



Member Handbook

Mission Statement

The Mountainside Master Chorale strives to entertain and enlighten audiences and its members alike through performance of exceptional and stimulating choral music. In fulfilling our mission, the Chorale strives to present diverse repertoire and exhilarating performances, featuring music that is accessible and challenging, classic and contemporary, and most of all, rewarding to singers and audience alike.

Dr. Sébastien Vallée, Artistic Director
Susan Winckler, Assistant Director



Important Dates for 2012-2013

First Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 10
Dues and Commitment Form Deadline	Monday, October 1
The Shoppes at Chino Hills Tree Lighting Ceremony, 7:00 p.m. Call time TBA	Friday, November 16
Rehearsal, Glendale City Church, 7:00 p.m.	Monday, December 3
Concert, Glendale City Church, Call 6:00 pm, Concert 7:30	Friday, December 7
Optional: Ed Zeliff, La Habra, Call TBA, Concert 3:00 p.m. Additional rehearsal TBA	Sunday, December 9
Forest Lawn, Candle Lighting Memorial, Call 6:00 p.m. Service 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 12
Dress Rehearsal (no dress), CUCCC, 6:30 pm	Friday, December 14
Winter Concert, CUCCC, Call 6:00 p.m. Concert 7:30 p.m.	Saturday, Dec.15
Winter Concert, CUCCC, Call 2:00 p.m. Concert 3:30 p.m.	Sunday, December 16
Sing-a-Long, Pilgrim Congregational, 2 p.m.	Sunday, January 13
No Rehearsal	Monday, January 14
Rehearsal, Glendale City Church, 7:30 p.m.	Monday, March 4
Concert, Glendale City Church, Call 2:30 p.m. Concert 4:00 p.m.	Saturday, March 9
Rehearsal, CUCCC, 7:30 pm	Monday, March 18
Dress Rehearsal (no dress), CUCCC, 2:00 pm	Saturday, March 23
Mid Year Concert, CUCCC, Call 2:30 p.m. Concert 4:00 pm	Sunday, March 24
Forest Lawn, Easter Sunrise Service, Call 5:00 a.m. Service 6:00 a.m.	Sunday, March 31
Optional: Susan Winckler, Pilgrim Congregational 7:30 p.m.	Tuesday, April 23
Optional: Susan Winckler, Pilgrim Congregational 10:00 a.m. Additional rehearsals and call times TBA	Sunday, April 28
Gala Fundraiser, Call 1:00 p.m., Event begins 3:30 p.m.	Sunday, May 5
June Concert Dress Rehearsal (no dress), Garrison, 2:00 p.m.	Saturday, June 8
June Concert, Garrison, Call 2:00 pm, Concert 3:30 p.m.	Sunday, June 9
Golf Tournament, San Dimas, 1:00 pm	Monday, June 24

**Rehearsals take place on all Monday nights at 7:30, including "holiday" Mondays except December 17, 24, and 31. Sectionals begin at 6:45 all Mondays except the 2nd Monday of the month, to allow for Board Meetings.*



Mountainside Master Chorale Board of Directors 2012-2013

Assistant Director, Alto Section Leader, and Chair, Music Committee: Susan Winckler

President: Tom Molinaro

Vice President and Chair, Development Committee: Richard Simpson

Treasurer: Anne Simpson

Recording Secretary: Andrew del Castillo

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Kirk

Chair, Concert Site Committee: Melvin Mulder

Chair, Marketing Committee: Pymm Chartrand

Chair Recruiting/Membership Committee: Marilyn Kausen

Director for Legal Affairs: Larry Thorp

Directors and Librarians: Diane & Chuck Whitham

Director of Public Relations, Webmaster, and Chair, Technology Committee: Antony Nazarian

Director/Ticket Manager: Jim Ottosen

Directors at Large: Judy Carpenter, Robert Carpenter, Al Gernon, Jim Long, Joan Molinaro, and Lisa Simpson

Non-Board Leadership

Past President and Newsletter Editor: Ed Linberg

Soprano Section Leader: Robin Billings-Reyes

Tenor and Bass Section Leader: Kevin Wiley

Chair, 20th Anniversary Committee: Maggie Riehn

Dues and Fees

Every member is required to pay dues of \$220 at the beginning of the season, or \$75 at the beginning of each concert cycle. Payment is required by the fourth rehearsal in the fall, and by the third rehearsal of the March and June concert cycles. Included in these dues are two tickets for each concert: a set of season tickets for those paying full dues in the fall, and individual tickets for those paying dues with each concert cycle. If desired, members may pay dues using MasterCard or Visa.

If this requirement is a hardship, a letter must be submitted to the board by the due date of the dues, explaining the hardship and proposing an alternate plan, which must be approved by the board. Alternate plans will not include tickets. Alternate plans may include a dues reduction to \$140, half of which may be payable by a scholarship fund.

A one-time music deposit of \$30 is required from all chorale members. The cost of missing music will be deducted from this amount. The music deposit will roll over to the next season, and may be returned when leaving the chorale permanently. This music deposit may not be waived by the board.

Finally, each member of the chorale is expected to donate an item that can be auctioned for the Gala Fundraiser's Silent Auction, sell ten concert tickets, and donate either an additional \$100 OR ten hours of service. The commitment sheet gives further details on how to satisfy the service requirement.



Policies and Procedures

A committed member of MMC is one who follows the guidelines as stated in the handbook, which include the following: attendance expectations, signing up for extra Chorale duties as listed on the commitment page, and paying dues. Members are required to sign the commitment page, and turn it in to the treasurer by the fourth rehearsal.

Auditions

Membership Auditions: Membership in the Mountainside Master Chorale is by audition only. Initial auditions are conducted privately with the Artistic Director. Singers are evaluated on vocal quality, blending abilities, range, sense of pitch and rhythm, and sight singing. At this time, potential members will be apprised of membership responsibilities and time commitments. These auditions are typically held in September. Auditions at other times may be held at the discretion of the Artistic Director.

Re-auditioning: Vocal evaluation may be necessary for any of the following reasons:

1. Leave of absence
2. Attendance issues
3. Perception of vocal problems or inadequate music preparation and discipline (i.e., not knowing the music, not marking music where needed, not watching the director, etc.)

Auditions for Solos: Solo auditions may be available to chorale members, and will be announced in advance by the Artistic Director.

Rehearsals, Attendance, and Absences

Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 10:00 PM including holidays unless otherwise announced. Members are encouraged to be early in order to pick up new music and arrange music in rehearsal order. A 10-15 minute break will occur midway through the rehearsal for refreshments and announcements. If you have any announcements, you are encouraged to plan in advance if possible, and submit the information to be printed in the newsletter. *Please refrain from wearing any kind of fragrance during rehearsals or performances.*

Sectional rehearsals are held every Monday night (except the second Monday of the month due to Board meetings) from 6:45 to 7:20 PM. (You must be on time to get credit.) The purpose of sectionals is to give Chorale members additional rehearsal time for difficult sections, extra practice on songs in a foreign language, memorizing certain songs, etc. Members are encouraged to come with suggested passages that will be helpful for them to practice. Sectionals may be attended in advance in anticipation of expected or unexpected absences. Three sectionals can be used to make up for one rehearsal missed. *All members are encouraged to attend sectionals in order to be prepared.*

Attendance: Chorale members will commit to the Monday night rehearsals. It should be the goal of every member to have 100% attendance. However, in case of illness, emergencies, work related conflicts, etc., the following guidelines have been set by the Board and Musical Director: two rehearsals may be missed without consequence; a third missed rehearsal may be made up by attending *three* sectionals. If an additional absence is necessary, the Assistant Director and Artistic Director will determine an appropriate solution, on an individual basis. This may include an individual evaluation of knowledge of the music by the director and/or a special rehearsal. Every attempt will be made to work out a satisfactory solution rather than lose the member for the concert. *All members are required to participate in all concerts, all dress rehearsals and the annual Fundraiser.* There may be festivals to attend at the discretion of the Artistic Director.



Absences: If a member knows of an unavoidable absence from rehearsal, he/she needs to notify his/her section leader ahead of time, if possible. If a member is ill, the section leader should be contacted in advance if possible, as the section leader is responsible for taking attendance. *Please do not leave the director or section leader wondering about your absence.*

Extended or Leave of Absence: If a member knows it is necessary to miss a particular concert, the member must submit in writing a letter outlining reasons for the miss to be presented to the Artistic Director and the Board for a final decision on granting a leave of absence. Members missing two or more concerts in a season may be asked to re-audition before resuming membership at the discretion of the Artistic Director.

Concert Attire

Women's Concert Dress: The outfit consists of a wine beaded jacket and dress, black dress shoes (comfortable and presentable), and tan nylons. The cost of the dress and jacket is approximately \$135.

Men's Concert Dress: Men wear a standard black tuxedo with wing tip collar, a white shirt with black studs, black dress shoes, and a bow tie and cummerbund (color to be determined).

Music and Music Folders

Music: Music will be distributed by the librarians at the beginning of each concert cycle, and occasionally, throughout the concert cycle. Chorale members are encouraged to have a pencil available during each rehearsal for marking music, as requested by the Artistic Director. *Please use a pencil only.* (Music marked with a pen will have to be replaced, and will be charged a minimum of \$5, to be deducted from music deposit.) Music is typically turned back in at the end of the concert for which that music was used. Music needs to be turned in as instructed. New music will not be distributed to you until all previous music is turned in.

Music folders: Black standard sized music folders are required for concerts. You may provide your own or obtain one from Anne Simpson, Treasurer.

Chorale Leadership

All musical or artistic questions should initially be directed to your Section Leader, followed by the Assistant Director.

Their responsibilities include:

- Leading sectional rehearsals
- Calling absent members when necessary
- Answering musical questions by members
- Making sure absent members have notes and performance markings
- Speaking with the Artistic Director regarding any musical questions on your behalf
- Taking complete and accurate attendance records, and compiling attendance statistics at the end of each concert cycle
- Assisting with seating assignments
- Assisting the Artistic Director with warm-ups and rehearsals, as needed
- Enforcing handbook regulations to include uniformity of attire
- Conducting ongoing evaluations of singers by moving throughout their section each week

At the director's discretion, Mountainside Master Chorale may employ a small number of singers to augment the quality of the Chorale's rehearsals and performances.

Biographies

Dr. Sébastien Vallée, Artistic Director

Active conductor, scholar, clinician, and adjudicator, Dr. Sébastien Vallée is Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, where he teaches conducting at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, directs the Three Summer Master of Music in Choral Conducting and the CSULA Summer Choral Festival, and conducts the University's choral ensembles and opera productions. Prior to his appointment at CSULA, Dr. Vallée was on the choral faculty of the University of Redlands. Ensembles under his direction have sung for the California Music Educators Conferences, and were awarded first and second place at the San Luis Obispo International Choral Competition in 2010.

Vallée has studied under such renowned conductors as Chester Alwes, Eduardo Diazmuñoz, Iwan Edwards, Agnes Grossman, Chantal Masson-Bourque, Nicole Paiement, Raphaele Ponti, Miroslav Papsavov, Donald Schleicher, and Jon Washburn. Dr. Vallée holds degrees from Université Laval, the Université de Sherbrooke, University of California, Santa Cruz, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In addition to his interest in choral, operatic, and orchestral music, Vallée is an advocate for contemporary music, making one of his priorities to premiere and commission works by young composers, and to and program rarely performed repertoire. As a scholar, Dr. Vallée has presented his work on Renaissance French music at the national convention of American Choral Directors Association in Oklahoma City, and at Festival 500 in Newfoundland, Canada.

Vallée was also invited to present his research on Michael Tippett's oratorical works at the 2011 National ACDA convention in Chicago and at the Hawai'i International Conference on Arts and Humanities in 2012. Dr. Vallée is also founder and director of the Redlands Choral Artists, Artistic Director of Mountainside Master Chorale, and Director of Music at Glendale City Church.

Porfirio Antonio Mojica, Accompanist

Porfirio Mojica has been the principal pianist for the Mountainside Master Chorale since 1994. He attended Michigan State University, majoring in piano performance under the tutelage of John Shelby Richardson. Upon moving to California, he attended the University of California, Irvine, majoring in psychology. He has studied jazz piano with notable artists Mark Massey, Tamir Hendelman, and Llew Matthews. Further classical piano pedagogy has included concert pianist Noberto Cappone. Mr. Mojica is a full-time staff pianist at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut. Primary duties include collaborations with Chamber Singers, jazz ensembles "Frontline" and "Singcopation," beginning and intermediate vocal classes, and vocal coaching. "Pro" Mojica serves as pianist for Regional, All-State, and National Honor Choirs for CMEA (California Music Educators Association), SCVA (Southern California Vocal Association), ACDA (American Choral Directors Association), and IAJE (International Association for Jazz Education). Mr. Mojica also delves into the role of Music Director/Pianist for various musical theater venues in the Southern California region. Currently, Mr. Mojica is Director of Liturgical Music for St. Norbert Catholic Church in Orange, where he serves as the Choral Director and as pianist/organist for two Masses.

Susan Winckler, Assistant Director

Presently employed as the Music Director for Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona, Susan Winckler comes to MMC as a talented educator, expert musician, and accomplished artist. As a public school educator for 33 years, Ms Winckler was the choral director for Ganesha, Chaffey, and Rancho Cucamonga High Schools. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Music from the University of Hawai'i and B.A. from Dominican University, San Rafael, California. Previous church music work includes Music Director for La Verne Church of the Brethren and organist/choir director for Grace Lutheran Church in Glendora, Cucamonga First United Methodist Church, St Madeleine Church, Pomona, and St Margaret Church, Chino. She has also served as soprano soloist for Pilgrim Congregational Church. A charter member of the Chorale, Susan is presently pursuing artistic projects in addition to her responsibilities with Mountainside Master Chorale.

Robin Billings-Reyes, Section Leader

Robin Billings-Reyes holds BA and MA degrees in Music from the University of California, Riverside. She is currently Director of Music for the United Methodist Church of Cucamonga, where she has worked for over 40 years as organist, choir director, and music director. Robin enjoys all aspects of choral music, has sung for the opening ceremonies of the 1984 Olympic Games in LA, was part of the pre-Olympic cultural Olympiad in Greece (2004), and has performed in Carnegie Hall (2005), and the Sydney Opera House (2006). Robin came to MMC in 2008 as alto section leader, and is excited to be working with the soprano section this season. In addition, Robin works at Wayne Ruble Middle School in Fontana as a sixth grade teacher, and sings with the chamber group *Choralescence*.

Kevin Wiley, Section Leader

Kevin Wiley has been the staff accompanist/music librarian at Mt. SAC since 1989, supporting voice classes and choral groups, as well as coaching individual students and maintaining the choral library. He also coordinates the applied (private) lessons program and has taught voice, piano, and music theory. While on leave in 1998, Wiley taught voice, piano, and music theory at Porterville Community College for one semester. Wiley has been accompanist, vocal coach, and language coach at the Orange County High School of the Arts. An Orange County native, he studied piano, accompanied at CSU Fullerton with Dr. Burton Karson, Dr. Berfield, and Dr. Mark Zeyen, and has studied voice with Jane Paul and (currently) Robert Lopez. An active performer, he sings with the Mountainside Master Chorale, has served as a staff singer with the Pacific Chorale, and has been an active member of the Opera Pacific Chorus since 1988. Wiley has been musical director/accompanist for numerous musical theatrical productions throughout Southern California and has served as organist at several churches.

Jennifer Miller, Staff Singer

Virginia Beach, Virginia native Jennifer Miller is an active choral singer, having performed as soprano section leader and soloist with The Verdi Chorus (Mimi, *La Bohème*; Second Flower Maiden, *Parsifal*; Pousette, *Manon*), Los Angeles Choral Artists, Westminster Singers, Virginia Symphony Chorus, and the Virginia Beach based women's ensemble, *Bellissima*. Ms. Miller has performed as the soprano soloist in Poulenc's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Stravinsky's *Mass*. She was also the featured vocalist and pianist with the St. Mary's College of Maryland Jazz Ensemble, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in music. Ms. Miller completed her Master of Music degree in voice performance and pedagogy at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, where she studied with soprano Margaret Cusack.

History

The Mountainside Master Chorale was founded in 1994 by Mr. Bruce Rogers. Since its inception, the Chorale has grown steadily in both membership and acclaim, drawing over 70 singers from San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Orange Counties. Besides performing a regular concert series each year consisting of a Christmas concert, spring and early summer concerts, the Chorale has sung at various festivals throughout Southern California and performed at the Crystal Cathedral. The Chorale embarked on a tour of the British Isles, where they were invited to sing at the prestigious Eisteddfod Music Competition in Wales. Next, the Chorale toured Italy, giving a special performance of the Verdi *Requiem* with the Rome Symphony at St. Paul's, Rome. In the summer of 2010 the Chorale accompanied the student choir from Cal State San Bernardino to Spain and sang in five different Cathedrals in the cities of Toledo, Seville and Madrid.

Mountainside Master Chorale has also performed with the Pacific Symphony at the Orange County Performing Arts Center on two different occasions: once, with Carl St. Clair for a performance of Mahler's *8th Symphony*, and also as the featured guest choir with Doc Severinsen in his Christmas Show. In addition the Chorale has appeared in concert with the San Bernardino Symphony, returning most recently in 2010 to join in a performance of Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* with conductor Maestro Carlo Ponti Jr. and was featured by the Orange County Symphony in a 2010 performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

The Mountainside Master Chorale is under the dynamic direction of Dr. Sébastien Vallée since 2011 and performs a wide variety of choral works each season, including major choral works with orchestra, a cappella motets, folk songs, spirituals, jazz, and Broadway show tunes. The Mountainside Master Chorale prides itself on not only performing quality repertoire from the master composers of the past, but also giving exposure to contemporary composers.

The Chorale welcomes new members throughout the year. Our mentoring program helps them acclimate to our routines and make them feel welcome. In addition, small group sectionals are held each week to allow singers to better master the details and nuances of the music.



MMC Chorale Commitment

Please turn in to Anne Simpson or Susan Winckler by the October 1, 2012

I have read and understood all the Policies and Procedures for the Mountainside Master Chorale. My signature indicates that I am committed to the preceding policies and procedures, monetary/time commitments, and attendance expectations.

NAME _____ VOICE PART _____

PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CELL _____

_____ E-MAIL _____

Signature

Date

1. Dues Payment for 2010-2011

_____ My dues payment of \$220 will be paid by the October 1.
(You will receive two *season* tickets.)

Check Cash Visa/Master Card # _____

_____ My dues payment of \$75 will be paid by the third rehearsal of each concert cycle.
(You will receive two concert tickets for each cycle.)

Check Cash Visa/Master Card # _____

_____ My dues will be paid as explained in *attached* financial hardship letter to the Board.

And

2. Time and/or Monetary Pledge for 2010-2011 (different from dues):

_____ I wish to donate an additional amount of \$_____
(must be minimum \$100 to be exempt from time donation)

_____ I am unable to donate an additional amount at this time and would like to fulfill my time donation requirement in the ways checked off below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Event Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicit donations/prizes	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rehearsal set up (need several)	<input type="checkbox"/> Concert setup	<input type="checkbox"/> Concert tear-down
<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Home Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Mailings/clerical help	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____