



Blue Ridge Chorale

of Culpeper, Inc.

Chorister's Handbook

Spring Concert Season 2012



Welcome to the Blue Ridge Chorale

We are very delighted to have you as a member, whether this is your first season or you are a returning member, we welcome you to our community choir. We join together in the spirit of dedication, patience and goodwill as we work toward a goal of excellence in our musical performances. Our desire is for the rehearsals to be enjoyable experiences for all. Minimum chatter, attentive eyes and ears, friendly attitudes and hard work will accomplish this, and a feeling of satisfaction for each of us!!

CONCERT SEASONS:

Blue Ridge Chorale (BRC), previously known as Culpeper Piedmont Choral Society, has been providing music since 1967, and has two concert seasons yearly.

The **WINTER Concert Season** begins with rehearsals the last Monday night in August, culminating in two or three scheduled performances held in early December.

The **SPRING Concert Season** begins with rehearsals the second Monday night in January, culminating in two or three scheduled performances held in early May.

Concert dates for the Spring Season 2012:

Monday – April 23rd 7:00 pm Free Concert

Friday – April 27th 7:00 pm GermannaCC Daniel Tech. Center

Sunday – April 29th 4:00 pm St. Luke's Lutheran Church

MEMBERSHIP:

Any individual is welcomed to join the choir regardless of race, creed, religion, handicap, gender, or national origin.

Members will be accepted during the first three weeks of rehearsal. Only the music director has the authority to make exceptions to this membership policy.

The only requirements for membership are an ability to sing and a willingness to abide by BRC policies. A brief audition will be requested to determine voice quality, range and capability of blending in the chorus.

Registration fee \$35 per person per season for Adult choir and \$10 for Youth choir. The Family fee (which covers up to 2 adults plus their eligible children) is \$50. All fees are subject to change at the beginning of each concert season.

BRC has both an Adult (SATB) choir and a Youth choir. All BRC policies pertain to both choirs unless otherwise stated. BRC reserves the right to also form smaller more specialized groups within the larger choir. These groups are by invitation only. The choir consists mainly of volunteer singers. However, the executive board and music director reserve the right to pay professional

musicians and singers to round out sections and fill solo parts. All solo parts will be posted well in advance of required audition schedules. To maintain a balanced sound amongst sections it may become necessary to form a membership waiting list. The music director will determine when a waiting list becomes necessary. As of August 2009 the choir has opportunities for all voice types.

YOUTH CHOIR:

- Abides by all the BRC policies
- Ages 7 to 14 years
- \$10 membership dues per season
- Black and White concert attire
- Contact Youth Director – Cathy ter Weele at 540-829-8798 for additional information

REHEARSALS:

Day of Week: Monday Evenings

Location: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Culpeper, VA.

Times: Youth Choir 5:45 – 6:15 pm

Adult Choir 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Groups 8:30 – 9:00 pm (Director's discretion)

Registration and Attendance @ 6:15 pm

Additional rehearsal time may be required at concert time.

Adult choir rehearsals begin each week at 6:30 pm. If you arrive late please wait in a pew for a break in the warm-ups or song before taking your place quietly in your section. Please stay focused on the director's instructions and limit unnecessary talking. Our time is very precious.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is taken each week. Members may miss no more than two rehearsals in the concert season without consulting the Music Director. If you are to be late or absent, please contact your social affairs chairman, Margie Blankenship, via phone at **(540) 522-6403** or email at **mratrieb@yahoo.com**.

In the event of inclement weather, the section leaders will be notified as soon as possible of cancellation. Emails will also be sent out in an attempt to contact all members.

SOCIAL TIME: Before rehearsal on the first Monday of each month, light refreshments will be provided by Chorale sections. Members may enjoy these refreshments before or after rehearsal.

There is a 10 minute in-place break during rehearsals, when announcements are made and those members, who wish to can leave their place to make phone calls, visit the rest room, etc.

CONCERT ATTIRE and POLICIES:

- All members of the choir are expected to participate in all concerts. They must notify the director by the 4th week of rehearsals if there is a conflict.
- Women will wear long black dress uniforms, black shoes, black nylons, a uniform pearl 16-18 inch necklace and modest earrings. The dress and necklace must be purchased through the Chorale Treasurer.

- Men will wear **ONLY** black suits, white shirts, matching bowties (provided by the chorus), black shoes and black socks. Men must provide their own black and white concert attire.
- Be certain that rehearsal and concert sites are left as we found them. The facilities are loaned to us by the good graces of the organization or church and we want to maintain a good relationship with them.
- Maintain a professional attitude during performances. This includes watching the conductor and not the audience, being uniform in handling music, and not talking between numbers. *Maintain composure if chorus makes a mistake!*
- Be ready to help when needed. This especially means setting up for rehearsals and concerts alike.

SHEET MUSIC POLICY:

All music used by BRC is either property of BRC or is on loan to BRC. Music is only on loan to members. Therefore, we ask that you treat it with care, making erasable marks only and never using any permanent markings. It is unlawful to copy BRC music.

You will be provided with a folder and assigned music at the first rehearsal, and may take it home as soon as membership fees are paid. Until that time, please return all music to the librarians before leaving the rehearsal hall. Additional music may be introduced later in the rehearsal season. You will receive a performance list prior to the concerts.

Your BRC music folder should be turned in immediately following our last concert. There will be a charge for any music not returned. Should personal circumstances warrant you leaving the chorus midseason, you should notify the director and contact the librarians to make arrangements for returning your music and folder.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

All members and supporters are welcome.

Date & Time: Monday – May 21st @ 6:30pm

Location: Oak Shade Church Social Hall

Schedule: Pot Luck Supper – 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm

Annual Meeting - 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm

Agenda: Annual Minutes, Treasurer Report, Election of Officers, Director’s Report, Old and New Business

COMMENTS:

Any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to discuss them with the director or any executive board member, listed on the back cover.

Many committees are needed to produce a well-organized, healthy structure such as the BRC. The chorale members are the hands as well as the voices that make this choir a success. Please be active in fundraising, recruiting drives, concert tasks and committees.

TOGETHER WE CAN ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS!!!

Blue Ridge Chorale - Spring Season 2012

Schedule of Events and Activities

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event / Activity</u>
01/07/2012	Board meeting: noon
01/09/2012	First rehearsal: 6:30 pm. (16 rehearsals until concerts!)
01/16/2012	Youth Choir rehearsals begin 5:45 to 6:15 pm
01/30/2012	Board Meeting: 5:15 pm
02/06/2012	Refreshments:: Sopranos provide
02/13/2012	Final money collected for Dress orders
02/20/2012	Board Meeting 5:15 pm
03/05/2012	Refreshments:: Altos provide
03/13/2012	Kick off of Program Ad Space sales - All Ads due by April 2nd
03/20/2012	Board Meeting 5:15 pm
03/26/2012	Concert Fliers distributed to Choir Members and Ticket sales begin
04/02/2012	Refreshments:: Tenors, Baritones & Basses provide
04/02/2012	Deadline for program ad sales
04/16/2012	Board Meeting 5:15 pm
04/21/2012	Saturday - Extra Rehearsal if Needed
04/23/2012	Free Concert 7:00 (watch Calendar for more information)
04/27/2012	Multimedia Concert at the Daniel Tech Center, Germanna CC 7:00
04/29/2012	St. Luke's concert 4 pm (Sunday afternoon) – turn in music afterwards
05/21/2012	Annual Membership Meeting: 6:30 – 8:30 at Oak Shade Church
06/18/2012	Board Meeting 6:30 pm (watch Calendar for more information) START OF FALL SEASON
08/20/2012	Board Meeting (watch Calendar for more information)
08/27/2012	First rehearsal of the Fall Season (watch Calendar for more information)
09/17/2012	Youth Choir rehearsals begin 5:45 to 6:15 pm
09/23/2012	Board Meeting: 5:30 POSSIBLE SPRING/SUMMER COMMUNITY CONCERTS
04/13-15/2012	Culpeper Remembrance Days (watch Calendar for more information)
07/04/2012	July Fourth Celebration (watch Calendar for more information)



Contact Information:
Blue Ridge Chorale of Culpeper, Inc
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Culpeper, VA 22701
540-948-4573

Web site: www.brcsings.com
Email: info@brcsings.com

Executive Board Members

President	Carolyn Osborne
Treasurer	Tim Carlson
Recording Secretary	Johncie Carlson
Corresponding Secretary	Wanda Osborn
Production/Concert Master	Kathy Tester
Fundraiser	Donna Pringle
Librarian	Diana Cmeyla
Programs	Jack Garber
Publicity	Dorothy Wright
Social Affairs	Margie Blankenship
Music Director	Carole Tomhave
Youth Director	Cathy ter Weele

Professional Staff Members

Music Director	Carole Tomhave
Youth Director	Cathy ter Weele
Accompanist	Brittany Bache
Youth Accompanist	Caleb Ballew