and theme. It is outside of her contracted responsibilities to review music suggestions and create arrangements.

Copyright Guidelines

The Olympia Peace Choir is committed to respecting the copyright of the artists who create the music we perform. Illegal copying, recording, and posting copyrighted music and recordings hurts the artists who work hard to create and protect their work. **We are committed to acting with integrity as part of our mission. Please communicate our copyright policy to your family and friends.** Discourage them from recording concerts, and from sharing it publicly on social media, and avoid sharing any videos you see on social media other than those posted by our official Facebook Page.

Recording during Rehearsals

No recording is allowed during rehearsals.

Recording during Performances

Absolutely NO recording of performances, including performances of music within our rehearsals. You may request permission to record our director's original compositions or arrangements of music in the public domain directly from her.

Recorded Performances to Share

Occasionally, our social media manager will record pieces during rehearsals that are either in the public domain or our director's compositions. Our manager works with our director to determine which

pieces are acceptable to share publicly. If a recording is shared on The Olympia Peace Choir Facebook page, you may freely share it with your family and friends.

In this choir season, a documentary is being made about the choir. Music from this documentary will be posted and available for public listening.

Performances

Performances are how we share our message with the local community and inspire them to act peacefully, think globally, and protect our precious environment. Every performance is an opportunity to connect. This is why we have high expectations for performance behavior and protocols.

Deciding Whether to Perform

We're committed to giving the best performances possible. The word "choir" means "together." Rehearsals are essential to help us develop as a group, blend, and align our parts. Because of this, we ask that you carefully consider whether you're ready to perform at any given event if you've missed

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several rehearsals. We cover an extensive amount of material in one rehearsal. The protocol for determining whether you can perform is as follows:

- If you have missed several rehearsals in preparation for a performance, contact our director to discuss whether you are ready to perform with the group.
- Attendance at the final two rehearsals prior to a performance **are required**. Occasionally, our director will make an exception under specific circumstances, so communicate with her well in advance.

Memorizing Music

We encourage you to do your best to memorize performance music. If that is not possible, you may use your binder. All songs from the oral/aural tradition **MUST** be memorized. Use the recordings on Chorus Connection and rely on your section: you are one member of a team!

Performance Attire

Our artistic director will let us know what to wear in advance of each performance. For most performances, black pants or skirt and a bright, solid-color dress shirt or blouse is standard attire.

Communication

Our artistic director and the board communicate with choir members in a few different ways. It's important to give your attention to each of them to have the best member experience.

IMPORTANT: Please make use of the resources we've worked hard to provide for you before reaching

out for help. If you're unable to find the answer to your question, the board is happy to help. Board member email addresses are listed at the beginning of this document.

Announcements at Rehearsals

A member of the board makes choir-related announcements during rehearsals. To keep our rehearsals on schedule, we will not make announcements on behalf of individual choir members unless they are specifically related to the choir. (An example would be announcing a sectional rehearsal.) **Please don't interrupt our announcements to share your own!** Email choirnews@theolyMPIapeacechoir.org by noon on Monday if you would like us to consider including your announcement.

Community announcements

A Community Connections table is located at the back of the rehearsal space. This space is for community announcements, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and even rental announcements and items for sale. All members may post information at the Community Connections table. Contact Lee Coslow Hutton (leecoslowtopc@gmail.com) with any questions.

Weekly Member Emails (News and Notes)

Our weekly update, "News and Notes," is sent to choir membership every Wednesday or Thursday. It contains important rehearsal notes and tips, reflections by our Artistic Director, and ongoing

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announcements. If you don't receive your weekly email, here are a couple of things you can do to solve the problem.

1. Check your spam folder. Your weekly member emails may be filtered there by accident. If you find that your choir email is being filtered as spam, please consult your email program's help documentation ... or search YouTube for helpful videos.
2. Check Chorus Connection: If you're still struggling to get your weekly email delivered to your inbox, you'll find a copy of the email on the Olympia Peace Choir Chorus Connection home page.
3. Ask the membership chair: If you find you just can't locate your weekly email, send an email to membership@theolyMPIapeacechoir.org and describe the steps you've tried. We'll do our best to problem-solve!

Withdrawal Policy

October 3 (after the first four rehearsals) is the last date for early withdrawal from the choir, **after which time your membership dues are no longer refundable**. Contact the membership chair (membership@theolyMPIapeacechoir.org) no later than October 3 to obtain a refund of your dues payment less \$80, whether you are a returning or a new choir member. These non-refundable fees cover the costs of music, season expenses and other materials for the choir.

Season 14 Calendar

The Season 14 calendar can be found on Chorus Connection. Our calendar is subject to change.

Changes will be announced and posted. Please also consult the Season Bookmark which lists all events. Please prioritize and set aside these dates in your personal calendar.

Caring for Your Mask (If you are Choosing to Wear One)

As noted on your registration form and liability waiver, masks will be optional this year. However, all members should be prepared with a mask in the event of a local COVID surge or other situation when masks may be required.

In rehearsals, singers masks or personal KN95s are acceptable, and can be of any color. Only **Black** masks are acceptable for performances. The choir has 60 singers masks available for purchase at \$20 each. Members can also purchase their own masks. Sources of singers masks for purchase can be obtained by asking Nancy Spagat.

Storing Singers Masks

Store your mask in a paper bag or basket—never in plastic until you need it again. Sterilize it by airing it for 7 days or clean with an alcohol (not Clorox!) swab or wet-wipe. You can also wash your singers mask by hand in hot soapy water and hang to dry or dry outside in the sunshine. Never put your mask in a washing machine or dryer.

Peace Choir Teams

The Olympia Peace Choir does not survive on music alone! It requires your assistance to make it run smoothly and to promote community. Below are descriptions of Teams that help make the choir run. Service to the choir is considered part of your dues as a member. Join a Team or suggest one.

Social Team

Supports choir community-building at retreats and social events, staffs the Community Connections Table at rehearsals.

Fundraising Team

Plans, publicizes, and coordinates various fundraising activities throughout the choir year.

Membership Team

Helps support membership recruitment and engagement, welcomes choir members at rehearsals.

Performance Support Team

Supports performances via publicity and volunteer engagement to assist at performances.

Archive Project Team

Helps gather, document, and arrange photos, videos, recordings, concert programs and other historical information from thirteen years of TOPC to be shared on our website.

Technology Support Team

Helps choir members with technology support around Chorus Connection use, music download and part recordings. Also supports Board in specific projects such as email lists, form development, flyer development.

Rehearsal Set-up Team

Trained in and assists with equipment load and unload and set up.

Director's Assistance Team

Assist our director with tasks during rehearsals and performances as needed.

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Ways You Can Support The Olympia Peace Choir

The Olympia Peace Choir's financial wellbeing strongly depends on donations. You can help! Here are easy ways that you (and your family and friends) can support the choir through corporate rebate programs and the Washington Combined Fund Drive. Every dollar adds up and keeps us singing!



If you shop at **Ralph's or Bayview Thriftway**, you can direct 1% of your purchases to The Olympia Peace Choir. You need to have or to sign up for a "ThriftCard." When you access the settings for your account, click on "My Loyalty Details" and then the green nonprofits tab where you can choose The Olympia Peace Choir. You don't get a physical "card." Rather, once you are registered in the Stormans/Thriftway system, you just give your phone number to the cashier when you make purchases at either Ralph's or Bayview.



Fred Meyer's Community Rewards Program is like Thriftway; you can set up a free digital account. Use the directions and prompts on the website to choose The Olympia Peace Choir as the charity you want to support. Similar to Thriftway, you can give your phone number to the cashier when you make purchases. If you'd like to have a physical "Fred Meyer Shopper's Card," you can get one at Customer Service at the store and present this card instead of giving your phone number.



If you are a state employee or retiree, you can give safely and easily through the Washington State Combined Fund Drive's online system or with a paper contribution form. Visit the **Washington Combined Fund Drive website** to learn how to set up contributions. If you are currently a state employee, monthly contributions can come out of your paycheck in an ongoing way, or via a single donation. If you are a retiree, you can arrange to have contributions deducted from your PERS pension; contact the CFD office to set this up at 360-902-4162.