



North Shore Choral Society
P.O. Box 103, Evanston, IL 60204-0103
773-741-NSCS (773-741-6727)
www.northshorechoral.org

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE, 2019-2020 SEASON

The North Shore Choral Society explores, studies, and performs a wide range of choral music for the enrichment and enjoyment of its singers and audiences, and pursues opportunities for educational outreach and engagement in the community through various partnerships.

NSCS is a welcoming, inclusive community for all participants and patrons. We respect, value and celebrate the unique attributes, characteristics, and perspectives that shape each individual.



NSCS is a member of the Illinois Arts Alliance and is partially supported by grants from the Evanston Community Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council, an agency of the State of Illinois.

Important Dates for 2019-2020
Our 84th Season – “What Happens When ...”

Tuesday	Sep. 3	7:30	First Rehearsal, Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston
Tuesday	Sep. 24	6:45	Section reassessment, Soprano 1
Tuesday	Oct. 1	6:45	Section reassessment, Soprano 2
Tuesday	Nov. 19	7:30	Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church, Evanston
Saturday	Nov. 23	9:00	Dress rehearsal, First Presbyterian Church, Evanston
Saturday	Nov. 23	4:00	Concert “Ring in the Holidays,” at FPCE
Tuesday	Dec. 3	7:30	Rehearsal at Evanston Township HS
Saturday	Dec. 7	TBA	Dress Rehearsal, Evanston Township HS
Sunday	Dec. 8	3:00	Concert, “Evanston Symphony Christmas” (call TBA)
Sunday	Dec. 15	4:00	Concert, Three Crowns Park, Evanston (call 3:00)
Tuesday	Jan. 21	7:30	Workshop with Artemisia Trio (attendance required)
Tuesday	Feb. 25	7:30	Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church, Evanston
Saturday	Feb. 29	1:00	Dress rehearsal, First Presbyterian Church, Evanston
Saturday	Feb. 29	7:00	Concert, “What Happens When She Sets the Beat?” at FPCE
Saturday	May 16	10:00	Dress rehearsal, Highland Park HS
Sunday	May 17	3:00	Concert, “Beethoven’s 9 th Symphony,” Highland Park HS
Tuesday	June 2	7:30	Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church, Evanston
Saturday	June 6	TBA	Dress rehearsal, First Presbyterian Church, Evanston
Sunday	June 7	3:00	Concert, “Happy 75 th Birthday, John Rutter!” at FPCE

Note: Information on dates, times, and locations can change. To stay current, please check the NSCS calendar at www.northshorechoral.org. Go to the “For Members” section and click on the “View Calendar” button.

Venue Addresses:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston: 3637 Golf Rd., Evanston
 First Presbyterian Church, Evanston: 1427 Chicago Ave., Evanston
 Evanston Township High School: 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston
 Highland Park High School: 433 Vine Ave., Highland Park

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the North Shore Choral Society! You're joining us for our exciting 84th season! We are an established organization (since 1936), but we stay fresh, viable, and relevant in part because of new members like you. We're glad that you're here to share your musical talent and your love of singing with us.

Please review this Membership Guide and keep it handy (or find it on our **website**) so that you can refer to pertinent information throughout the season. To help you get started, please note these items in particular:

- Update your calendars with the Important Dates of our concerts and dress rehearsals and review the Attendance Policy.
- All new members (both men and women) should be sure to see Julie McDowell *immediately* regarding purchase of Concert Attire. Orders can take up to six weeks.
- Annual dues of \$100 (\$30 for full-time students) must be paid by the third rehearsal. For more information, see below under Dues and Music Fees.
- Feel free to seek out your Section Coordinator (see list below) or any Board Member (see inside back cover) if you have questions about our organization or what you see going on.

Section Coordinators:

Soprano I Julie McDowell (847) 251-6498; acooljul1@comcast.net

Soprano II Rose Gomez (847) 361-0432; bluesongbird8@hotmail.com

Alto I Kay Rossiter (847) 835-1371; k.rossiter@comcast.net

Alto II Fran Faller (847) 675-6676; fgfaller@netzero.net

Tenor David Crumrine (847) 722-1260; dcrumri@luc.edu

Baritone/Bass Scott Paine (847) 256-6963; painefive@aol.com

EXPECTATIONS of NEW and RETURNING MEMBERS

The North Shore Choral Society strives to provide our audiences and members with outstanding musical experiences. By accepting membership in NSCS you are agreeing to do your best to **attend all rehearsals** on time and in their entirety and to **participate in all performances**. This allows us to support each other and to perform to the best of our abilities. We do understand that there will be occasional conflicts with rehearsals and possibly even with a performance. Early communication about conflicts is essential, and we are looking at ways to simplify that process. While you may feel that your absence will not harm the ensemble, NSCS is a team, and we need all singers to be fully committed to the organization.

Member Communications

These are the ways we will communicate with you throughout the year. Your prompt attention to the following will keep you up to date on all plans and make our time together much more efficient.

- Our website, www.northshorechoral.org, is updated frequently with information for members and the general public. In the For Members section (accessed with the password: **very*well** – because we sing very well!), you will find rehearsal recordings, calendar updates, and other musical resources.
- *NSCS E-Blasts* are emailed prior to rehearsal each week and include the plan for the next rehearsal as well as other high-priority information.
- *NSCS Blue Notes* are emailed periodically and include other related items of interest, musical and otherwise. To share a related item of interest in the electronic *Blue Notes*, email info@northshorechoral.org.
- If you have issues requiring the attention of the General Manager, contact Karen Rigotti at northshorechoral@gmail.com.

Dues and Music Purchases

Annual dues are \$100 (\$30 for full-time students). Dues must be paid by the third rehearsal unless special arrangements have been made with Membership Coordinator Emily Rivera or General Manager Karen Rigotti. NSCS purchases the music scores for each concert and sells them to members at our cost. The scores must be paid for on receipt, and they are yours to keep. Financial help is available to subsidize your participation; please see Emily Rivera (773) 988-6098; emilyjrivera@gmail.com.

Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals are every Tuesday, 7:30–9:45 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. Rehearsals include a 15-minute break with refreshments and conversation. There will be no rehearsal Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. You are expected to attend rehearsals on time and in their entirety.

At rehearsals, you will sharpen your vocal and choral singing techniques, text enunciation skills, and concert performance skills. Rehearsals are recorded for your use in at-home practice and are posted on the website within one or two days.

Special rehearsals may be called as required. We typically have an external sectional rehearsal for each concert. These smaller gatherings are an opportunity to smooth the rough spots and fine-tune our performance. See also instructions for Dress Rehearsals.

Attendance Policy

We understand that there will be occasional conflicts with rehearsals and possibly even with a performance. In these cases, early communication is essential. If it's absolutely necessary, you may miss three rehearsals per concert. If you miss more than three rehearsals, you must

contact Julia Davids to arrange a music singing review. If you will not be singing in one of the concerts, please let your Section Coordinator know well in advance.

If you are going to miss a rehearsal, contact your Section Coordinator in advance, if possible; otherwise, please contact them as soon as you are able. Section Coordinators take attendance at each rehearsal, so if you arrive late, you are responsible for making sure they record you as present.

If you don't feel well enough to sing but are well enough to attend rehearsal, we encourage you to do so. Just sit behind the chorus, follow along and take notes in your music. And finally, if a rehearsal needs to be canceled for any reason (most typically bad weather), we will send an E-Blast as soon as the decision is made.

Dress Rehearsals

We do not actually dress in concert attire for these! However, attendance at the dress rehearsal(s) for each concert is *mandatory*. If you cannot attend a dress rehearsal but want to sing the concert, you must receive permission *in advance* from Julia Davids.

At dress rehearsals, we do a complete run-through with all our instrumentalists and soloists. Julie McDowell will give you a seating assignment for your position on-stage, and you should not change that without checking with her. Julia Davids will check sight lines for every member and make adjustments as necessary. Our VP-Concerts, David Crumrine, will review important logistical instructions such as how to enter and exit the stage.

Concert Attire

Members must be sure they have the proper attire for each concert.

- Women: Black blouse and skirt with "pearl" strand, ordered through NSCS. If you wear earrings, please choose a simple "pearl" style.
- Men: Black tuxedo with black bow tie and cummerbund.
- All: Black dress shoes with black socks/stockings/tights.
- Holiday concerts: Red bow ties and cummerbunds for men and a red "sprig" accent for women. Please return these to Julie McDowell after the concert.

In consideration for those with sensitivities or allergies, please *do not* wear cosmetic fragrances, hairspray, or aftershave of any sort at rehearsals or performances. Should you have any questions about concert attire, please contact Julie McDowell.

Concert Protocol

Music Folder: In performance your music must be enclosed in a black folder. Many members of NSCS recommend those available from www.musicfolder.com.

Sight lines: Music Director Julia Davids positions singers to ensure that she has eye contact with everyone and for other musical reasons. Any subsequent modification of your position can interfere with the sight lines of those behind you, so please move as little as possible.

Handling Music: Prior to each concert, Julia Davids will review instructions for handling of music as well as sitting and standing (which you should mark in your music).

Remember that you are part of a performance and are highly visible to the audience. While you are on stage, please do not: acknowledge individuals in the audience; eat food or chew gum (OK to have cough drops at the ready); make verbal comments or conversation; conduct personal grooming, fidget or move around while on stage. Do **not** take cell phones, cameras, any hand-held electronic devices, or metal water bottles on stage.

Seat cushions and/or backrests may be taken on stage discreetly (unless directed otherwise). Medical devices may be taken on stage if proper arrangements have been made. If you must bring a water bottle, please drink only at intermission or to avoid coughing.

Section Assessments

At the beginning of each season, Julia will conduct section assessments (rotating by section each year), checking for balance and blend. This allows her to calibrate and maximize the proficiency of each section.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month. *NSCS members are welcome to attend.* You can inquire of any Board Member as to the meeting location; if you plan to attend, please let our Board President, John Darrow, know in advance.

Social Events

We are a sociable organization! Rehearsal breaks and listening parties are opportunities to become better acquainted. For rehearsal breaks, members sign up to donate juice and paper cups. Listening parties, usually on a Tuesday evening following each concert, provide an opportunity to share refreshments and to listen to the concert recording. You may purchase a concert CD for your own enjoyment.

Outreach Events and Volunteer Opportunities

The North Shore Choral Society is committed to community outreach, and available singers are encouraged to participate in these enrichment activities. NSCS volunteers are especially needed to participate in the *Arts Reach Evanston* after-school program, facilitated by NSCS at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center in Evanston. Please talk with Linda Faller for more information. We also perform a holiday program at Three Crowns Park, a retirement community in Evanston, which is greatly enjoyed by residents and members alike.

Financial Expectations: Time and Money

NSCS has been financially sound primarily due to strong support by us, its members, not only through our annual dues but through cash contributions, fundraising, and volunteer services. We encourage all NSCS members to become actively involved in supporting NSCS.

Ticket sales: We expect each NSCS member to promote our concerts by actively selling tickets and/or buying tickets for friends and relatives. Unlike some choruses we don't set a ticket requirement, but each member should sell *at least* two tickets for each concert. Try to focus on new patrons, as they are our audiences and donors of the future.

Distribute concert posters and postcards: Word of mouth and personal connections are powerful! Concert posters will be available at rehearsals and on the NCSC website for you to print or email. Take them around to your favorite merchants and neighborhood spots.

Direct fund-raising: In the fall and again in the spring, members as well as past and potential contributors receive a letter asking for donations to help NSCS maintain the high quality of its programming. ***This is our largest source of revenue.*** Think about people you know who would enjoy our concerts, invite them to attend, and give us their contact information for our mailings.

Leverage your purchasing dollar: We've developed several ways to obtain corporate funds through our regular shopping activities. **Jewel gift cards** (available for purchase at rehearsals) are easy to use and provide us a good source of funds. The internet portals **iGive** and **Amazon Smile** are an automatic way to support NSCS every time you shop. See our website for information on registering.

Sell ads in our concert program booklets: The cost of printing programs for each concert is offset by these ad sales, and businesses that support us are mentioned in the concert booklet and on our website. Think about your favorite local businesses and other services that you might approach. Contract forms are available from Scott Paine at rehearsals.

In-kind contributions. Professional in-kind contributions save us thousands of dollars in operating expenses every year. We appreciate these contributions from members and other local businesses and list these on our website.

Matching gifts: Matching gifts are donations from corporations or businesses that match employees' gifts to eligible not-for-profit organizations. Contact your Human Resources Department to learn more about their matching gift program. If available, they will provide you with the necessary forms to be completed and submitted along with your donation to NSCS.

Corporate and foundation grants. Our General Manager, Karen Rigotti, in consultation with Amy Weller, VP-Fundraising, works on these proposals throughout the year. If you have knowledge of, or connections to, such funding sources, please contact Amy or Karen.

Volunteer Services

NSCS is a self-governing organization, and the business of running a 120+ member community choir is achieved thanks to the work of many volunteers. Assistance with tasks both large and small is always welcomed. Talk with any Board Member about how you might contribute your time and talents. Thanks to these Coordinators who have volunteered to serve in 2019-2020:

Communications

VP: Debbie Buesing
Publicity: Marj Lundy
Community Engagement: Linda Faller
Community Liaison: Pam Anderson
Social Media: Stephanie McDaniel
Donald Chen Young Artist Event Coordinator: Position open
Art: Milly Silverstein, Ginny Roeder

Concerts

VP: Dave Crumrine
Concert Manager: Tom Keller
Ticket Sales: Phoebe Segal
House Manager: Position open
Concert Program Booklets: Marcia Bollo
CD Gratis Distribution: Catherine Porter
CD Sales: Theresan Kaefer

Fundraising

VP: Amy Weller
Patrons: Steve Warner, Fran Faller, Amy Weller
Program Ads: Scott Paine
Group Sales: Jean Joslyn
Rebates: Scott Paine

Operations

VP and Membership Coordinator: Emily Rivera
Membership Guide: Debbie Buesing
Music Librarian: Anne Zald
New Member Outreach: Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh
Printing: Martha Kinzel
Social: Laura Koroski
Mailings: Position open
Archivist: Melinda Kwedar, Jane Kenamore
ADA Coordinator: Position open
Desktop Publishing: Dorothy Scott, Kathy Skelton
Computer Services: Jim Miller, Michael Greenstone, Ellen Pullin, Deb Buesing, Andy Hullinger, Gary Hendrickson
Webmaster: Debbie Buesing, Andy Hullinger
Section Leaders: Julie McDowell (S1), Rose Gomez (S2), Kay Rossiter (A1), Fran Faller (A2), Dave Crumrine (T), Scott Paine (B)

**NSCS Board of Directors
2019 - 2020**

President: John Darrow
Secretary: Laura Koroski
Treasurer: Nancy Slichenmyer
Vice President, Communications: Debbie Buesing
Vice President, Concerts: David Crumrine
Vice President, Fundraising: Amy Weller
Vice President, Operations: Emily Rivera
Director: Marcia Bollo
Director: Carl Kettler
Director: Jim Miller
Director: Fran Faller
Director: Linda Faller
Director: Anne Zald
ex officio: Julia Davids, Music Director
ex officio: General Manager, Karen Rigotti