

# Frequently Asked Questions – and answers!

## What is the focus of the choir?

We sing to support social justice issues, such as poverty, gender inequities, homelessness, LGBTQ+ and mental health. In general, we sing in support of marginalized members of our society.

## When and how often does the choir rehearse?

Once per week, on a Tuesday evening, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

### **Fall/Winter**

Second Tuesday in September to end January

### **Spring/Summer**

First Tuesday in February to the 1st Tuesday in June

## What is the cost per term, and what does it cover?

Fee per term is \$150<sup>1</sup>. Based on the number of rehearsals over a term, this amounts to about \$7.00 per rehearsal - what a deal! The fee per term covers all music, the choir director salary, web site, insurance, BC Choral and Society fees, plus any accompanist fees for performances.

## Who can join?

Any adult 19 or older!

## What if I miss a rehearsal?

Please let us know if you can in advance of the rehearsal time. Please note that we can't offer refunds for missed rehearsals.

## Does the choir perform?

When we aren't living through a pandemic, we typically sing at the Surrey Food Bank Open House in December, and then we have a concert in June. We are often invited to perform at the City of Surrey Open House Day as well.

## What should I expect at a session?

Fun and more fun!

## Who chooses the songs and do members get a say?

There is a music selection committee. All choir members have a say. However, the choir director has the final say 😊

## Do I have to audition?

Absolutely NOT!

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to change for the 2023/2024 season

## I'm really nervous...will I have to sing alone?

Never! Unless you want to!

## Do I need to know how to read music?

You do not need to know how to read music!

## Do I need singing experience?

That is a definite NO! 😊

## Can I pay as I go?

Attending choir sessions is not like attending a class. If you miss a class in an educational course, the only person that feels your absence is you. With a choir, we all count on each other. Even if choir members can't attend a session or two, they're still part of the choir, and choirs need continuity to flourish. We just can't sustain a choir with folks regularly coming and going. So, long story short – it is not feasible to “pay as you go” for choir. 😊

## Who oversees the choir?

The choir has a Board, which is comprised of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Directors. They meet as needed to provide continuity and guidance for the choir.

## What is the history of the choir?

In the early 2000s, Coquitlam music teacher Carol Sirianni saw first-hand the struggles of LGBT students facing discrimination and bullying at school because of their sexual orientation. At the time when gay-straight alliances in high schools were just beginning to be formed, Carol demonstrated her support by organizing a choir called Glass (Gay and Lesbian Support Singers). The choir started with 7 or 8 students; an adult version of the choir was organized and came to be known as “Stained Glass”. The two choirs performed successfully in the lower mainland of BC and Washington State. As the students “aged out” of the choir, and the two choirs were winding down, Carol and 7 singers organized a non-auditioned community choir known as the Aequitas Singers. Over the years, the choir expanded in size, diversity, and came to embrace a broader range of social justice issues. The rest, as they say, is history. Carol Sirianni has since moved away from the Lower Mainland, and we have a new choir director, who continues to guide the choir through amazing choral experiences!