



# COLORADO REPERTORY SINGERS

## MEMBER HANDBOOK

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## Welcome!

You have chosen to join a fantastic community choral group whose mission – and challenge – is to provide for the education, cultural enlightenment, and entertainment of the public through the presentation of a variety of choral music. Colorado Repertory Singers (CRS) provides singers of all ages an environment that encourages musical growth, provides access to a full range of vocal works, and fosters a sense of community among its membership.

Our choir consists of about 60 singers who come together to inspire and engage our audiences through the creation of art. CRS performs a wide range of music and collaborates with other community music groups. In April 2002, more than 500 Front Range residents turned out to hear our first concert and to dance to Big Band music with the Joe Peterson Orchestra. Since then, we have presented concerts of love songs, light classical works, Christmas songs, patriotic selections, Broadway hits, movie favorites, folk music, pop music, bluegrass, Americana, hymns, spirituals, Handel's "Messiah," and Carmina Burana.

Our concert guest musicians have included the Boulder Valley Brass, P'Zazz Children's Performing Choir, the Joe Peterson Dance Orchestra, Dance Arts Studios, Canti Dolci, the Broomfield High School Chorus, the Douglas County Children's Chorus, the Tri-City Baptist church Bell Choir, Steel Pennies, Celtic duo Margot Krimmel and Beth Gadbaw, Colorado Children's Chorale, and orchestra members from the Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Symphony orchestras. In 2014 and 2015, we performed with the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra at DPO's Christmas Concerts and in a performance of Gustav Holst's "The Planets."

For the 2016-2017 season, we are continuing the journey that we celebrated last year in our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. This season will be full of great music, and as a special treat for us and our audiences, we will be partnering with the Broomfield High School choir in a performance of Cathedral Classics. Thank you for being a part of this fine ensemble and we look forward to making fantastic music.

The members of the chorus share a love of music and a commitment to excellence. CRS strives to provide singers an environment that encourages personal musical growth and continuing access to a full range of vocal works. We recognize the need to bridge generations and afford mentoring opportunities to young singers if a viable heritage of diverse vocal works is to remain for future generations to enjoy. We are a non-profit organization filed as a 501(c)3 organization with the State of Colorado.

Our founder and first artistic director, Ron Williams, served from CRS's inception in 2002 until his sudden and untimely death in 2013. We are delighted to have Dr. Kyle Fleming as our artistic director now and look forward to another successful season under his dynamic and enthusiastic leadership, ably supported by collaborative pianist Tad Koriath and conducting fellow Ana Spadoni.

# Vision and Mission

## *Vision Statement*

Colorado Repertory Singers provides an excellent concert experience presenting a diverse repertoire of fine choral works.

## *Mission Statement*

Colorado Repertory Singers (CRS) provides for the education, cultural enlightenment, and entertainment of the public through the presentation of a variety of choral music; CRS provides singers of all ages an environment that encourages musical growth, provides access to a full range of vocal works, and foster a sense of community among its membership.

CRS strives to improve and grow as a choir, continually recruiting eager, talented singers. We accept new members at the beginning of the season in September and again in January, though we recruit at all times. We are a dedicated core of members who are enthusiastic about our mission, and our choral involvement is an important priority in our lives. Our director leads us in growing artistically and we encourage one another in the development of joyful music. We work toward increasing the awareness of our chorus by publicizing our concerts, auditions, and news using a multi-faceted approach.

## **Artistic Staff**

Artistic Director: Dr. Kyle Fleming  
Collaborative Pianist: Tad Koriath  
Conducting Fellow: Ana Spadoni

## **Board of Directors**

As a 501(c)3 organization, CRS is run by an elected board of directors. The board consists of the following positions and officers:

Artistic Director – Kyle Fleming  
President – Amy Marcussen  
VP of Performance – Kristi Horvath  
VP of Marketing – Mary Soroka  
VPs of Development – Jim Becklenberg and Tom Pringle  
VP of Membership & Volunteers – Stacy Worthington  
Secretary – Julie Ascarrunz  
Treasurer – Carrie Grabau  
Section Leaders – selected by the artistic director

Board members are elected after the March concert for a two-year term. Board members

manage the business of the chorus, and are expected to serve as leaders, mentors, and role models for the membership.

ALL CRS MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS! The meetings will be scheduled and announced as far in advance as possible. Board meeting minutes will be posted on the website after approval by the Board members. A directory of members will also be maintained on the members-only section of the website. The information contained in the directory cannot be provided to non-members without consent of the member(s) whose information is sought, and the directory cannot be used for commercial purposes.

Contact Information for Board Members:

Email Addresses:

Artistic Director Email: AD@coloradorepertorysingers.org

General Email: Info@coloradorepertorysingers.org

President Email: president@coloradorepertorysingers.org

Vice President Emails: VP-of-

[Development/Marketing/Membership/Performance]@coloradorepertorysingers.org

Mailing address: Colorado Repertory Singers

PO Box 791

Broomfield, CO 80038-0791

Phone: 720-924-2473

## **Dues and Grants**

As a 501(c)3 organization, we rely on many forms of funding. One key way to establish an effective and stable financial base is to collect dues from our membership. These dues are collected annually at the beginning of the season. The annual fee is \$165 per person.

We are grateful for the financial support in the form of grants we receive from a variety of organizations, including the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and other foundations.

We are always looking for new grant opportunities. If you have a lead, please talk to the VPs of Development or any other Board member.

## **Auditions**

Colorado Repertory Singers is an auditioned ensemble. Auditions are held twice each year, in September and January. Membership is open to a wide variety of skill and experience levels. The following considerations are used in determining if CRS is the right fit for singers interested in joining:

- \* A moderate level of aural skills (i.e. ability to learn music by ear) and/or basic music reading skills
- \* Previous singing experience in a choir or vocal ensemble
- \* Strong commitment to the rehearsal and performance schedule
- \* A desire to engage in the music-making process with passion and energy as well as respect and care for other members of the CRS community

CRS is committed to creating a choral community where singers feel supported and nurtured as they grow and use their musical gifts. To this end, auditions are held in conjunction with open rehearsals, in which interested singers are invited to participate along with the choir. Auditioners will be asked to do a brief "voicing" with the artistic director, which will include vocalises to check for range, simple sight-reading, and short aural skills exercises. Singers do not need to prepare a solo for these open auditions.

## Communication and Website

The CRS website is [www.coloradorepertorysingers.org](http://www.coloradorepertorysingers.org). Please check the blog regularly for news, events and important information on the members-only section of the website. Please send your friends and family members to the website so they can keep up with our concert schedule and other news. We also have a Facebook page and are on Twitter and Instagram; please tell your friends and family to follow us there.

Our main method of communication with the members is a blog on the members-only section of the website. Members are requested to check the blog every week before the rehearsal for rehearsal plans, upcoming events, and reminders. Members are also placed on an email list for urgent announcements or reminders. These means allow each member to receive the necessary information and should reduce the time needed during rehearsal for announcements. It is important that your contact information is correct, so if your email changes, please send an email to: [VP-of-Membership@coloradorepertorysingers.org](mailto:VP-of-Membership@coloradorepertorysingers.org).

## Rehearsals

The CRS season runs from September to June. Rehearsals for the 2016-17 season begin with an all-day retreat and rehearsal on Saturday, September 17, then each Thursday evening from 7:00PM to 9:30PM. Rehearsals will be held at Broomfield United Methodist Church (545 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Broomfield CO), unless noted on the calendar. There may be occasional deviations from this schedule or changes in location, which will be communicated well in advance. A yearly calendar will be provided on the members-only section of the website so singers can have a clear understanding of their commitment for the season.

## Expectations of Singers

Rehearsals begin at 7:00PM. We appreciate it if singers are in their seats with a pencil and music in their hand and a water bottle at their side, ready to rehearse. Singers are expected to stay for the full length of rehearsal so as not to miss important coverage of music.

Sectionals may be called by the section leaders or director on an as-needed basis. Typically, there will be one additional rehearsal, held on Saturday, to ensure our success for each concert.

Dress rehearsals generally occur the Thursday before the performance during normal rehearsal time, though there may be exceptions. These are vital to the concert performance. It is our chance to coordinate technical aspects of the concerts and rehearse with any musicians who may be joining us for the concert.

As with most choirs, we ask our singers not to wear perfume, cologne, scented lotion or other fragrances during rehearsals and concerts. Some singers are sensitive or allergic to ingredients in scented products, which may impair their ability to sing. We appreciate your cooperation.

## Committees

There are several key committees that help make Colorado Repertory Singers a success. Our Board of Directors is made up of mostly singers, so their time is already pulled in several directions. With the engagement of membership on these crucial committees, it helps the Board create a more fluid process. The committees that will need additional help are:

- Performance
- Development (Corporate and Individual)
- Marketing
- Volunteers

We encourage all members to participate in the committee(s) that interest them.

## Attendance Policy

We ask that you make every effort to attend all rehearsals for each concert we perform. We do understand that illness, weather, work, and other obligations do come into play over the course of a season. You should notify your section leader when you are unable to make a rehearsal.

This policy has been incorporated so that we can ensure we have the best possible sound for the choir's performance. The best possible sound is a result of the most rehearsal time

for all members under the Artistic Director's leadership. Each concert period starts fresh with attendance.

Following are the guidelines for the current CRS attendance policy:

Section leaders will take attendance of current members at each rehearsal.

Mandatory rehearsals include the Saturday retreat-rehearsal and the dress rehearsal(s) scheduled for each concert. If you **MUST** miss one of these, please notify your section leader as far in advance as possible.

To ensure no errors have been made in the attendance records, you will be notified when your section leader has determined that you have missed two or more rehearsals for each concert preparation.

When three or more rehearsals have been missed, the section leader will notify the member, the Artistic Director, and the current president.

**The Artistic Director will have the final say regarding a singer's participation in the concert.**

## **Concert Attire**

Men's regular concert attire will consist of a black tux, white shirt, and tie in a style and color to be determined before each concert. Women are required to purchase a black top and skirt or pants from the vendor selected by the Artistic Director and Board. The cost for the women's costumes is approximately \$70.

## **Posting of Audio or Video Recordings**

To ensure that CRS is represented in the best and most consistent possible light, any audio or video recordings made by CRS members, family, friends, or audience members at concerts or additional performances shall not be posted online with a "Colorado Repertory Singers" tag or identification unless the recordings have been reviewed and permission given by the Artistic Director and VP of Marketing. If you currently have recordings posted that have not been approved, please remove any CRS tag or identification and submit the recordings to the Artistic Director and VP of Marketing for approval.

## **Thank you!**

We appreciate our dedicated and talented members. Thank you for doing your best to make Colorado Repertory Singers the best community chorus in the Denver area!