

Sola Gratia Musicians, Inc.
Membership Guidelines
2026-2027

Weekly Rehearsal 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 the administrators at SGM.gracealone@gmail.com reporting absences or late arrivals.

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.

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 arrange with their school district for alternate testing dates and locations.

Mandatory Event Attendance Policy:

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

AM Mandatory Rehearsals	PM Mandatory Concerts
Dec 9, 2026	Dec 10, 2026 (~ 4:00 arrival)
Dec 16, 2026	Dec 17, 2026 (~ 4:00 arrival)
April 14, 2027	April 15, 2027 (~ 4:00 arrival)
April 21, 2027	April 22, 2027 (~ 4:00 arrival)

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

Non-attendance will indicate that the family is choosing to withdraw from SGM without refund which will negatively impact future choir eligibility.

Mandatory rehearsals and concerts will involve prolonged time frames for all choirs.

Cell Phone Policy

The use of cell phones (and other electronic devices) while at rehearsal and concert venues 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, parents should email SGM.gracealone@gmail.com, and an administrator will contact the student. An administrator's 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 agree to *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 emailed to: SGM.gracealone@gmail.com.

General Appearance

In keeping with SGM's mission as a Christian educational organization, a modest appearance for rehearsals, concerts, and all SGM-related activities is to be maintained.

Please avoid:

- outfits that allow skin or underwear to show at the waist
- tank, low-cut, or sheer tops
- shirts with inappropriate expressions
- short-shorts or mini-skirts

Concert Attire

SGM strives for its choirs to have a unified look for all performances. Families commit to acquiring concert attire:

Concert attire for all 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 \$30).

Concert attire for Prima girls: Below-the-knee dress with short or long sleeves (not sleeveless); flat dress shoes.

Concert attire for Laudate Choir girls: Solid black formal choral gowns will be purchased by each girl (approximate cost \$70). 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 Jubilate and 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 an administrator in advance of concert season.

Members of all choirs should have neatly combed hair. 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

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.*

Our efforts should be defined by an excellence of personal moral character. Directors, accompanists, parents, and administrators 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 an administrator in a timely manner, rather than with other choristers.

Fundraising

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

Medical Policy

Please notify 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. A replacement cost of \$5 per piece for lost or damaged music will be paid 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)

PSCs will be shared in September. 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 each week. Choristers commit to regularly practicing their music at home according to expectations shared in weekly emails. 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, 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 choral year, a prorated refund may be given at the discretion of the administrators.

Use of Rehearsal/Concert Buildings

Chewing gum is always prohibited.

Only water is permitted; this *excludes* coffee, teas, juices, etc.

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. *Students must remain in study hall/holding area when not rehearsing.* They may not wander outside, through the building, or leave the premises.

If students are waiting during a sibling's rehearsal, a quiet study hall is available, where *laptops may be used for school-use only.* Another room is available as a family study/play room. Additionally, families may consider visiting the Indian Valley Library and its adjoining playground, located .9 miles from Christ Reformed Church at Indian Creek (CRC).

Website (www.SGMusicians.org)

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

SGM reserves the right to deny participation to a chorister or family that repeatedly disregards the guidelines above.

Revised 5.13.2026