



Financial Matters for Participants

Participant Contribution

To help with the costs and expenses associated with our choir, each participant contributes \$75.00 per season (two seasons each year – spring and fall). Married couples received added encouragement to join our group with a suggested donation of \$135.00 per couple, per season. Those who enroll at least two weeks prior to the beginning of a season receive a 20% “early bird” discount, which makes the participant fee \$60.00 for individuals or \$108.00 for married couples. All participant contributions are used to help defray our expenses for the season (i.e., purchase music and practice CDs, pay rehearsal expenses, compensation for artistic staff, promotional expenses, insurance, transportation, postage, etc.). These participant contributions are 100% tax deductible as a donation to our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable performing arts organization. The individual or married couple contribution entitles participants to all of the benefits associated with attending weekly rehearsals and performing with Spiritful Voices Community Choir during one season. The contribution represents approximately \$5.00 per week, per person.

Music Folder Check-Out

Spiritful Voices Community Choir, Inc., purchases and owns all copies of the music assigned to and used by its participants during a season. Our non-profit organization is very protective of our music library, which represents an investment of thousands of dollars each season. However, most participants like to borrow a music folder containing the selected choral music to take home with them during the entire rehearsal and performance season. Therefore, to help ensure that a borrowed music folder is returned in good condition by a participant immediately upon the conclusion of a season, Spiritful Voices Community Choir, Inc., requires that participants who want to borrow a music folder sign a “Music Check-Out and Guaranty Agreement,” and attach a check or provide their credit card information to cover the entire cost of replacing the printed music contained in the folder (typically \$35.00 to \$45.00, depending on the season). The exact amount of this deposit will be listed on the guaranty form at the beginning of each season. The participant’s deposit check will not be cashed (or any charges made to the participant’s credit card) until the end of the season, and only in the event the participant fails to return his or her assigned music folder by the last day of the season. For most of our participants, this form will be destroyed (along with the participant’s check or credit card information) at the end of the season when they check-in their borrowed music folder. The requirement for a participant to sign a “Music Check-Out and Guaranty Agreement” form applies to anyone who borrows a music folder from the Spiritful Voices library during a season, including those who are on any type of financial assistance, scholarship, or payment plan for their participant contribution.

Participation in Seeking Sponsorships

Spiritful Voices Community Choir, Inc., is an exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, and like most volunteer-based performing arts organizations, we rely entirely on public contributions from individuals and corporate sponsors to support our goals of presenting dozens of free concerts at assisted living facilities, convalescent centers, retirement communities, and public events each year. The revenue generated from direct participant contributions each season actually represents only a portion of the tens of thousands of dollars needed to maintain our non-profit organization every year. Therefore, each season, it is vital that all volunteers in Spiritful Voices actively participate in pursuing additional revenue to meet our financial obligations through individual and corporate sponsorships. Each participant is assigned a goal of securing a minimum of \$200.00 in sponsorships during each season with the help of our extensive promotional materials. During the season, participants will share information about our organization through face-to-face meetings, emails, written correspondence, and telephone calls with their own business, professional, and personal contacts to seek such tax-deductible sponsorships. There are no required concert ticket sales or other mandatory fundraising activities necessary for participation in Spiritful Voices Community Choir.

Fall Performance Attire

For fall season performances (August through December), each woman in the choir is loaned a dark green formal dress to wear on stage at all performances. Each man in the choir is required to wear his own white “dress” shirt (not Polo-type shirt) and black slacks, and is loaned a blue vest with a green bowtie by the choir before each performance. This performance attire is also occasionally required for more formal concerts and performances (i.e., banquets) during other times of the year. There are no additional charges made or fees associated with any loaned performance attire during the fall season.

Spring Performance Attire

At spring season performances (January through May), each participant is required to wear their own beige/khaki shorts, slacks, or skirt, in addition to a custom-made blue-and-green Spiritful Voices Community Choir “camp shirt” embroidered with the choir’s matching logo. These shirts are made of 100% lightweight, high-quality cotton, and are produced in all unisex sizes (XS to 5-XL) by a performance apparel company in Dallas. These shirts must be purchased, kept, and worn by each participant during our spring season performances. **The current cost of this custom shirt is currently \$43.00.** The same shirt is expected to be used every spring season, so this is a one-time charge (provided, of course, that a participant’s shirt is well-kept and does not show obvious signs of wear). For those who have a demonstrated financial need, scholarships and other financial assistance (i.e., “matching funds”) may be available to help with the one-time purchase of Spiritful Voices spring shirt (see “Scholarships and Other Financial Assistance” below).

Methods of Payment

All contributions, donations, fees, sponsorships, and purchases may be transacted by check, cash, or credit card (VISA, MasterCard, or Discover). Two-party checks are not accepted. Receipts are gladly furnished for tax purposes. Because all donations to our 501(c)(3) corporation are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, there are no refunds possible on contributions, regardless of the reason.

Scholarships and Other Financial Assistance

If providing a participant contribution each season or meeting other monetary requirements (i.e., purchasing a spring performance shirt) presents an extraordinary financial burden, then we may be able to help, so don't let that one thing keep you from participating in our group! Our community-based charity has never refused anyone from participating for financial reasons. While the collection of these fees is essential to meet the mounting fiscal obligations of our organization, Spiritful Voices Community Choir welcomes all persons in the community to participate, regardless of their ability to pay these fees. Weekly and monthly payment plans, scholarship funds, and other financial aid may be available to participants in need. Any participant who requires financial assistance with their enrollment contribution or performance attire must complete an “Application for Financial Assistance” form and submit it to the Executive Director at the beginning of each season in which aid is needed. Financial assistance is granted each season based on availability of funds, the participant’s specific needs, and the anticipated benefit to the entire choir. All requests for financial assistance are granted solely on the discretion of the Executive Director of Spiritful Voices Community Choir, Inc.

For more information, contact:



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