

**Sola Gratia Musicians, Inc.**  
**Membership Guidelines**  
**2024-2025**

**Attendance Policy:**

Choristers are expected to make weekly rehearsals a priority. The development of a choral ensemble requires consistent attendance on the part of each chorister, as every rehearsal moves the group forward toward concert performance goals. Absences are strongly discouraged and limited to two per semester. Please email [SGM.GraceAlone@gmail.com](mailto:SGM.GraceAlone@gmail.com) or call/text (267-625-4362) Janice Firth regarding absences or late arrivals.

No excused absences are permitted for mandatory rehearsals and concerts unless providentially hindered (death in family, serious illness). **These dates are:**

<b>AM Mandatory Rehearsals</b>	<b>Concerts</b>
<a href="#">Dec 4, 2024</a>	<a href="#">Dec 12, 2024 (~ 4:30 arrival)</a>
<a href="#">Dec 11, 2024</a>	<a href="#">Dec 18, 2024 (AM Service)</a>
<a href="#">April 2, 2025</a>	<a href="#">April 10, 2025 (~ 4:30 arrival)</a>
<a href="#">April 9, 2025</a>	<a href="#">April 16, 2025 (AM Service)</a>

Non-attendance will result in withdrawal from SGM without refund and will negatively impact future choir eligibility.

Should a schedule conflict arise during the year with any activity (sports, drama, ballet, etc.) or opportunity (mission trip, youth group event, etc.), choristers agree to keep their commitment to attend mandatory rehearsals and concerts.

Cyber charter school students are welcome in SGM if parents commit to reschedule required testing and any other school district event if it conflicts with mandatory rehearsals or concerts. Parents agree to check with their school district for alternate testing dates and locations.

Choristers should plan to arrive 10 minutes before their rehearsal. Attendance will be taken. Habitual lateness may jeopardize a chorister's continued participation in SGM. All mandatory morning rehearsals and all concerts will involve prolonged time frames for all choirs. Extended morning rehearsals, and the PM concerts will involve prolonged time frames for both choirs.

**Cell Phone Policy**

The use of cell phones (and other electronic devices) during rehearsals and concerts is not permitted. Under no circumstances should they be stored with a chorister's belongings or on the student's person. Cell phones and texting devices are to be left with parents, in vehicles, or at the check-in table in the facility lobby. In case of an emergency, please call Janice Firth (267-625-4362), and she will contact the student in a timely manner. Her cell phone is also available for students' use if the need arises.

### **Communication with Families**

SGM will keep families informed regarding all necessary details through weekly emails. Parents and choristers should check their email the day before each rehearsal and concert. If a family's email address or phone number changes during the year, updated info should be sent promptly to SGM's administrator email address: SGM.GraceAlone@gmail.com

### **Concert Attire & General Appearance**

A modest appearance for rehearsals, concerts, and all SGM-related activities must be maintained.

Please avoid:

- leggings worn as pants
- tank, low-cut, or sheer tops
- short-shorts or mini-skirts
- outfits that allow skin or underwear to show at the waist

SGM strives for its choirs to have a unified look for all performances. Families commit to acquiring proper concert attire according to the following guidelines:

Concert attire for boys: Black dress slacks (no cargo pockets); black dress socks, shoes and belt; a solid white, collared, long-sleeved dress shirt; and a solid black bow tie (provided by SGM). A black vest will be purchased and owned by each guy in Laudate Choir at the beginning of the semester (approximate cost \$35, if purchased through SGM).

Concert attire for Laudate Choir girls: Solid black formal choral gowns will be purchased and owned by each girl in Laudate Choir. There is a \$65 purchase price. Opaque black tights and black dress shoes (flat or low-heeled) are to be worn. Pearl necklaces will be loaned out by SGM for concerts. Upon graduation, gowns may be donated to SGM or sold to an upcoming Laudate Choir member.

Concert attire for Cantabile Choir girls: Solid black skirts below the knee; opaque black tights; black dress shoes (flat or low-heeled); and a solid white, collared, button-down, long-sleeved blouse.

Not acceptable concert attire for girls: Knit tops; short sleeves; blouses unbuttoned too low or with cami showing; boots or platform shoes; tight/pencil skirts; skirts above the knee; and light gray or smoke-colored stockings. If in doubt, please check with the administrators well in advance of concert season.

Members of both choirs should have hair neatly combed. Unnatural hair colors are not permitted. Simple jewelry for girls is permissible. Body-piercing jewelry should not be worn, except for girls' earrings. Please avoid colognes or perfumed products out of courtesy to other choir members.

### **Conduct Policy**

Our efforts should be defined by an excellence of personal moral character. Directors and parents are to be honored, esteeming them very highly in love because of their work. Relationships and communication among choristers should be inclusive, encouraging, wholesome, and reflecting a spirit of unity.

Choristers should:

- make every effort to welcome and befriend new choristers.
- give full attention to the choral director during rehearsals and concerts, and not distract others from doing the same.
- be respectful of other choristers — taking care to refrain from gossip and belittling.
- avoid inappropriate topics of conversation and the use of coarse or foul language.
- refrain from boy-girl pairing off during rehearsals and concerts.
- discuss items of concern with the administrators in a timely manner, rather than with other choristers.

### **Discipline Policy**

While SGM strives to provide adequate supervision of choristers during rehearsals and concerts, parents are ultimately responsible to ensure that their children abide by SGM's Membership Guidelines.

Should a chorister fail to abide by SGM's conduct policies, the following steps will be taken by the administrators and/or music director:

- 1) A verbal reminder will be given. (The chorister will be reminded of the guidelines and his/her signed commitment to abide by them.)
- 2) Should a verbal reminder not suffice, the chorister's parents will be contacted via email, phone, or in person.
- 3) The chorister may be put on probationary status – i.e. a warning that his/her continued participation in SGM is in jeopardy.
- 4) The chorister will be required to withdraw from SGM. Tuition will not be refunded. Future eligibility for enrollment in SGM will be decided at the discretion of the administrators and music directors.

### **Fundraising**

Each family is encouraged to solicit at least one program ad.

### **Medical Policy**

Please notify SGM Administrators SGM.GraceAlone@gmail.com with changes in choristers' medical information. Medical forms will be on site at rehearsals and concerts in case of emergency.

### **Music**

Choristers are responsible for their music. They will mark their music as instructed by the choral director, using pencil only. Replacement cost for lost or seriously damaged music will be reimbursed to SGM. Should lost music be found and returned in good condition within a calendar year of the loss, charges will be refunded.

### **Parent Service Commitment (PSC) and Parent Meeting**

Each family will select a PSC with the administrators (Beverly Smith, Janice Firth, Jennifer Davis). SGM reserves the right to require volunteers to comply with applicable laws regarding child safety and welfare.

### **Publicity Policy**

SGM reserves the right to use photographs or videos of the choirs for promotional purposes.

**Rehearsal and Practice Homework**

Bring a black, one-inch binder with inside pockets, a pencil, and a water bottle labeled with your name. Choristers commit to regularly practicing their music at home according to expectations shared in weekly rehearsals. The directors will assign deadlines for music memorization.

**Rehearsal/Concert Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather**

Email messages will be sent by 7:45 a.m. for a rehearsal cancellation and as early as possible in the event of a concert cancellation.

**Scheduling Policy**

SGM's by-laws state that rehearsals, concerts, and SGM-related activities will not be scheduled on Sundays.

**Solicitation**

Sales, solicitations, and mass distribution of fliers, advertisements, etc., are prohibited.

**Tuition and Fees**

Tuition is due at time of registration, on or before June 10, and includes a non-refundable \$40 processing fee. While tuition is non-refundable once rehearsals begin, if a serious medical condition prevents a chorister from completing the choir semester, a prorated refund may be given at the discretion of the administrators.

**Use of Rehearsal/Concert Buildings**

Chewing gum is always prohibited.

It is important that families/choristers move only in areas SGM has rented. We do not have the use of the playground/grounds at Christ Reformed Church at Indian Creek (CRC).

Regarding weekly rehearsals, if students are waiting during a sibling's rehearsal, SGM will provide a room for a quiet study area where the student(s) may wait *with a parent*. Additionally, families may consider visiting the Indian Valley Library and its adjoining playground, located .9 miles from CRC.

**Website ([www.SGMusicians.org](http://www.SGMusicians.org))**

Families should refer to the website for dates for mandatory rehearsals and concerts, concert details, etc.

Revised 5.18.24