



Winter 2025

Thank you for your interest in Women's Voices Chorus. We hope you will decide to audition and would like to provide you with a little advance information about some of our policies and expectations. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Artistic Director, Laura Sam, or any member of the group.

Who we are: Women's Voices Chorus is the Triangle's only community-based classical chorus for sopranos and altos. We sing classical sacred and secular music, folk song settings, spirituals, and a little bit of jazz. Much of our repertoire is by female composers. We generally have about 65 to 70 singers. We welcome singers of all ages—high school through retirement.

Here's why we love to sing: By delving into historic repertoire, we revive and relive our choral history. Learning new works stretches us musically and revives us mentally and spiritually. We work hard and laugh a lot at our rehearsals, forging a close-knit community where each member cares for her fellow singers. We strive for the highest levels of musical excellence and revel in the chance to create something beautiful as part of a greater whole.

Schedule: We rehearse on Monday evenings 7:30-9:30 pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chapel Hill, hold a one-day retreat each semester, and give concerts in January and April or May in Durham and Chapel Hill. For Winter 2025, rehearsals begin on **Monday, August 26, 2024**, the retreat will be on **Saturday, October 19, 2024**, and the concert is scheduled for **Sunday, January 26, 2025**.

Attendance: Regular attendance is vital to the health of any chorus. Members who miss a technical rehearsal or miss more than four rehearsals during the winter semester or three rehearsals during the spring semester may not be allowed to sing in the concert. A retreat counts as two rehearsals for attendance purposes. Attendance via Zoom will be allowed for extenuating circumstances such as illness or travel but will count as ½ an absence.

Dues & Music: Dues are \$180 per concert season, prorated to \$90 for singers who join the chorus after our winter concert. However, no one should feel the need to leave or hesitate to join the chorus for financial reasons. When paying online, an option is available to pay what you can, no questions asked. As always, you can also contact the Treasurer about scholarship help or to set up an alternate payment schedule or amount. All financial arrangements are confidential. You will not need to purchase music; it is provided to you on loan from WVC.

Practice: Most chorus members find it essential to practice their music between Monday sessions. Even the best sight-readers can benefit from some review at home. Practice files are available online for members.

Concerts: Concert dress is all black, from neck to toe, including pants or floor-length dress or skirt, top, shoes, and black, opaque socks or tights. We also wear solid-colored scarves that can be purchased or borrowed from WVC. A few weeks before the concert, each chorus member receives five tickets to sell to friends, family, coworkers, etc.

Public Health Guidelines: Public Health Guidelines regarding any health protocols will be continually reviewed and WVC policies will be adapted as needed.

Get Involved! Women's Voices is a member-run organization. Every member is encouraged to do some volunteer work. Announcements will be made at rehearsals and via e-mail when volunteers are needed. Please consider ways you may be able to help.

For more information about the chorus, email us at contact@womensvoiceschorus.org
or visit our website at www.womensvoiceschorus.org

Audition Information

We look forward to hearing you sing. Here's everything you need to know about auditioning.

Open Rehearsal: **Monday, August 26, 2024, 7:30p** – We strongly encourage you to come try a rehearsal, meet our members, and find out what we'll be singing this semester.

Date: Auditions are by appointment on **Thursday, August 29, 2024**

Time: See which slots are available and sign up for your [Audition Time here](#). You can also make alternate arrangements with Laura Sam, our Artistic Director.

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in the Ministry Center (older building)
300 E Rosemary St, Chapel Hill; for auditions, please use the entrance at the top of the ramp/stairs as shown in the map below.

For your 10-minute audition, please be prepared to:

- Tell us a bit about your previous choral or other musical experiences.
- Sing some vocal exercises.
- Sing a short solo piece or an excerpt of a solo piece (a minute and a half or two):
 - This might be a folk song, art song, hymn, aria, etc.
 - You may sing a cappella or accompanied. If accompanied, please bring a copy of your music for our pianist or a recorded track and your own playback device.
 - You do not need to memorize your piece.
- Demonstrate tonal and rhythmic memory. To do this, you'll echo-sing a short series of pitches and rhythms.
- Sight-read an 8-measure melody. If reading music is not a current strength, please do not hesitate to audition – we affirm that singers learn music both by ear and by reading.

In the audition room with you will be the Artistic Director, Director's Assistant, and Pianist. For review purposes, we will record your audition (audio only). The recording won't be made public or shared with anyone beyond the people in the audition room, and it will be deleted after audition decisions are made. We'll be in touch by email within 48 hours of your audition with the audition results.

Any questions about auditioning?

Please email Artistic Director Laura Sam at director@womensvoiceschorus.org.

